

# ARTIST OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2025

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the 'Artist of the Month' basket next to the art gallery display or email it to [enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk) with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

This month's artist is: **Mark Rothko**



*'Orange and Yellow' (1956)*



*'Yellow, Cherry, Orange' (1947)*



*'Color Field' paintings (1950)*

## **Mark Rothko: The Artist Who Painted Feelings**

Mark Rothko was a famous artist who used colours to show emotions. He was born on September 25, 1903, in a place called Dvinsk, which is now in Latvia, but he later moved to the United States with his family when he was a child.

As he grew up, Rothko loved art and wanted to create paintings that made people feel something deep inside. Instead of painting people or objects, he used large blocks of colour to express emotions. His paintings are often made up of big rectangles in different colours, layered on top of each other. Some are bright and happy, while others are dark and serious.

Rothko believed that colours could make people feel different emotions, just like music or a story can. For example, a painting with warm reds and yellows might feel cheerful and full of energy, while one with deep blues and purples might feel calm or even a little sad. He wanted people to stand in front of his paintings and really think about how they made them feel.

His most famous works are called "Color Field" paintings because they cover big spaces with colours that seem to float and blend into each other. Rothko's paintings don't tell a story with pictures, but they do speak to the heart in a special way.

Today, his artwork is in museums all over the world, and many people still love the way his paintings make them feel. If you could paint your emotions using only colours, what would your painting look like?

**Find out more about Mark Rothko by following the link below to take you to his artist page at the Tate Gallery.** Or scan the QR code to take you to the website.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-mark-rothko>



### **Your turn**

Have you ever felt a big emotion but didn't know how to share it? When you're feeling happy, sad, or even worried, creating art can help you let those emotions out in a fun and safe way. It can also make you feel calmer, boost your confidence, and help you understand your feelings better. Plus, sharing your artwork with others can bring you closer to friends and family. Colours can show emotions—just like the artist Mark Rothko, who used colours to reflect feelings in his paintings. What colours would you choose for a happy, sad, or angry painting? Would bright yellows and oranges show joy, or would deep blues and purples express sadness? Grab some colours and create an artwork that shows how you feel today!

**Choose an emotion or feeling and create a painting or drawing to express how you feel. Or create a painting of a feeling for others to try and guess the emotion/feeling.**