

Basics of Art & Design

Grades K-6



created by robgdesign

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How to Use this Guide

This guide is designed for instructing kids ages 5-11, however, it's use is not limited to those ages. It is recommended that you teach one lesson per week, however you can do more than one. Throughout the week, you can focus on that element of art and look for specific examples in everyday life. For example, when you talk about color, you could point out how the package on a cereal box uses a specific color palette.

The first 7 lessons focus on an element of art. The last 3 are additional studies in art and a little more advanced but the activities are still intended for the elementary school-age students.

Each section contains the following:

- An Element of Art
- A Featured Artist and Bio
- A brief description of the element and why it's important
- An activity that uses this element

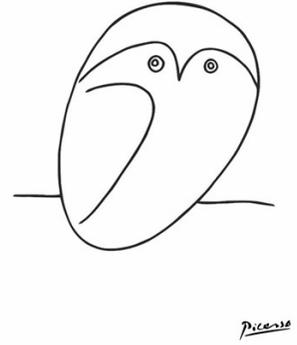
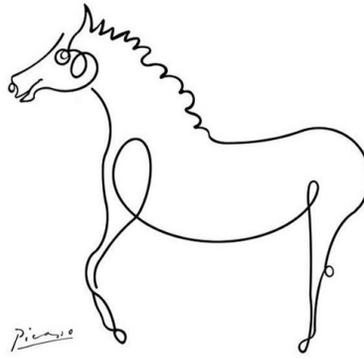
These sections are meant to be fun but also educational. Art history is included as a big part of each section to understand the significance of each artist.

Each activity is also meant to be simple. I wanted to find activities that you wouldn't have to go out and find additional materials. There may be a few activities (such as ones with paint) that you might have to purchase a few things but overall, they are simplified.

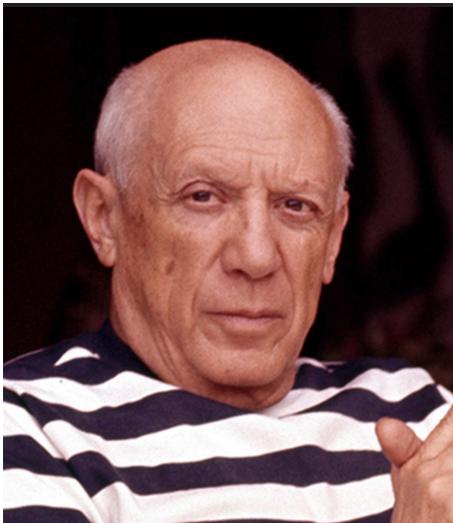
I also encourage being creative with the activities. Don't hesitate to change the activity to meet the interest of your students. Some may need to be expanded longer. Others may need to be simplified even more. The point of these activities is to explore a new kind of art and style but also to have fun.

It is my opinion that every person should do something creative every day. It's easy to lose that creative spirit as we get older. I hope that this guide will not only educate but also help your students (and yourself) be more creative and think about art in a different way.

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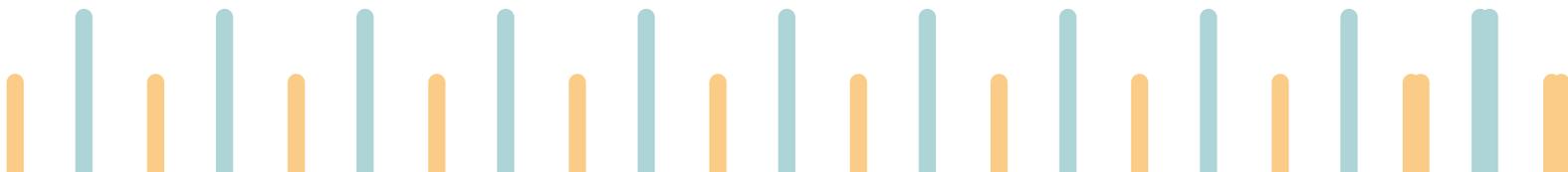
Line- Pablo Picasso



Pablo Picasso was a Spanish artist born in 1881. Picasso is known for co-founding the movement of Cubism. He is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Picasso drew and painted his subjects with an abstract style that focused more on line and shape, rather than making them look realistic.

Did you know? Picasso's full name was: Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso.

Line is the most basic principle of art. Everything we do in art starts with a line. You build shapes from lines, create space from lines, and even use lines in sculpture. Learning basic linework will help you in all other areas of your artwork. Lines lead our eyes to the subject. Good artwork will use lines to keep our eyes moving and not get bored. Notice how Picasso's drawings are simple but keep your eye moving.



Line- Activity

Blind Drawing

Materials Needed

- Drawing Paper*
- Pencil*
- A Ruler*
- A Partner*

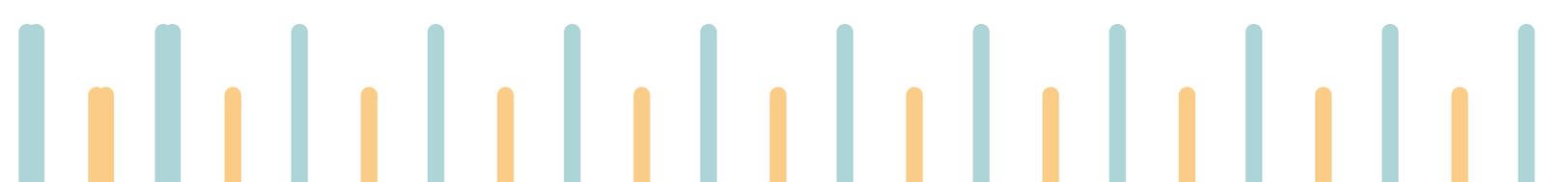
Instructions

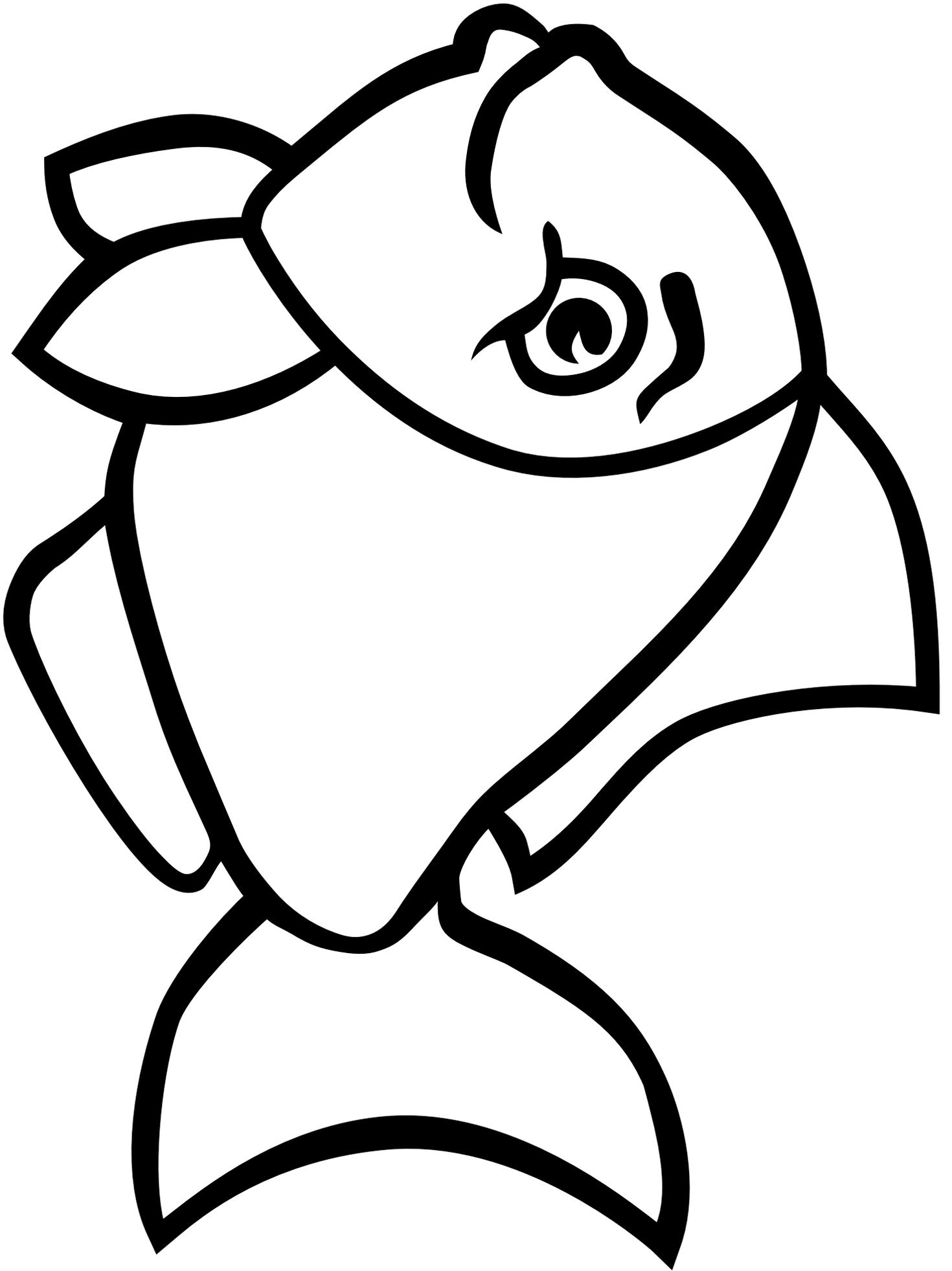
Draw your partner's face without looking at your page. Take turns to see how close you can get your drawing to look like your partner. Which drawing looks the silliest? Now draw your partner without taking your pencil off the page. Is it harder without looking at the page or not being able to take your pencil off the page?

