

**Geometric Abstraction, 1987**

Host: I don't know how it was for you when you were in school, but for me as a student the subjects of geometry and mathematics were an absolute mystery. The logical relationships between numbers and symbols simply eluded my more romantic inclinations. I certainly never felt that geometry and mathematics could inspire art.

Hello. Welcome to *Arts America*. I'm your host John Bos.

Now on today's program you will meet three artists whose work in the genre of painting which we call geometric abstraction speaks very powerfully to the impulse these artists have to create order out of chaos, to make harmony out of contrasting ideas and elements. We'll start the program with Al Held whose long work at trying to create such order and form has made him a leader in this field. Then you'll visit with Sol LeWitt, who in 1967 coined the phrase conceptual art. For LeWitt and his many followers, it is the essence of the idea rather than the execution of the painting that matters most. Finally, we'll end the program with an interview with Brice Marden, whose reductive style inspires a kind of spiritual feeling. He is fascinated with numbers, particularly the number three.

Let's begin the program now with the first of our three artists, Al Held.