

KNOW IT ALL!

The Harlem Renaissance started in the early 20th century in the New York neighbourhood of Harlem. At that time, a lot of African Americans fled the South and Harlem attracted many artists: painters, writers, poets, photographers, musicians and dancers.

African Americans gained pride in their culture and broke racial stereotypes against them. The Harlem Renaissance had a strong influence on the birth of the Civil Rights Movement.

The Harlem Renaissance



DOMAINE 1 :

Comprendre, s'exprimer en utilisant une langue étrangère.

Écrire et réagir à l'écrit

Peut écrire un énoncé simple et bref sur des sujets familiers ou déjà connus. **A2 / B1**



Figure 2: Archibald Motley, Jr. *Nightlife*, 1943 (1992.89)

- What place is depicted in this painting? What are the people doing? Who are they?
- Pay attention to the colours: which one is predominant? Why?
- Are most of the lines vertical, diagonal or horizontal?
- What impression do you get looking at this picture?

The painting represents a lively dance club, probably for Blacks only as we can't see any white people there. Different couples are dancing and their movements are suggestive of jazz music. Others are sitting at tables and are having drinks. Most of them are wearing hats and are quite well-dressed. They all seem to be having fun. They are enjoying their evening at the club.

The painting is colourful. The painter used violet and red tones, warm colours. Some green patches punctuate the painting. The dark red and purple create a night-club atmosphere with artificial lights.

Most of the lines are diagonal: that creates a sense of motion, it suggests energy.

When looking at this picture, we get the impression that these people are enjoying life, having a good time.