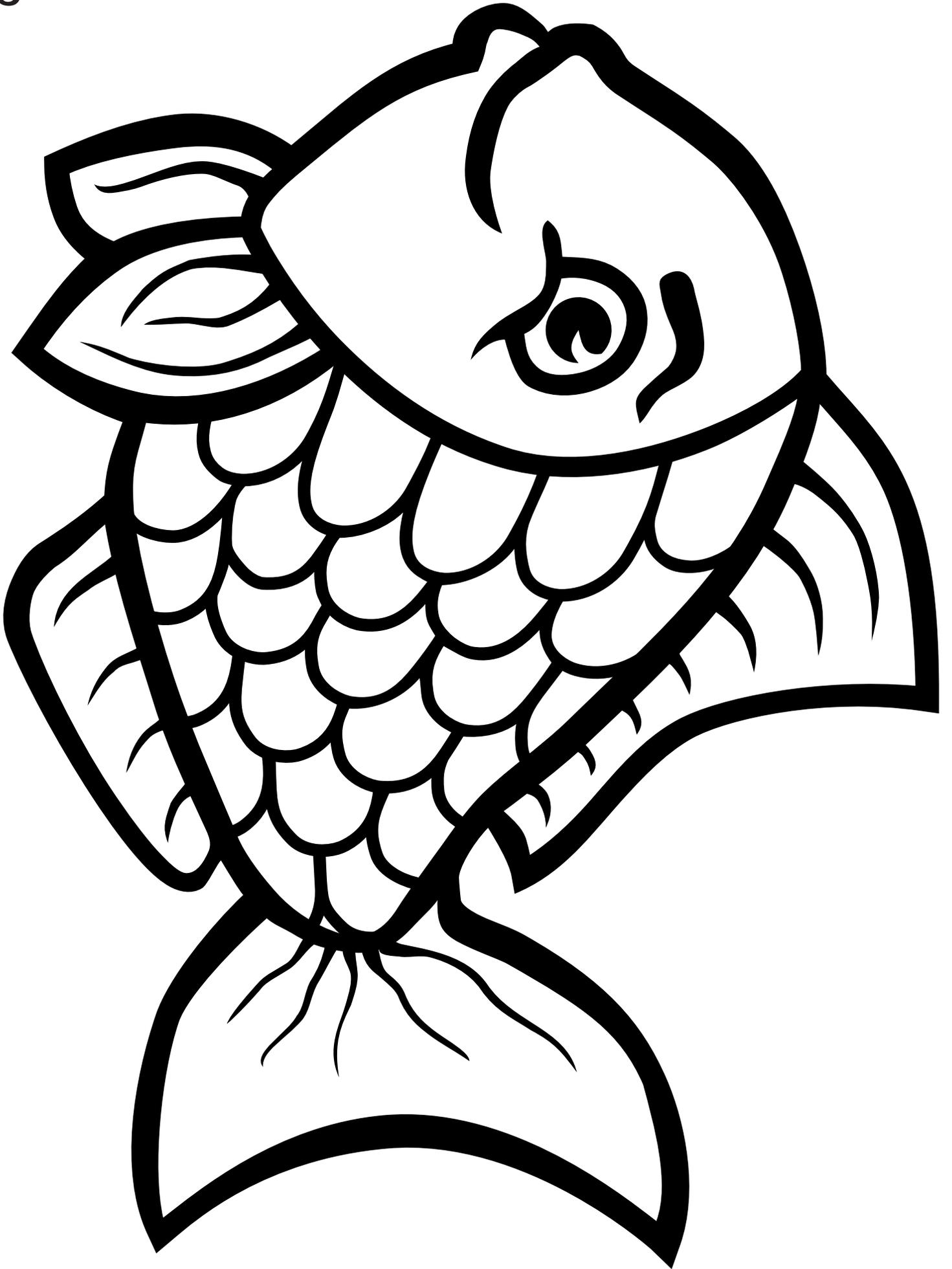
Use the *printouts on pages 4 & 5 and draw them with straight lines only. You can use your ruler to help you if needed. You can also do this step as well as the other two by drawing pets, your home or anything else you can see or think of.

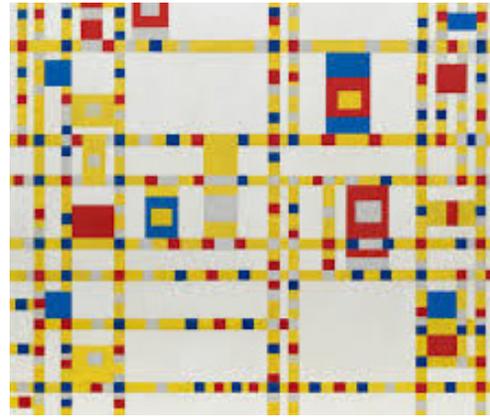
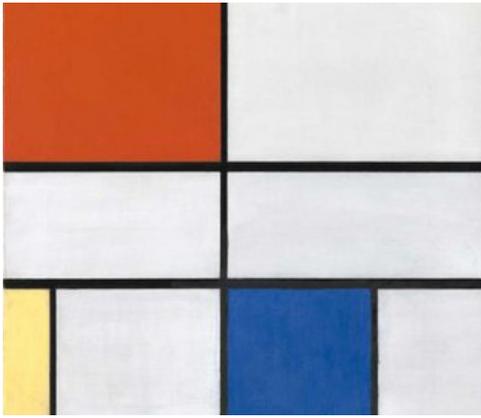
Picasso's drawings may look funny but he was a master at making great line drawings!

*There are two different versions of the outline. They vary in detail, depending on the age and preference of the student.









Shape- Piet Mondrian



Piet Mondrian (pee-et/ mond-ree-on) was a Dutch painter born in 1872. He is best known for his contribution to non-representational art and the movement De Stijl. Some of his famous works feature simple colors and shapes to create balance. His art is very influential in modern-day design.

