



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Dorothy Rose Hood. Then, answer questions about it.

Dorothy Rose Hood 1918–2000

The abstract paintings of Dorothy Hood are now recognized as masterpieces of twentieth-century American art. Their energy, scale, and ambition also reflect the spirit of Texas—Hood's birthplace and home during the most productive period of her career.

Born in Bryan in 1918, Hood was raised in Houston, then moved east after high school to study art. While visiting Mexico in 1941, she made friends in the vibrant arts community and lived there on and off for twenty years. There, she developed her own distinctive style—geometrically abstract works that evoked the natural world, melding organic and artificial forms.

It was after Hood returned to Houston in the early sixties that she produced some of her most spectacular work. These towering ten-by-eight-foot paintings feature broad fields of modulated color with light surfacing from beneath. A sense of vast space and emptiness emanates from the canvases. In some, lightning bolts seem to crack through to an unknown beyond. Hood described these works as “landscapes of my psyche.”

Hood died in 2000. While well regarded during her lifetime, she is now recognized as one of the most important American artists of her generation. About her home state, she once said, “The space of Texas and the plains and the sky and everything frees me. You have every element for an artist there.”

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Dorothy Rose Hood. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How does the episode describe Dorothy Rose Hood's artistic style?
2. How does Hood describe the art works that she created during the time she lived in Houston?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** If you were going to create an abstract version of the landscape where you live, what would it look like? Why would it look that way?