

Activity 3: Experimenting with Visual Art Using the Elements and Principles of Design

Visual Art

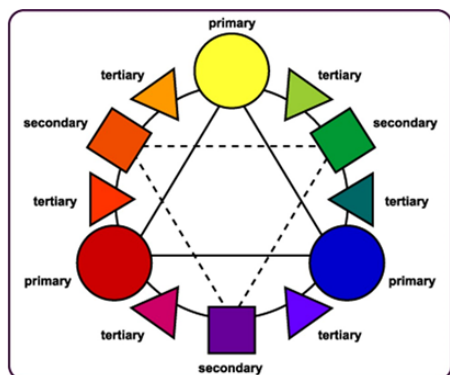
Project Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate proficiency in the use of art media, techniques, technologies and processes in works of art. • Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design. • Discuss concepts of hue, value and intensity in color in a specific work of art.
-------------------	---

Hint: Before beginning this activity, be sure to work through Creative Arts and Design Project Activities 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Beginner Level. Now that you have learned about the Principles and Elements of Design from Activities 1-4, apply them to Visual Art.

First, let's start by defining what we mean by the term VISUAL ART. It is an art form intended to be appreciated or perceived primarily by sight, such as

Color

In Activity 1 you learned about the color wheel and color terms. Refer to the information in that activity to complete the following:



Project 1: Creating Your Own Artwork Using Color

Materials needed:

- Acrylic paints – Red, blue, and yellow (or other paint that you have)
- Paint brushes
- Canvas (or cardstock paper or heavy sketch paper)

In Activity 1 of the Creative Arts and Design Project, you learned to mix paints to create your own color wheel. Use that same concept, mixing paints to make the colors you want to use in your piece of art.

1. First, determine what you want to create. Will it be abstract, a landscape or still life (like a vase of flowers)?
2. Next determine what colors are needed for your art piece. Will you use pure hues, tints and shades of some colors?
3. You may want to sketch out your design on a piece of paper and label where the various colors will go. Be sure to use terminology such as light blue, dark green or pure hue red. Consider buying a sketchbook

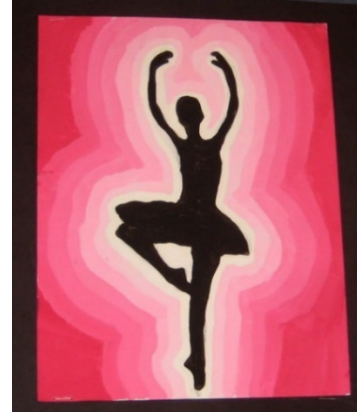
for this and future projects. That way you will have them and can take photos of them for your portfolio.

4. Begin your creation. Be careful when using two different colors next to each other; allow one color to dry before applying the second color. Have someone take a picture of you creating your art piece, so you can use the photo in your portfolio.

Project 2: Using Value in Art

Materials needed:

- Thick white paper (cardstock) or canvas
- Pencil
- One color of paint (your favorite color from the color wheel)
- White and black paint
- Paint brush
- Paper plate
- Water container



What to do:

1. To begin, answer these two questions:
 - a. What do I like/enjoy doing? (Examples: dancing, gardening, singing, flowers or sports)
 - b. What is my favorite color?
2. Once you have answered these questions, choose an image related to your answer to question “a” above. Next, in the middle of your paper, draw a simple line drawing of what you chose.

Here’s an example:



If you are stumped, you can google “silhouette art” for some nice images to gain inspiration!

3. Next, draw an outline around the image, creating a line $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch from the image. Continue making lines $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 inch from the previous one. You should be able to create lines around the image about seven times depending on the original size of your image.

4. Fill in the original image in the center of the picture with black paint. Let dry.
5. Leave the first area closest to your image white.
6. Apply to your paper plate a large amount of paint that is the color you chose. Then add enough white paint to make the color very pale (almost white). Apply this color to the next outline closest to the white.
7. Using the color you just created, add a little of the base color (pure color) to make this tint a little darker. After letting what you have just painted dry, apply this to the next layer on your drawing.
8. Repeat this for each layer, adding a little more of the base color each time to your paint.
9. Paint the area around the outside layer with your base color.

Remember, there should be a visible difference from one tint to the next.

Evaluating Your Work

You did a great job of experimenting with color. Now it is time to evaluate your work. For Project 1 and Project 2 above, answer the following questions:

PROJECT 1 EVALUATION:

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER	YOUR RESPONSE
1. Where did you get the idea for your design?	
2. Describe how you used color in your design (Include the hue, intensity, shade and tints that you used).	
3. Describe the focal point of your work.	
4. Where is repetition in your work? (Is it in line, color or shapes?)	
4. What do you like most about the way your design looks?	
5. What might you change next time?	