Did you know? Mondrian never used a ruler in his artwork. He was an expert at creating straight lines which often took months to complete these simple paintings.

Shapes help us identify what the artist is trying to portray. From our basic lines, we can form shapes. We look at shapes and try to make sense of them. Have you ever found animals in the clouds? We can tell stories with our shapes and even add colors like Mondrian.



Shape- Activity

Sponge Stamps

Materials Needed

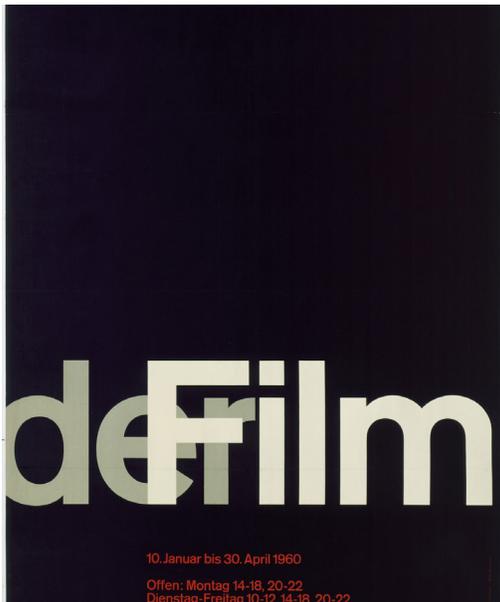
- Sponges*
- Scissors*
- Paint (cheap acrylic paint works best)*
- Computer Paper*
- Paper (thick enough to take acrylic paint)*
- Black Sharpie*
- Paper Plate*

Instructions

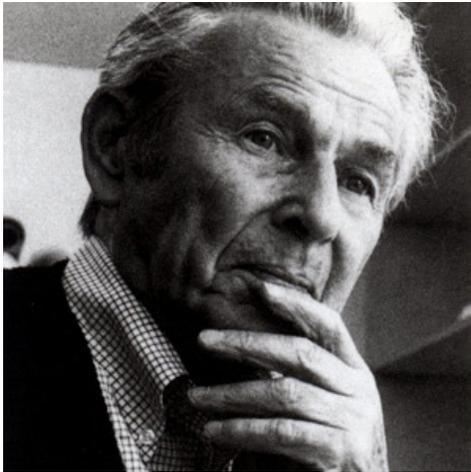
1. Take your computer paper and draw different shapes with the black sharpie.
2. Cut out those shapes with your scissors
3. Place the cutout shape over your dry sponge and outline with the sharpie so that you are outlining your shape. You can alternatively just draw your shape right on the dry sponge.
4. Get your sponge just damp enough so it expands, then cut out your shape
5. Place your paint on the paper plate and use your new sponge as a stamp on your thicker paper.

You can wash your stamps and apply different colors. You can also reuse your stamps after they dry. Be careful with your paint because it can stain your clothes.





Space- Müller-Brockmann



Josef Müller-Brockmann was born in 1914 and was a Swiss graphic designer. He developed a style of poster design using simple shapes, lots of space, and bold typography. This style is still used today in graphic design, print design, and logos.

Did you know? Josef Müller-Brockmann was not only a talented artist, he was also an architect, teacher, and author.

Having good space in your artwork is important but can be difficult to do. It's not only about the images in your artwork but the negative space. It's important to have space in your artwork to let your eyes focus on one subject. If there are too many things going on in your art, your eyes will have a hard time knowing what's important.



Space- Activity

Newspaper Collage

Materials Needed

- Newspaper,
- Magazines
- Thick Paper
- Glue
- Scissors

Instructions

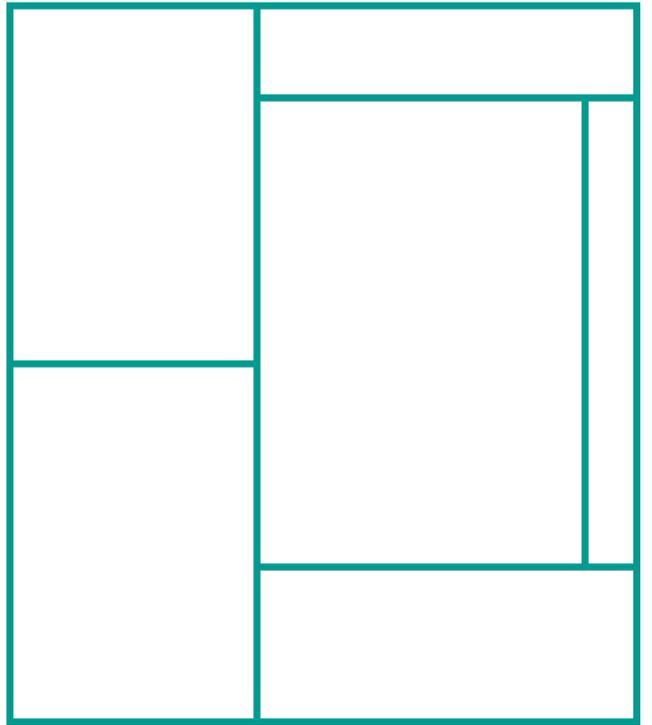
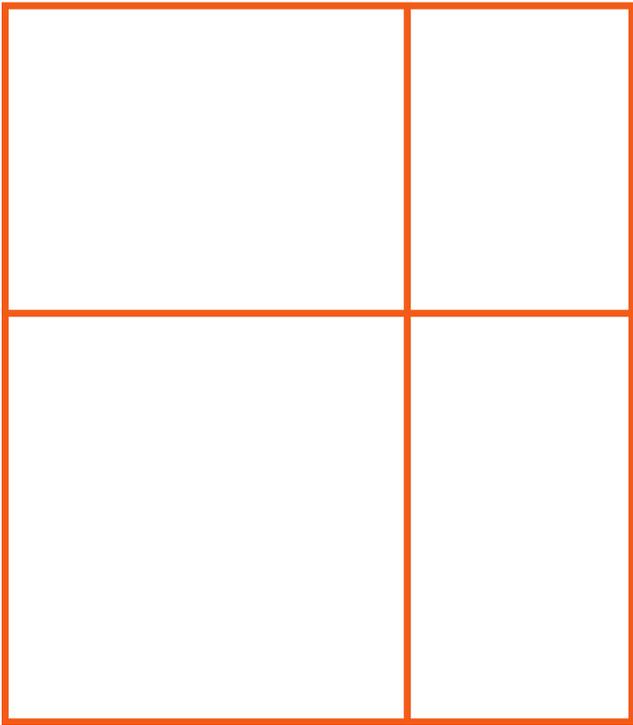
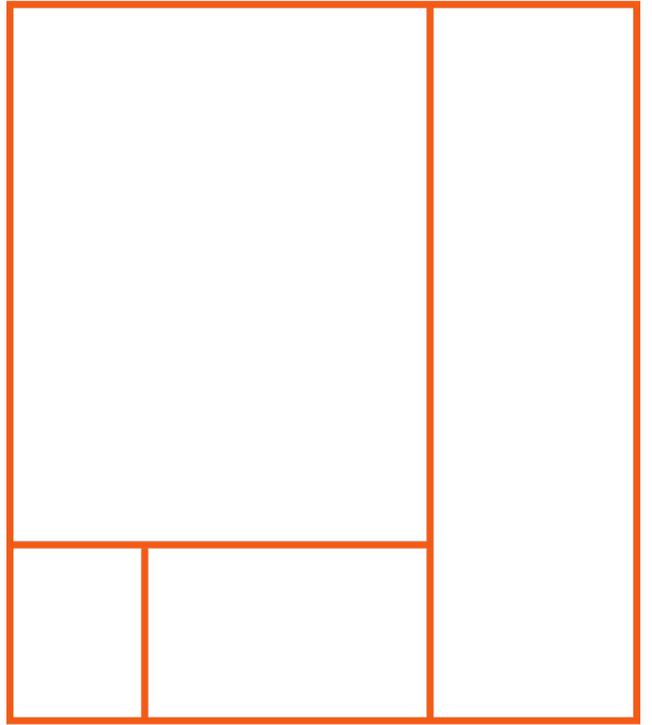
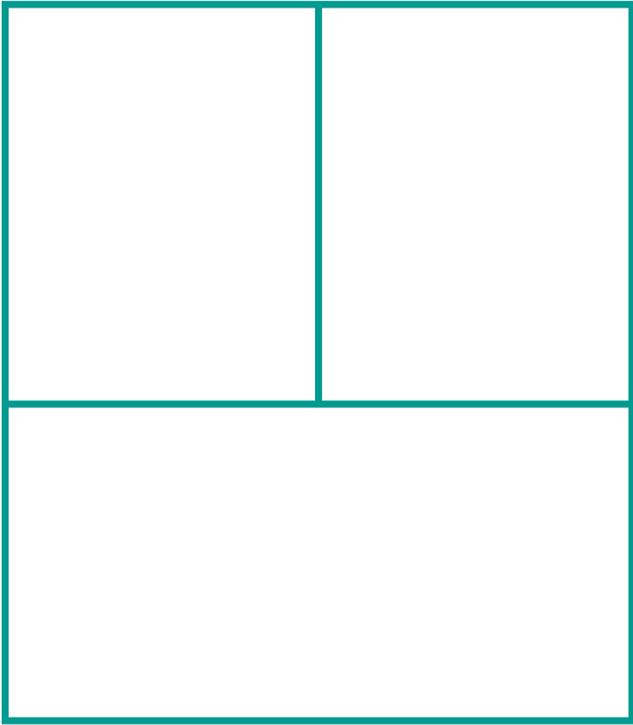
1. Spend some time looking through the magazines and newspapers. You can also find interesting images, text, and articles online.
2. Cut out images that look interesting to you. Also, remember to use text as Müller-Brockmann did in his artwork.
3. Layer the images so they make an interesting *composition. Be mindful of line, color, shapes but most importantly, how you're using your space
4. When you've figured out how you want to lay out your collage, use the glue to paste your collage to your paper

