

Lesson: Let's go Abstract!

Artform: Visual Art

Skill Level: Medium

Teaching Artist: Sally Alexandres

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Color Theory:

- Awareness of light and dark colors: how dark colors seem to go back in the picture and light colors seem to come forward
- The complimentary colors
- Personal choices in creating a pleasing color scheme

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Sonia Delaunay started an Art movement called Orphism with her husband Robert and other artists. The artists in this group were noted for their use of strong colors and geometric shapes. They were interested in design and in what occurs when a design, when placed next to another, affects both. She is important for working with Geometric Abstraction. She used it in her paintings, and her designs for cloth and furniture.



MATERIALS

- Paper
- Crayons, markers, paints or colored pencils
- The lid of a jar

ACTIVITIES

1 - The student will put the jar lid on their paper and draw around the jar lid, moving it a bit so that there are five or six circles on their paper. Many of the circles should overlap in places with one or two others.

2 - In the places that overlap students are to color in with dark colors: (black, purple, dark blue, brown,)

3 - In the rest of the circles they will color in with different light colors:(pink, green , orange, red). The color choices can be in any combination as long as the darkest colors are in the overlapped spaces.

4 – Now you can color in the background. What if you put in smaller circles in there? Add more circles and color them in too. You may put the smaller circles in the larger circles. You can try using complimentary colors, these are colors that are opposites on the color wheel. The combinations are: yellow/purple, green/red and blue/orange. Sometimes when we put these together, they make the other look brighter.

5 – Look at your colors, did you use some of the same colors in different circles? Did you try some complimentary colors? What colors did you like the best?

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN

For some children someone can help them draw the circles by placing their hand on theirs to guide them. Someone can help them put the colors in piles for light and dark and mark the overlapped spaces with a dark color spot to help them understand which places are to be colored dark. The child can then color in the remaining spaces after all the dark spaces are already colored.

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