

Art in the Classroom
Created February 2010

Lesson – Geometric Shape (and Color)

Grade – Second

Project – Replicating Kandinsky, Abstract Circles to Music

What you need:

- Watercolor paper cut down to 6"x9" and divided into six, 3"x3" squares (using a pencil)
- Water color paints
- Paint brushes
- Bowl of Rinse Water
- Newspaper
- CD Player – Disk in player

Set Up – Before Class:

- The water color paper will be pre-cut for you. Using a pencil, please divide each piece of water color paper into a grid of six, 3"x3" squares.

Set Up – Class Time:

- Place newspaper on tables
- Each student should receive the following:
 - 1 piece of pre-cut water color paper divided into six, 3"x3" squares
 - 1 water color paint set
 - 1 paint brush
 - 1 bowl of rinse water.
- Find a place to set up the CD player and plug it in to play during class.

Discussion:

Briefly discuss the art concept of Shape (see discussion piece) and the artist of focus for this project, Wassily Kandinsky (see discussion piece).

The kids will be replicating Kandinsky's *Color Study of Squares with Concentric Circles* and exploring what influence emotions play in art, just like Kandinsky did. We will do this by painting to music.

You can expect that this is the type of project you will walk your students through step by step. They will listen to a portion of a song, paint their circles and stop - listen to a portion of the next song, paint their circles and stop – and so on.

You may, in fact, want to discuss the first song thoroughly (its tone/emotion, etc.) and talk about which colors to use to convey these emotions. After walking the kids through this exercise, direct the kids to determine the colors to use on their own for the subsequent songs.

Class Time:

- Refer back to Kandinsky who studied the relationship between art, music and shape.
- Have students put their names on the back of their water color paper.
- Play the first song for about 15-20 seconds. Tell your students to really listen to the tone/emotion of the music. Is it happy/sad/serious/funny?
- Instruct the students to paint concentric circles (like a target) using different colors for each "ring". Try to remind them of the music they just heard. What colors remind them of the music and the feelings the music was trying to convey? Be sure to tell them to fill the entire square with those colors.

- Play the second song for about 15-20 seconds and repeat the process above – but let them determine the colors to use on their own without discussing it.

NOTE – There are two serious songs on the CD from the Hope for Haiti Telethon. The remaining four songs are upbeat. Try to play both types of music when making your projects.

- Instruct the students to fill another square with concentric circles using different colors for each “ring”. This square should border the one they just painted (i.e., all painted squares should touch each other). Again, be sure to tell them to fill the entire square in with color and to use colors that remind them of the music they just heard.
- Depending on the speed at which your students paint, try to complete at least four concentric circles – up to six (i.e., play 4-6 songs) – time permitting.
- Let projects dry.
- If your class only has time to paint four concentric circles, cut off the remaining two. Mount finished projects on colored construction paper that has been trimmed to “frame” them evenly.