You can continue to add other items to your collage such as pencil, paint, or glitter.

*The next page contains a few suggestions for common compositions used in a magazine layout.

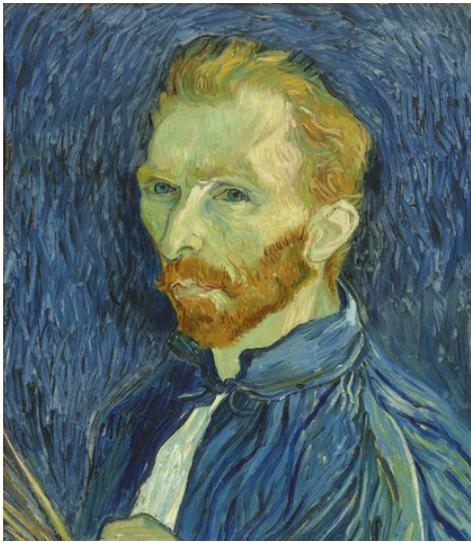


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Color- Van Gogh



Vincent Van Gogh was a Dutch painter known for his bright use of color. He continued the movement of impressionism, a style of painting that focuses on bright colors, big painting strokes, and outdoor scenes. Impressionists usually painted outside and so they were in a hurry to get their painting done as the light changed. That's why impressionism looks messy and rushed.

Did you know? While Van Gogh was alive, he only sold one painting. In 1991, one of his paintings sold for over 8 million dollars.

Color is a way to make your artwork vibrant but knowing how to use color is important. If your colors are too bright, it will distract. If they are too dull, then you won't have interest. Understanding the color wheel and what colors look good together will make you a better artist.



Color- Terms

Primary Colors- Red, Yellow, Blue

All colors come from mixing these colors and also adding white and black.

Secondary Colors- Orange, Purple, Green

These colors are made by mixing two primary colors.

Complimentary Colors

Colors that are opposite on the color wheel. Example: Blue and Yellow.

Tints

You can create tints of colors by adding white to make the color lighter.

Shades

You can get shades of a color by adding black to make the color darker.



Color- Activity

Color Wheel

Materials Needed

- Acrylic Paint (Red, Yellow, Blue, White, Black)*
- Paint Brushes*
- Paper Plates*
- Paper that can take acrylic paint*

