



The curve is a form that exists in nature but can also be manipulated to be abstract. I was fascinated by the different effects you could achieve with a simple curve.

ELLSWORTH KELLY

Ellsworth Kelly

Curved Red on Blue, 1963

Oil on canvas

105 1/4 x 84 3/8 inches

Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth,

Museum purchase, The Benjamin J. Tillar Memorial Trust

Acquired in 1968

For most of his career, Ellsworth Kelly has been interested in the simplest uses of line, shape, and color. He often takes a shape from his surroundings, for example a notebook with the corner folded down, and then reduces it to its simplest form, in the example mentioned, an orange rectangle with a white triangle at the top right corner. The Modern's *Curved Red on Blue* shows a graceful red curve that occupies the entire canvas, falling off the bottom side, but contained by the other three sides. These simple devices suggest that we are, in fact, seeing only a portion – perhaps the portion that most intrigues Kelly – of something else, something that Kelly has transformed. And though Kelly's inspiration comes from the world around him, he does not necessarily want his work to be a reduced version of it. He is not interested in depicting the object that inspired the work, but rather an entirely new object appreciated on its own terms as an abstract composition.