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	Sommario/riassunto	At a time when the dominant mode of painting, Abstract Expressionism, emphasized expressive drama through bold brushwork and largely abstract compositions, Johns' paintings of the American flag, targets, numbers and the alphabet demonstrated a decided departure from convention.Despite being painted with obvious care, they seemed emotionally reticent, cool and quiet, far from the emotional fireworks then fashionable."It all began with my painting a picture of an American flag. Using this design took care of a great deal for me because I didn't have to design it. So I went on to similar things li