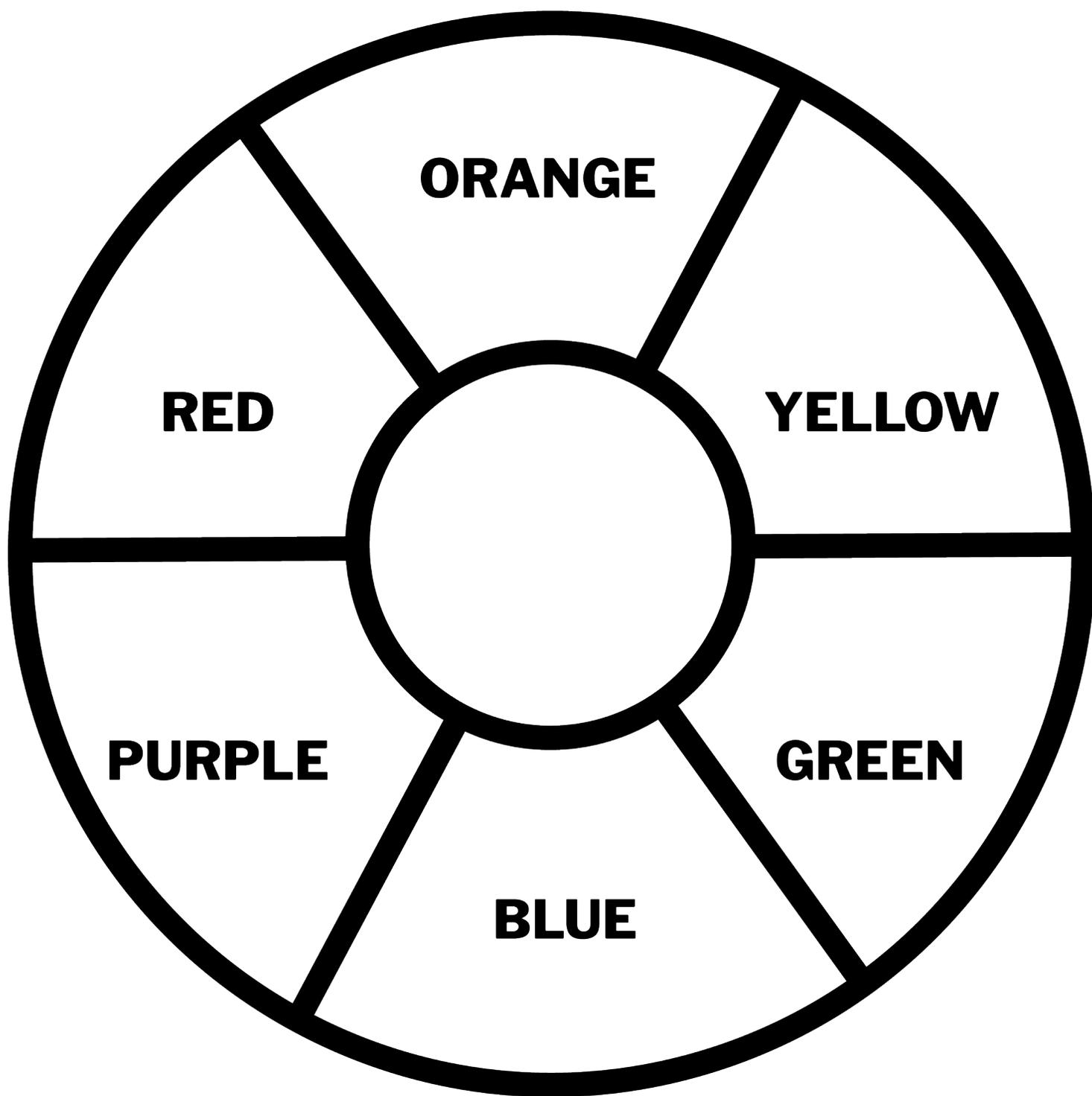
Instructions

1. Fill out your color wheel (page 14) starting with Red, Yellow, and Blue. Use your paper plates to mix the color. Be careful not to stain your clothes.
2. Then mix your primary colors to create Orange, Purple, and Green.
3. Using the color guide on page 15, try to match the colors as close as you can just using Red, Yellow, Blue, White, and Black. You may need to add more white or black to a color in order to get the right hue. Remember that a little bit of black goes a long way.

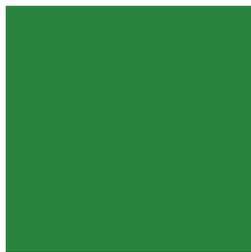
You can repeat step 3 with different color palettes and images.

Remember to rinse your brushes thoroughly after use.





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Texture- Dorothea Lange



Dorothea Lange was an American photographer known for documenting scenes of the depression in the 1930s. Lange is best known for photographing the dustbowl. She was married to Maynard Dixon, a painter that is known for painting the American Southwest.

Did you know? Lange's most famous photograph 'Migrant Mother' (shown above) was not immediately popular and was almost thrown away.

Texture is a way to bring your artwork to life. When you look at a drawing of a cat and you can tell it has soft fur, it helps the viewer connect with the drawing. Notice how from the photos above, you can feel the texture in the woman's skin and wood store. You can use texture in your artwork to make it fun and interesting. Textures are not only used in art but in modern fashion and even web design.

Texture- Activity

Leaf Rubbings

Materials Needed

-Colored Chalk

-Paper

-Leaves

Instructions

1. Place your paper over your leaf
2. Rub your chalk over the paper so that you can see the texture made by the leaf
3. Try using different colors.

You can do this with several different kinds of leaves but also if you find other interesting textures, you can make rubbings of those as well. Some good textures to experiment with are: Asphalt, rough wood, tires or the bottom of your shoe.

You also can take these and make a collage (instructions under the Space Activity)





Value- Rembrandt



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was born in 1606 and was a Dutch painter who is known for his dramatically lit paintings. This style is known as Tenebrism. He didn't invent this style of painting but used it in his work. This particular style of Tenebrism is sometimes called "candlelight tradition". He painted many self-portraits throughout his life.

Did you know? Rembrandt loved his homeland of the Dutch Republic (now the Netherlands) so much that he never left his homeland his whole life.

Having value in your artwork refers to having contrast or lights and darks. This helps certain subjects stand out and also feel like they are real. When we look out the window, not everything has the same value. Some things are darker/lighter. We can include this in our artwork to make things feel more three dimensional.



Value- Activity

Gray Scale

Materials Needed

- Pencil
- Pen
- Printout (page 20)

Instructions

1. Print handout on page 20
2. Start out by using a pencil and making a gradient in the box under the top example

There are different ways to make your mark darker or lighter. Think of these techniques.

- You can press down harder.
- You can smudge the graphite with your finger
- You can use fewer lines in your shading

3. Use your pen to stipple (or make dots) to create a gradient.
4. With your pen use crosshatch (lines in a criss-cross motion) to create a gradient.

There are several boxes so if you don't get the gradient quite right, you have other boxes to practice in. You can also use color to create gradients. Try on one end with yellow and the other blue, see how when you integrate more yellow/blue on the respective side how it becomes greener.

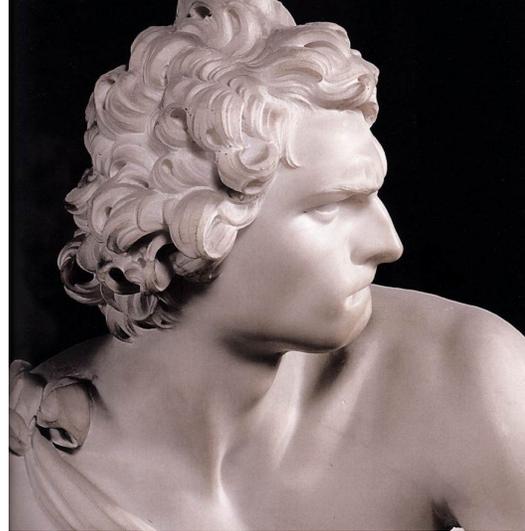




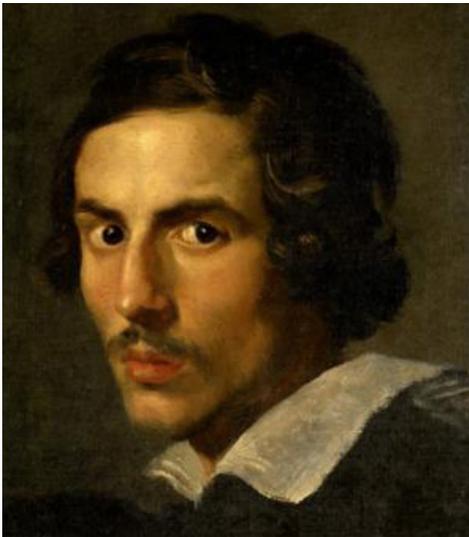
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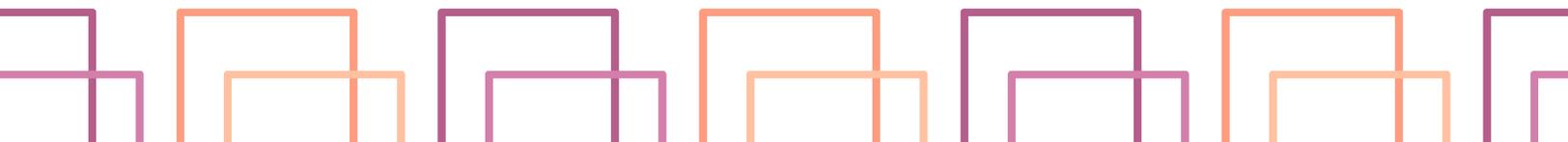
Form- Bernini



Gian Lorenzo Bernini or better known as Bernini was a sculptor and architect in the 1600's best known for his detailed marble sculptures. Bernini was a huge part of the Baroque movement. Bernini took what artists did in the Renaissance and built off of their detail. It's mind-blowing when you look at his sculptures and think that they were done with hand tools and no modern technology.

Did you know? Bernini's father was also a talented sculptor. He taught Bernini to sculpt at the young age of eight.

Form is being able to take a shape and add value to create a 3-dimensional shape. Form is the most frequently associated with sculpture. Art is not only limited to 2 dimensions but can be expressed through 3-dimensional work.



