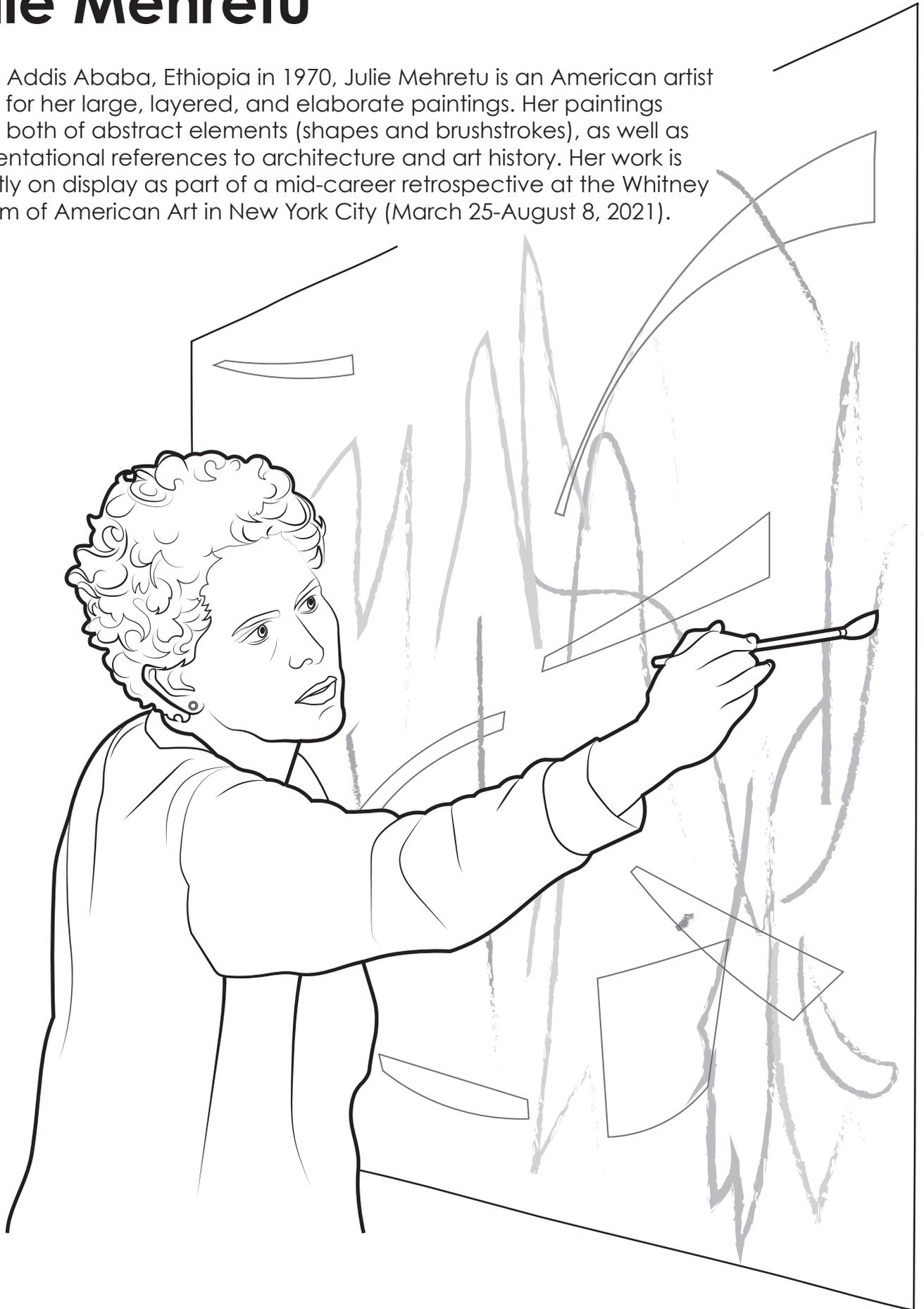


Julie Mehretu

Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1970, Julie Mehretu is an American artist known for her large, layered, and elaborate paintings. Her paintings consist both of abstract elements (shapes and brushstrokes), as well as representational references to architecture and art history. Her work is currently on display as part of a mid-career retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City (March 25-August 8, 2021).



Julie Mehretu uses **additive** and **subtractive** processes in her paintings.

An **additive** process means to create lines, shapes, or forms by adding material to the composition. A **subtractive** process means to create lines, shapes, or forms by removing material from the composition.

In the following exercise, learn how to use simple additive and subtractive processes in your own drawings.

You will need:

- graphite pencil**
- eraser**

1

In the first box, draw a shape by adding marks from your pencil. This is an additive drawing.



2

Now, color in this entire box with pencil. Then, use your eraser to create the same shape you made in the first box by erasing the graphite of the pencil from the box. This is a subtractive drawing.



3

In the third box, combine your additive and subtractive processes to create a unique and complex composition, just like Julie Mehretu!