PROJECT 2 EVALUATION:

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER	YOUR RESPONSE
1. Where did you get the idea for your design?	
2. Describe how you used color in your design (Include the hue, intensity, shade and tints that you used).	
3. What type of balance is in your work, Symmetrical, asymmetrical or radial?	
4. Describe the rhythm that is created by the repetition of the shape.	
4. What do you like most about the way your design looks?	
5. What might you change next time?	

Using Shapes in Art

Examine the artwork below (to the left). What kind of shapes did the artist use? Can you see the geometric shapes, circles and rectangles as well as shapes that are free form such as swirls, feathery shapes (stylized seaweed, seahorses)?



COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

-Describe what **unifies** (brings everything together) in the artwork below:

-How does the **variety** of colors used add to the interest of the work?

-Describe the **proportions** used in this piece:

-Is the **proportion** pleasing?



“Beasts of the Sea” by Henri Matisse

“The Sunflower” by Edward Steichen

The techniques used by the artists to create their works are very different. While Steichen used tempera and oil paint to paint his design, Matisse used a technique called gouache, cutting out the shapes that were glued on heavy paper.

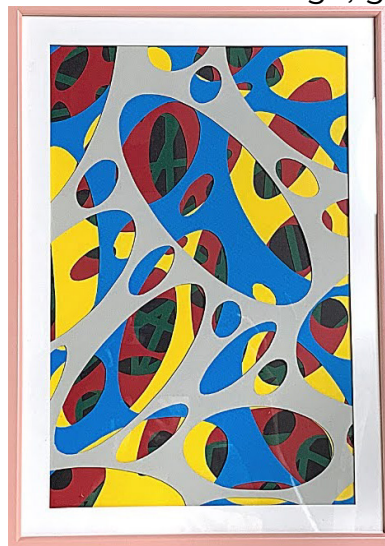
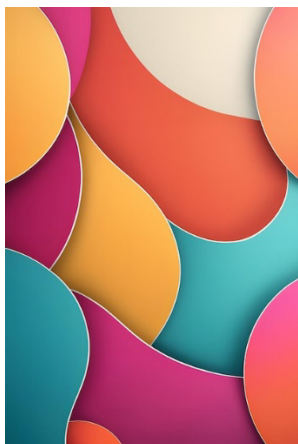
Project 3: Using Shapes in Art

For this project, use these two pieces of art on the previous page as your inspiration.

Materials needed:

- Cardstock/heavy paper (6-8 sheets)
- Large sized white or colored paper (1 piece) (Can use $\frac{1}{2}$ of a poster board)
- Sponge brushes
- Tempera paint in various colors
- Scissors
- Glue

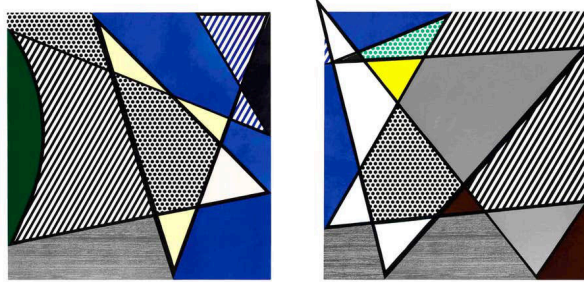
1. Select a theme for your work. It could be a scene in nature, your favorite vacation or an object.
2. Now the fun part begins. Make your own colored paper by painting entire sheets of white paper one color. Use heavy cardstock so the paper doesn't curl. You can create a tint of the color by mixing white paint with your base color and alternating areas of the paper with this lighter color. If you want several different colors in your art piece, do the same technique using a second or third desired color on separate cardstock.
3. Let your paper dry. Then using scissors, cut the paper into different shapes based on your theme. Note: if you want, you can use colored cardstock instead of making your own colored paper.
4. Arrange your cut-out shapes on a large piece of white or colored paper (possibly $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet of poster paper). Move the pieces around, rotate them and experiment with layering.
5. When you are satisfied with the design, glue the shapes in place.



Project 4: Using Line in Art

Lines are basic tools for artists—though some artists show their lines more than others. Some lines in paintings are invisible—you don't actually see the dark mark of the line, but they are there, shown in the way the artist arranges the objects in the painting.

In this activity you will examine artwork where lines are well defined and are part of the actual piece or work. Then you will try your hand at drawing your own artwork where lines are obvious.



