



Frederick Hammersley
Paired, #10 1961 (August 3-18)
 Oil on linen in artist-made frame.
 © New Mexico Museum of Art
 (1988.200.1).

Non-Objective art is defined by its use of geometric forms that suggest simplicity and purity. By using shapes, patterns, sharp edges, and often bright colors, non-objective art displays interesting and imaginative work.

Often, non-objective art can look like abstract art, but it is very different. Its fundamental design is not based on reality but simply on form and shape while abstraction uses imagery and ideas from the natural world.

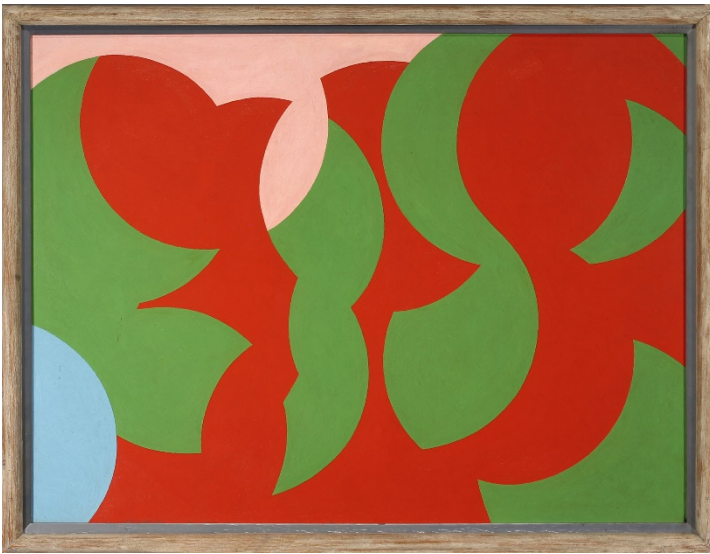
How to create a non-objective work of art:

In this activity we will explore creating non-objective art. By using the basic elements of art and design such as shape, line, and color as well as balance, rhythm, repetition, and contrast, we will create beautiful works of art without needing pictures of people or things. This project is fun and easy; all you need are a few simple art supplies and a little creativity.



In this example of Abstract Art, you can see a dog, trees and sky.

Eugene Newman
Elevation and Entanglement in Ribera, 2009.
 Collection of the New Mexico Museum of Art.
 Gift of David and Gita Kronen, 2010 (2010.8).
 © Eugene Newman.



Frederick Hammersley
Circle two, #32 1963 (November 14)
 Oil on Masonite in artist-made frame
 © New Mexico Museum of Art
 (2005.16.16)

Here you will find a list of steps to follow when creating non-objective art:

1. Gather your materials.

- A. Colored paper. If you don't have it you can color your own paper with crayons, colored pencils or markers.
- B. A sheet of heavy paper or card stock
- C. A pencil
- D. Glue stick
- E. Scissors
- F. Ruler
- G. Colored pencils, markers, or crayons



Materials © LGorian

- 2. Cut several geometric shapes** (circles, squares, triangles, rectangles) of different sizes out of your colored paper or color your shapes on white paper and cut them out. Here I also used a hole-punch to add interest to the shape and create tiny circles.



Left: Prepare cut and colored shapes.
 © L.Gorian



Right: Small circles from hole punch.
 © L.Gorian

3. **Follow these principles of art and design.** Since non-objective art focuses on elements of art and design, here are some principles to think about these when you lay out your shapes on your paper.

Include at least 4-5 of these principles in your design.

- A. **Balance** is the distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture, and space.
- B. **Color** is the perceived hue of an object, produced by the way it reflects or emits light into the eye.
- C. **Contrast** refers to the arrangement of opposite elements (light vs. dark colors, rough vs. smooth textures, large vs. small shapes, etc.) in a piece to create visual interest, excitement, and drama.
- D. **Emphasis** is the part of the design that catches the viewer's attention. Usually, the artist will make one area stand out by contrasting it with other areas. The area could be different in size, color, texture, shape, etc.
- E. **Movement** is the path the viewer's eye takes through the work of art, often to focal areas. Such movement can be directed along lines, edges, shape, and color within the work of art.
- F. **Pattern** is the repeating of an object or symbol all over the work of art.
- G. **Proportion** is the feeling of unity created when all parts relate well with each other.
- H. **Repetition** works with pattern to make the work of art seem active. The repetition of elements of design creates unity within the work of art.
- I. **Rhythm** is created when one or more elements of design are used repeatedly to create a feeling of organized movement. Variety is essential.
- J. **Shape** is the form in which an object exists or appears.
- K. **Texture** refers to the surface characteristics in drawings, paintings, or sculpture.
- L. **Unity** is the feeling of harmony between all parts of the work of art, which creates a sense of completeness.
- M. **Value** displays how light or dark a given color is, especially in relation to the surrounding colors.
- N. **Variety** is the use of several elements of design to hold the viewer's attention and to guide the viewer's eye through and around the work of art.

Resources: 1. https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/principles_design.pdf
2. https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/glossary/#a

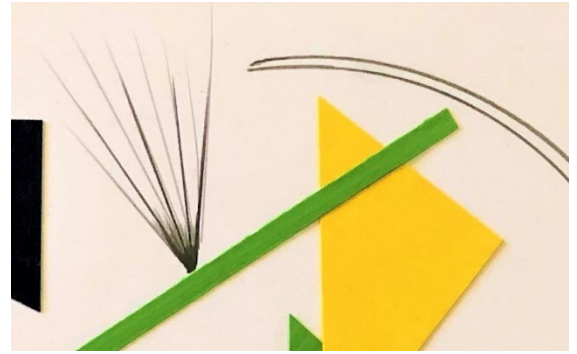


Detail of shapes.
© L.Gorian

4. **Secure the shapes in place.** Once you have placed all your shapes where you want them, look them over one more time. Have you included several of the principles of art and design? Now glue them in place with your glue stick.

5. **Consider mark-making.** Look over your composition. Now you can add marks by drawing with your pencils, markers, and crayons to add interesting details like curves or lines.

BUT REMEMBER: use only lines and shape, do not draw pictures of people or things.



Mark-making
© L.Gorian

You have now created a non-objective work of art!



Map to a Foreign Land, 2021
Collage, graphite, wax crayon
© Laura L. Gorian