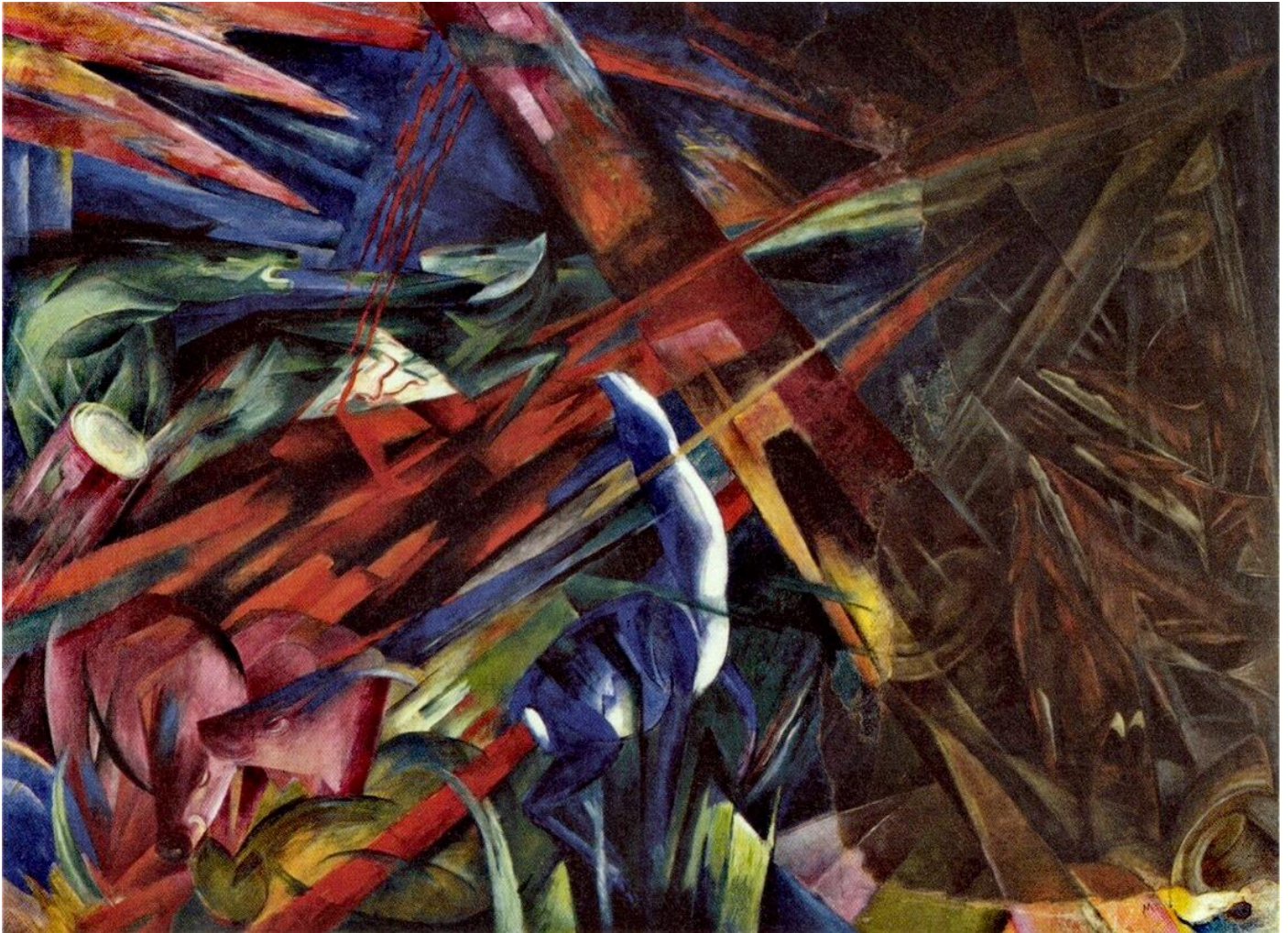


Franz Marc, *Fate of the Animals*, 1913



****First Question First****

What is *your* immediate reaction to this artwork?

Trust it. Write about it. Use the guide sheet for help.

Continue reading for another perspective and journal questions.

Franz Marc, *Fate of the Animals*, 1913

One phone call. And the earth's atmosphere breaks into glass shards. Cutting, cutting, laying waste to life all around us. One last breath slowly leaving the body of who we cannot live without, or so it feels at that moment. Shock levels us. We literally fall to the floor or buckle at the waist as if sucker punched by death. We go outside and scream to the heavens. Or emotionally shut our systems down, switched off into survival mode.

When our husband, child, wife, father, sister, mother, brother, close friend, animal friend, on and on . . . when someone we love dies, we may feel the visceral breakaway of their life from ours. And if it is sudden or violent? Annihilation. "To destroy completely," as Webster's Dictionary pointedly defines the word. There is no prescription. There is only our next breath, our next tear, our next step. And the shared sorrow for each of our devastated hearts.

Note: The artist, Franz Marc, died in WWI, age 36. This painting was damaged around this time in a warehouse fire and repaired by his close friend, artist Paul Klee; he purposely darkened the tone of his repair seen to the right. Repaired by friends.

Q.) What feels shattered to pieces now? Write about this feeling of annihilation, one sharp point at a time.