Form- Activity

Beetle Sculptures

Materials Needed

- Colored Pipe Cleaners*
- Handout from page*

Instructions

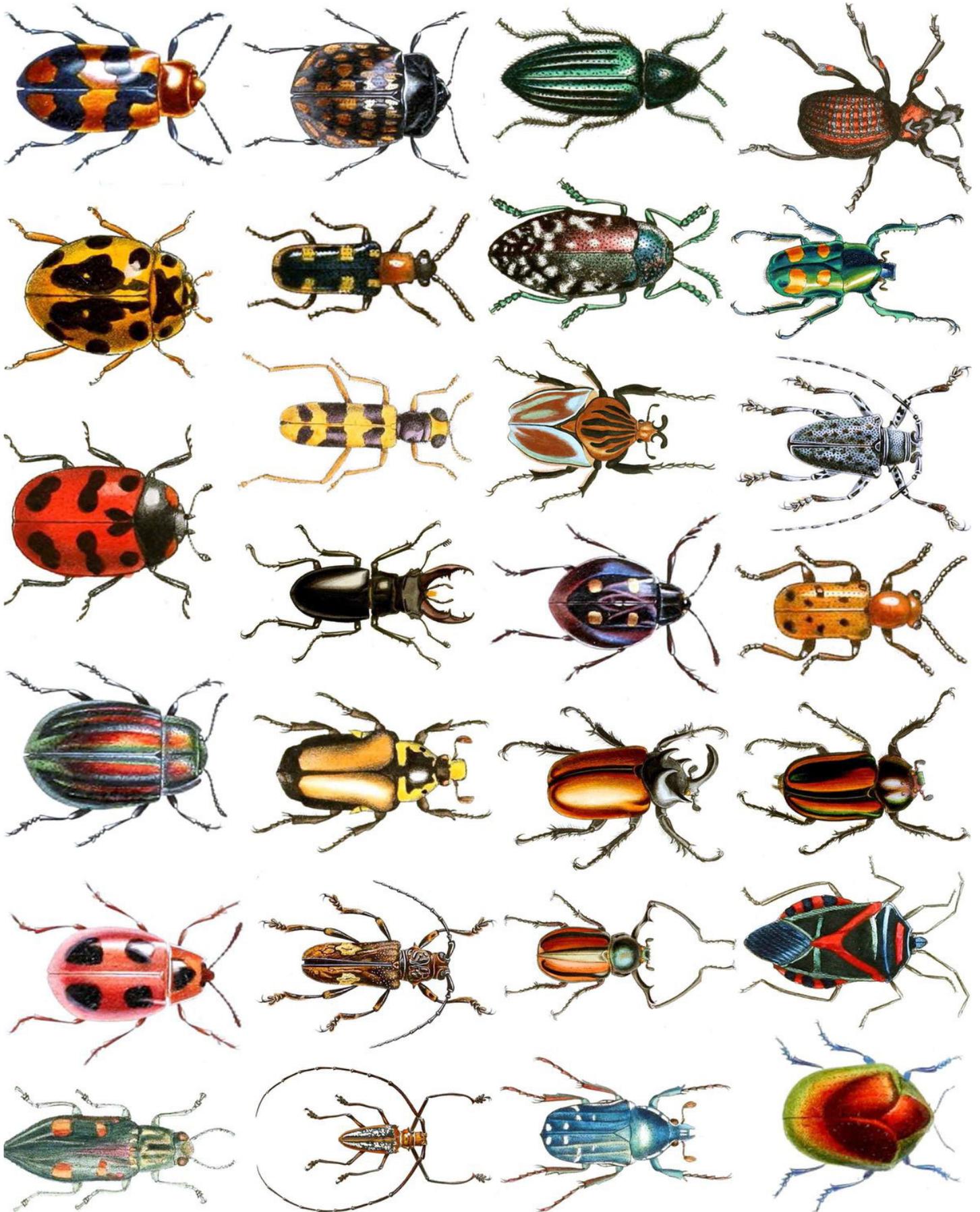
1. Refer to the handout on Page 23. You can also print it out if you want to see it better.
2. Select a beetle to sculpt with your pipe cleaners.
3. Look at the basic shape of the beetle and make those outlines using the pipe cleaners.

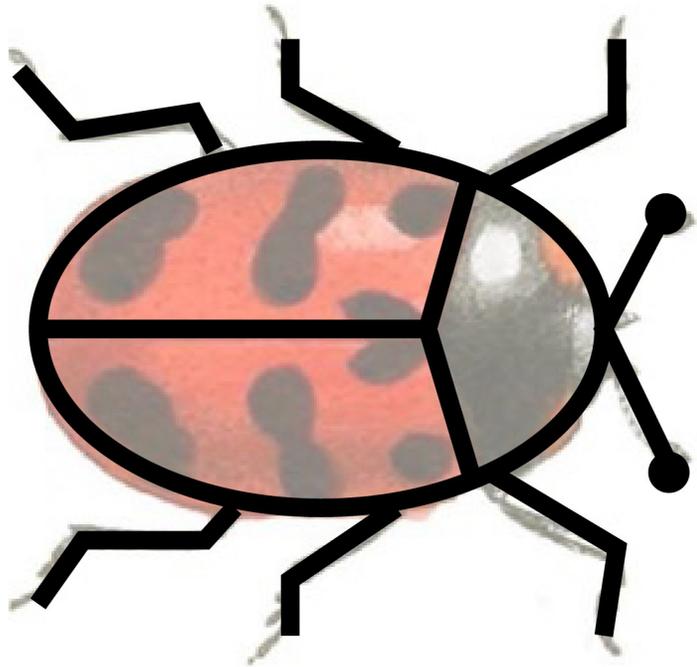
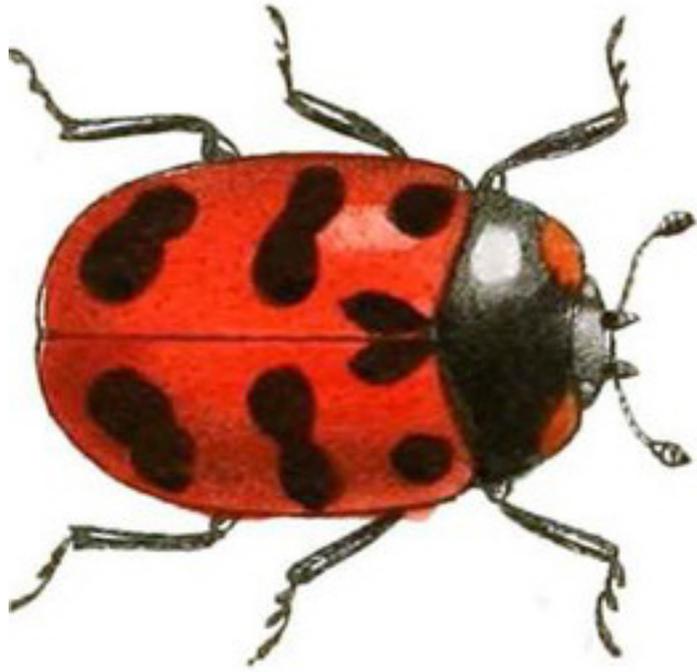
You can also do this exercise with other animals, buildings, or even people. Be careful of the ends of the pipe cleaners as they can be sharp.

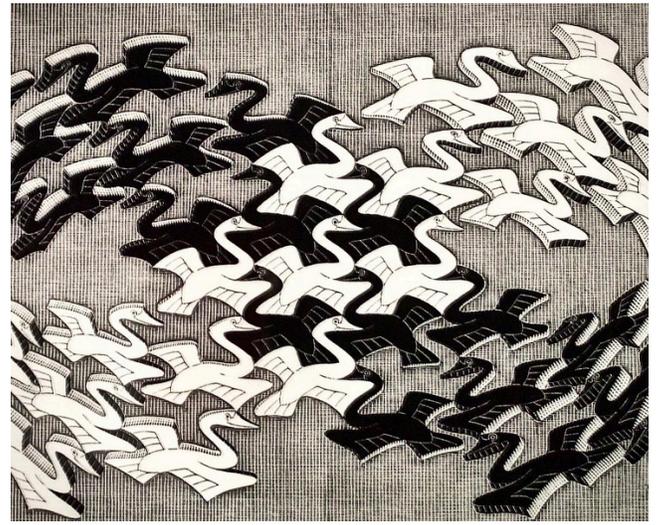
If you don't have pipe cleaners, you can also do this activity with Scotch Tape and Straws. Your beetles will probably end up bigger if you use these materials.