Imperfect Diptych by Roy Lichtenstein

Examine the work above. What type of lines do you see? (there are many)

(Choose from: thick, thin, horizontal, vertical, zigzag, diagonal, curly, curved, spiral)

-Describe how the lines affect how you view the piece?

(Hint: Do the lines evoke action, calmness and gracefulness? Do your eyes rest on a focal point?)



"The Starry Night" by Van Gogh

Examine the famous painting above by Vincent Van Gogh.

-Describe the main type of lines used:

-What is the first thing that catches your attention (**focal point**)?

-What is the effect of the lines on the total “feel” of the painting?

-Describe the **pattern** created by repetition and the overall effect on the painting?

Create your own piece:

Materials needed:

- Pencil
- Heavy cardstock or heavy fabric (stretched and taped in place) or canvas
- Use whatever art media that you have, such as acrylic paint, watercolors, colored pencils or markers

1. Now select an object from this list (or one of your own choosing) to draw: flowers, trees, buildings, trains or animals
2. Using a pencil, draw the object you have chosen (be sure to draw it big enough to do additional “work” inside the object).
3. Color your outline with a color of your choosing.
4. Now taking inspiration from the paintings on the previous page, fill in your object using lines. They can be thick, thin, horizontal, vertical, zigzag, diagonal, curly, curved, or spiral. You can use different colors or the same color.
5. To finish the picture, create lines around the outside of the object using different lines than what are on the inside of the object.

You may want to do several different pieces and try different effects.

Project 5: Using Texture in Art

Texture simply means how something feels when it is touched. If you touched a piece of marble, it might feel smooth and cold. A piece of wood might feel rough. Artists use texture in their art to help tell a story and add dimension to a piece. When you see a piece of art, the texture can add to your enjoyment of the piece whether or not you are able to touch it. Texture can make a work of art more interesting.

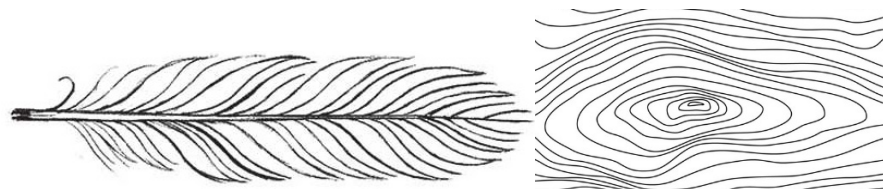
Some artists use a variety of materials to add a real texture to their artwork. This is often called **tactile texture**, or actual texture, because you can really feel the texture when you touch it. For example, an artist may put pieces of stone into a smooth ceramic vase to make the surface rough and bumpy. Heavy layers of paint or sand added to paint can make the surface of a painting feel rough. A sculpture might use a polished stone finish that feels slippery, smooth and cool.

Collage is one art medium that has tactile texture. Collages are made by gluing pieces of paper, fabric and other objects, such as feathers, beads, wood, photographs, yarn and seeds to a background. Below is an example of a paper collage.

