

Hi,

I was interested in Agnes Martin, it was the colours that you used in the Self-ish portrait that attracted me-but when I researched them – I researched how she could afford to be an artist.

I was super impressed by her commitment to herself and her creativity.

Agnes Bernice Martin, RCA, was an American abstract painter. Her work has been defined as an "essay in discretion on inward-ness and silence". Although she is often considered or referred to as a minimalist, Martin considered herself an abstract expressionist.

"When I think of art I think of beauty. Beauty is the mystery of life. It is not just in the eye. It is in the mind. It is our positive response to life."

*Agnes Martin*

In 1967, Martin left the city, and gave up painting in order to travel across North America, during which time she continued her investigations in to Buddhism and meditation. She wished to experience true solitude, and used this period of quiet reflection to produce some of her most significant writing, whilst situated in sparsely populated and remote areas of the United States and Canada. In 1968 Martin resettled in New Mexico and began building an adobe and log house in a remote mesa. She lived there alone and without modern conveniences for several years. In 1973 she began creating work again.

*"To progress in life you must give up the things that you do not like. Give up doing the things that you do not like to do. You must find the things that you do like. The things that are acceptable to your mind."*

*Agnes Martin*