Refer to Page 24 to see an example of how to simplify these shapes.

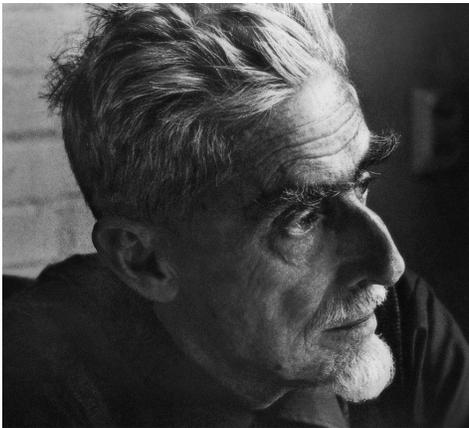








Rhythm- M.C. Escher



Maurits Cornelis Escher or better known as M.C. Escher was a Dutch graphic artist born in 1898. He is best known for his surrealistic pencil drawings. Escher used detailed planning, experimentation, and math in his drawings. His work still inspires graphic designers today.

Did you know? Although Escher is known for geometry and mathematics in his artwork, he wasn't a good math student and didn't like math until later in his life while studying symmetry.

Having rhythm in your art refers to patterns and being able to repeat a design consistently. You can find rhythm in birthday cards, websites, interior design, and most fashion. When you notice patterns in these places, think of how the artist or designer decided to design the pattern in that particular way.

Rhythm- Activity

Fashion Design

Materials Needed

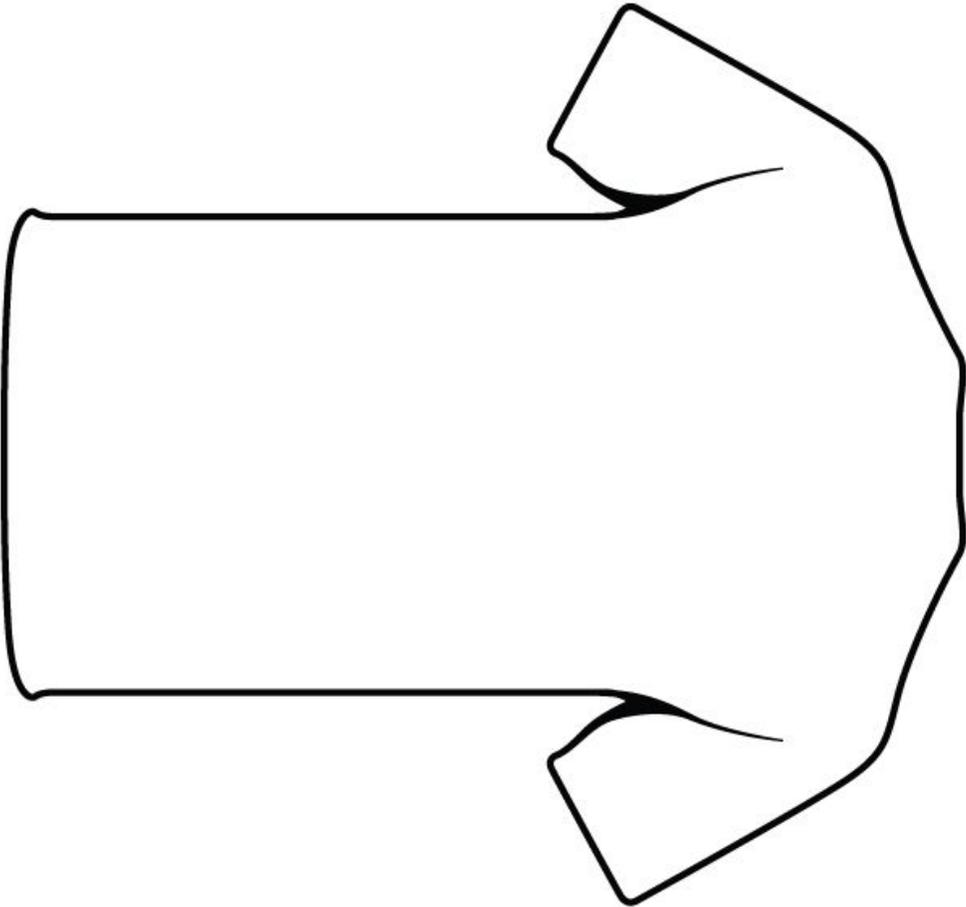
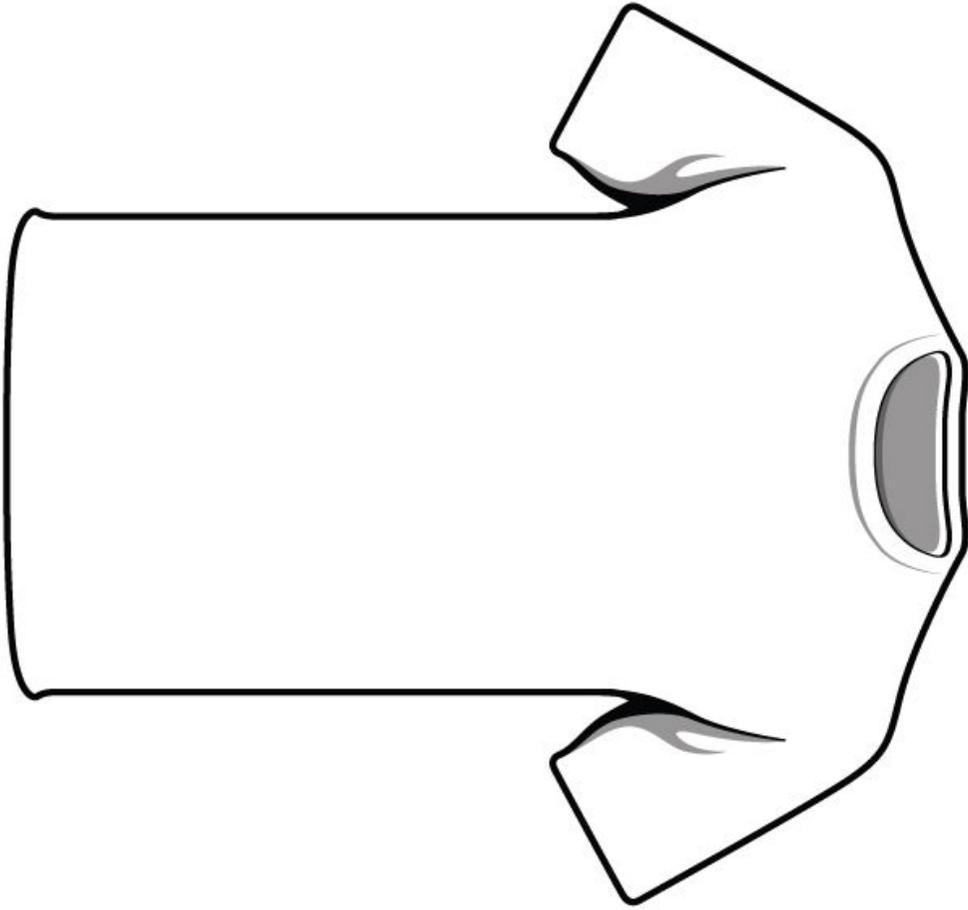
- Handouts on page 27,28*
- Pencil or Pen*
- Colored Pencils*
- Crayons*
- Markers*

