ABOUT THE PRINT

The title of this print, And Then . . . You Just Smile, sounds like the refrain of an old song. Can you see how the artist Moe Brooker moved his hand in one direction and then another? It seems as if he drew this work quickly, freely, and with vigor, imbuing it with an air of spontaneity and freshness. First impressions aside, this abstract image is structured the way great jazz compositions and improvisations are—controlled but also free. Pink and yellow rectangles fill two thirds of the space, contrasting with the darker shapes stretching across the bottom. A puff of light blue, like a little cloud in the sky, draws the eye upward. In the center, light and dark yellow squares recede into the background. To complete the work, the artist drew thin lines zipping across the center foreground, all straight except for the blue one bouncing through the air with rhythm and exuberance. The layering of colors, various lines, and forms seems to describe the interrelation of sounds and notes coming from different instruments as they are played together.

“Painting is about making visible a thought or idea.”

—MOE BROOKER