

ARTWORK ANALYSIS ACTIVITY

Maxwell became a painter later in life. He explored different styles, notably **abstract expressionism**: A post-World War II art movement that emphasized an emotionally expressive, abstract and intuitive approach to artmaking. Prominent abstract expressionists include Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning.

STEP 1. View Maxwell's photo gallery [Art](#) on Re:Collection, and listen as he describes his artistic development. How did his experiences in the Holocaust affect his art?

STEP 2. Examine Maxwell's painting *Power and Victory*. What do you see in this painting?



Power and Victory (section), oil on canvas, 50 × 118 in., 1972.

STEP 3. Read Maxwell's quote describing his painting *Power and Victory*:

"It bristles with black horizontals that reminded me of gun barrels. In it, explosions of red paint reflect the detonations that I saw shot into the road in front of me as we fled with the Soviets in 1944."
In what ways was your impression similar to or different from what he intended to paint?

STEP 4. Choose a theme or emotion that stood out to you as you read Maxwell's story. If you were to create a painting to represent that theme or emotion, what colours, shapes or other elements would you use on your canvas?
