

Artist: Mark Rothko

Title: White Center

Date: 1950

Location: New York City USA

Rothko's work is characterized by rigorous attention to formal elements such as color, shape, balance, depth, composition, and scale; yet, he refused to consider his paintings solely in these terms. He explained: *It is a widely accepted notion among painters that it does not matter what one paints as long as it is well painted. This is the essence of academicism. There is no such thing as good painting about nothing.* The notion of color-field painting implied that only optical responses were significant in painting. Subject matter was forbidden and illusionism condemned.