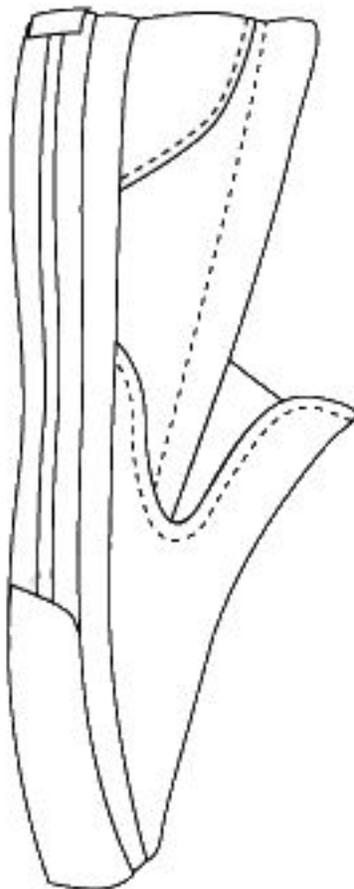
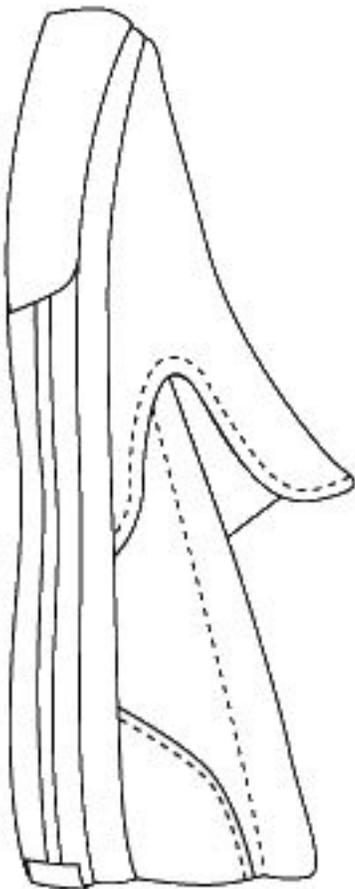
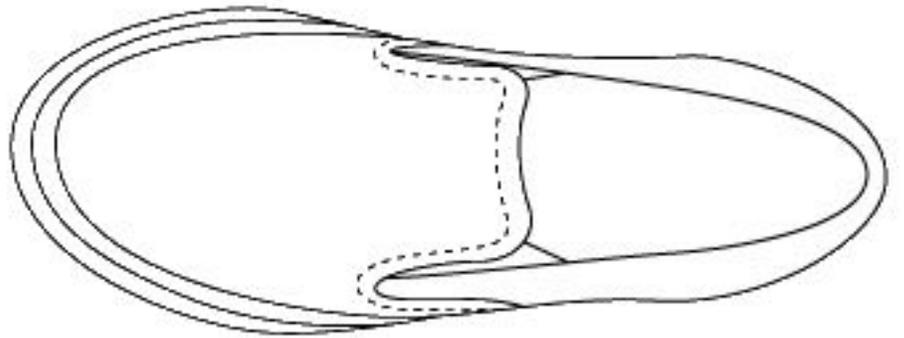
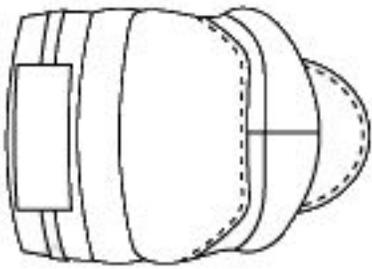
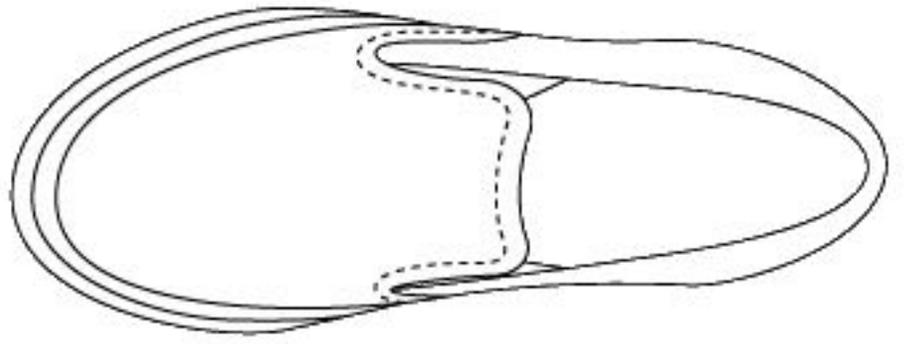
Instructions

Today, you get to be a fashion designer. Use the handouts to create your original design for a T-Shirt and shoes. You can draw your designs with a pencil or just use your colored pencils/pens or crayons.

There are no strict instructions on your design, it just has to fit on the clothing. You can also add pockets or other elements to the apparel as you see fit. Think about any patterns or colors that you want to include in your design. Think about what age group you want to sell your clothing to.

If you end up loving this activity, there are websites where you can actually design and print your own shirt design.







Abstract- Kandinsky



Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian artist born in 1866. He is best known for his abstract art that is full of color, shapes, and movement. His work is revered as some of the most important of the era, especially his contribution to expressionism and experimental art. He often would listen to music as he painted and his paintings were his representation of how the music looked.

Did you know? Kandinsky is accredited with being the first abstract artist. When he first showed his work at an art show, people thought he had gone insane.

Not all art has to look like a photograph. Much of the art and design we see has been abstracted and changed to fit a mood or style. Even though something is abstracted, doesn't mean you can't still have a great line, shape, and color. Practicing abstract art is a good exercise when you can't think of anything to draw or you're bored with your own art.

Abstract- Activity

Abstract Squiggles

Materials Needed

-Paper

-Colored Pencils/Markers or Crayons

Instructions

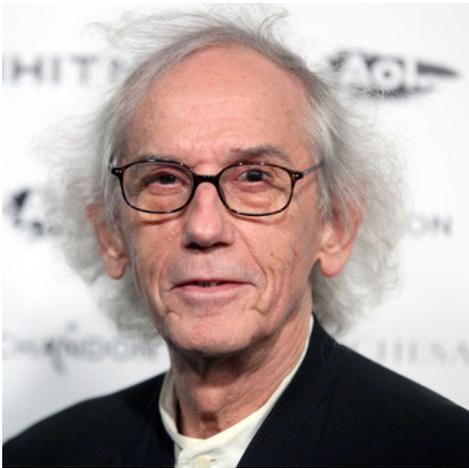
1. Take your black colored marker and draw squiggles across the whole page. Don't worry about the shapes or lines that you're making, just get a good amount of squiggles. Make sure to overlap your lines
2. Take your colored pencils/markers/crayons and fill in the shapes that your squiggles have made.

Pay attention to what colors you're using. Even though this is an abstract drawing, you still can use what you've learned in the Color section.





Unconventional- Christo



Christo Vladimirov Javacheff or better known as Christo was born in 1935 and was an artist that used cloth in his large scale works. Christo's art was dependent on the environment and site specific locations. He wrapped coastlines and built floating monuments. His work was a huge logistical undertaking in using unconventional materials and styles.

Did you know? Christo's wife Jeanne-Claude was also his artistic partner. They did all their artwork together and were coincidentally born on the same day.

When we think of art, we usually think of drawing and painting. However, there are so many other unconventional materials that we can use to make art. From dice to feathers and even garbage. You can take different materials and use the elements of art to create something beautiful.

Unconventional- Activity

Painting with Food

Materials Needed

- Paintbrushes*
- Paper that can take paint*
- Different Kinds of Food*

Instructions

Some foods you can use are:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Soy Sauce

Take your food and put them in small bowls or plates. Use them as paint. Sauces or foods with bright colors work the best. You can experiment with different kinds of foods.

As a note, many of the foods you will use can go bad so remind your students that this is a temporary exercise and you can preserve your paintings by taking a picture.