

colour



This activity sheet is inspired by local artist Kate Sully. Kate's paintings are made up of layers of lines and shapes in lots of bright, bold colours. Although the lines and shapes in Kate's paintings don't look like things we might see in everyday life; you could think of them as a kind of visual language. Kate is inspired by the human brain and she chooses shapes and colours to tell a story about how the brain works. This type of art is called 'abstract'.

Abstract art began in the 1900's and some of the first important works were created by an artist called Wassily Kandinsky. One of Kandinsky's smallest artworks, called 'Squares with Concentric Circles', is also one of his most famous. Ask an adult to help you find a picture of it. Kandinsky used this artwork to experiment with colour. We are going to create our own colourful picture inspired by abstract artists!

What you need

- Plain paper like A4 printer paper
- Pen or pencil
- Ruler, if you have one
- Coloured pencils or felt tips

Activity

Divide a piece of paper into 8 boxes. Choose a shape you like and draw it in the middle of one box. Draw the shape again around the outside of the first one. Carry on until you've filled your square with shapes that get bigger and bigger. Repeat until every box is full of shapes. Start to add colour. You could use primary colours or secondary colours. You could also try mixing a primary and a secondary colour together. This is called a tertiary colour.

Challenge yourself

Once you've finished one artwork why not make another? This time really think about the colours you put together. Look again at 'Squares with Concentric Circles'. Where does Kandinsky use primary and secondary colours? Which colour combinations do you like best?

Find out more

There are lots more abstract artists who use colour and shape to express ideas. Here are a few to look up:

Piet Mondrian
Jackson Pollock
Mark Rothko