



Untitled (Cupcake) by Wayne Thiebaud



**Wayne Thiebaud**  
1920-



Wayne Thiebaud grew up in the depression and began his career as a cartoonist and commercial artist. Thiebaud began teaching, eventually accepting an assistant professor at the University of California, Davis. His career as a painter grew and he became known for painting commonplace objects such as pies, toys, paint cans, ice cream cones, gumball machines, and hot dogs. Thiebaud's work is often associated with pop art as they both depict mass produced consumer objects. Thiebaud acknowledges the overlap but says his work is not about criticizing consumer culture but he is simply concerned with the formal qualities of painting: color, line, shape, light, composition, and texture.

### Questions:

- Wayne Thiebaud's work is often described as nostalgic. Why?
- What element of art (line, shape, value, color, form and texture) do you see as strongest in his work and explain why.
- Can you find influences of his cartooning and commercial art experiences in his style?