

Ponstingl: Dreams of Past Futures Compare and Contrast

Looking Activity:

Examine the two works by Franz Jozef Ponstingl: *Untitled*, 1966 (below left) and *Untitled*, 1970-72 (below right). What is similar? Different? Discuss the colors and patterns you see. Do they remind you of anything?



Franz Jozef Ponstingl, *Untitled*, 1966, Oil on canvas, 50 x 68 inches, Collection of Tom Miller .



Franz Jozef Ponstingl, *Untitled*, 1970-72, Oil on canvas 36 x 52 inches , Collection of John Munice.

Background:

Using the money he received as an inheritance after the death of his father in 1968, Frank Ponstingl traveled throughout Europe, the Middle East, and South America. Ponstingl was fascinated with the Inca, Maya, and Aymara archaeological ruins he visited. As he often did, he created sketches of his observations so he could use them in future paintings. The earthy tones and geometric design of *Untitled*, 1970-72, are similar to those used in Inca textiles. Ponstingl also looked to Inca pictographs and Egyptian hieroglyphs to create an original written language that he included in his paintings, as seen in *Untitled*, 1966.

At Home Activity:

Find an example of Inca textiles and pictographs and compare them to these works. How are they similar? Different? Using your findings as inspiration, create your own textile pattern. How would it be different than the work of Ponstingl? Use the opposite side of this sheet to sketch out your ideas.