

"Action Painting" Rorschach Scoring

From: Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Philip F. Caracena, Ph.D. Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 17:49 To: Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com Subject: Re: [Rorschach_List] Scoring Q: Card X

Piero Porcelli wrote I would appreciate some help for scoring the following response received by a student of mine:

Card X A Twombly's picture (W) Inq: "It ll a picture painted by Twombly; sort of action painting. Splashes of multiple colors, Red, yellow, blue."

In addition to pure C, is it also mp?

I would say pure C with no m.

Colors on the canvas in action painting are different from those in a picture of a classic painter, e.g. Caravaggio or Picasso. In both cases, colors on the canvas are the result of the movement of the painter's hand.

However in action painting, colors are used specifically to give the sense of movement, as they were the final step of a pathway that was started in the movement of the artist. Therefore my question: should the response be score with passive inanimate movement?

Even if what you say about the intent of the use of color in an action painting is true, no sense of perceived movement was articulated in the response. We do not know if an inquiry ("action painting?") would have elicited the person saying he or she saw or "sensed" movement. The coding cannot take into account the definition or the intent of "action painting," nor what the artist may have wanted to convey to the viewer unless the person "gets it" and says so. I would need to hear, "...these colors (or lines) give a sense of (or convey) movement", or at least to see a hand gesture or movement of the card indicating a perception of movement. It sort of sounds like the person might have been more focused on the colors and maybe also the artist's movement while splashing the colors on the "picture" - but that would have been uncodable past movement at best.

I'd like to hear what others think.

Phil