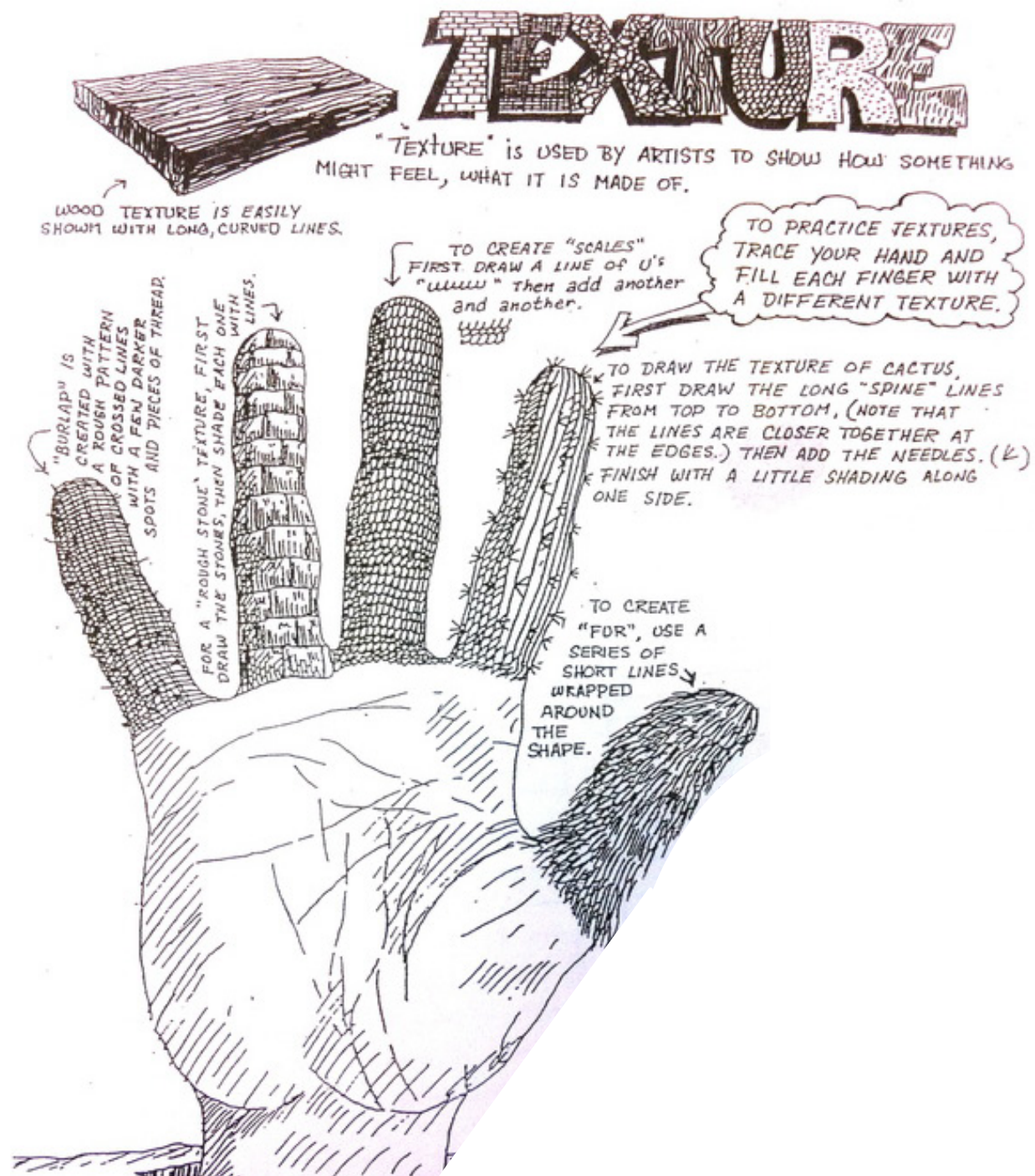


Notice how paper is used in various ways to create different textural effects in different areas of this collage.

Now, let's talk about paintings/sketches that appear to have a bumpy or rough texture but when touched are smooth. Artists can make a smooth two-dimensional surface appear to have a texture that's not really there. This is **implied texture**. It takes practice to be able to accomplish this effect. Examine these examples of a feather and wood grain. Look at the curves and how they are created for the desired effect.



Implied texture is created by repeating shapes or lines. For this exercise, take a sheet of paper (you can also do this in your sketchbook) and trace around your hand. Then follow the instructions for each texture you see in the example below and try to create the desired texture.



What to Do with What You Have Learned

Now that you have learned some new techniques in creating visual art through various elements and principles of design, it's time to practice. Create additional pieces of art, referring to these techniques. As you create your work, critique what you have made by keeping records in your sketchbook of the following:

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER TO CRITIQUE YOUR ARTWORK
1. Where did I get my idea (inspiration) for my design?
2. What colors were used in my design (Include the hue, intensity, shade and tints used)?
3. What type of balance is in my work: symmetrical, asymmetrical or radial?
4. What are the main lines that appear and the effect I wanted to create with these lines?
5. Are there dominant shapes ? (If so, what are they?)
6. Was there implied texture created in this design? (If so, what is it and what technique was used?)
7. Which element of design is used for repetition ?
8. Is there variety and unity in the design (If so, describe how both are achieved)?
9. What is the focal point of the design?
10. What do I like most about the way my design looks?
11. What will I change next time?

You can get help in evaluating your work from many individuals, among them your parents, other 4-H'ers, leaders, teachers and fair judges. As you continue to experiment, your designs will improve and be what you want them to be. Those who evaluate your work can give you ideas on how you might change your work. In the end, the decision is yours. The more you talk about and play with the elements and principles of design, the easier it will be to use them effectively.

Written by Bethany Walsh and Jessica Rogers, UT Martin art education alumnae, and Sue Byrd, professor emerita, the University of Tennessee at Martin

Sources

tanaallen.weebly.com/design-elements-part-two.html

kimballartcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/EVA-lesson-1.pdf

nga.gov/education/teachers/lessons-activities/elements-of-art/shape.html

kitchentableclassroom.com/texture-in-art/



UTIA.TENNESSEE.EDU

Real. Life. Solutions.™