TEXT TO ACCOMPANY “THE FIRST STEP” – A KNOCK-OFF OF A “WELL-KNOWN” PAINTING BY FRANTIŠEK KUPKA

Created in Circle world, version Beta
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BIOGRAPHY: Although he was born in Czechoslovakia, artist František Kupka spent most of his life pursuing his passion in France (wwar.com). First, he studied under Frantisek Sequens and encountered the influence of the Nazarener school. Afterward, he travelled to Vienna to study under Professor Eisenmerger. Initially he dabbled in caricatures and drawing. In Puteaux, France, in 1910, he encountered Jacques Villon and a group of other artists, among them Marcel Duchamp, Robert Delaunay, Fernand Leger, and Francis Picaba. They discussed Cubism and Futurism, two movements in painting that altered the appearance of real-life dimension and proportion (Frantisek-kupka.com). This led to his progression into abstraction and then orphism, a merging of music and art. Music has the ability to inspire emotion and those artists that based their design on Orphism wished to communicate the same emotion through “curvilinear pure abstraction” (brittanica.com).

After serving in WWI, Kupka took on the position as a guest professor in Prague in 1918. In 1931 he founded the “Abstraction-Creation” group for artists (Frantisek-kupka.com). The impact that Kupka had on art is depicted in the dedication of an entire room to his paintings in the Musee d’Art Moderne after his death in 1955. One of his most famous works is the Amorpha: Fugue in Two Colors 1912 (wwar.com).

DESCRIPTION: The First Step depicts a white orb and a gray orb suspended at the top of the canvas on a dark blue background. They are surrounded by a ring of red and blue streaked circles that hover slightly off-center and extend off the canvas. It intersects at the bottom left-hand edge with a dark-red ring of indistinct small shapes that also curve off the canvas. The earthy colors and expanse of plain dark background gives off a feeling of loneliness and endless motion because the eye is immediately drawn to the white sphere but is then captured by the circles of red in an unrelenting pull although they are incomplete.

ABSTRACT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS OF IMAGE GENERATION: I first found a point at the top-center point for the gray sphere; then I moved up the painter two lengths forward and to the right three lengths to draw the larger white sphere. For the blue and red spheres in the arc, I painted a medium-sized blue sphere with a smaller red sphere in the center. The arc of these orbs is drawn slightly off to the right of the white orb so that the top portion is off the campus. Moving the painter down and to the lower left-hand corner of the canvas and painted a large arc of small red circles of different shades to represent the indistinct reddish arc in the original painting.