CREATE YOUR OWN ABSTRACT COLLAGE

IN 3-D COLORS

Inspired by Hans Hofmann “Push and Pull” Theory

Hans Hofmann (1880-1966) was a German born abstract expressionist painter. He made famous the idea that colors “push and pull”, or appear to move forward and away from the observer. With a combination of “warm” and “cool” colors, the artist created an illusion of space, movement, balance and rhythm – four of the elements and principles of art and design! Hans Hofmann used the rectangle to organize these colors together by pinning the rectangles to the canvas – like a collage!

Vocabulary:
Warm Colors – yellow, orange and red.
Cool Colors – blues and greens.
Element of Art – line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space.
Principles of Design – balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm and unity.
Geometric Shapes – Rectangles, circles, triangles and squares.
Collage – Art made by gluing together different materials.

Materials:
One 8”x11” construction paper (black, blue or green) for background color.
Five 4”x5” sheets of construction papers in warm and cool colors - (different than background color).
Scissors
Glue
Color pencils

Art Activity

Directions:
1) Take one sheet (black, blue or green) of 8”x11” construction paper for background.
2) Take five 4”x5” sheets of warm and cool color construction papers (different from the background).
3) Cut different size geometric shapes out the 4”x5” sheets.
4) Look at the Hofmann paintings and use them as an inspiration to create your own abstract design.
5) Experiment positioning your cut geometric shapes on your 8”x11” paper until you can see how the warmth or coolness of a color affect its depth and some colors visually push backward or pull forward.
6) Glue down all your pieces.
7) Use color pencils to add moving lines or other abstract details.
8) Optional: Use 3-D glasses to view your art and see how the push and pull of the colors intensifies.

Fun Fact: Hans Hofmann was a friend of the famous artists, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso.

Source: Adapted from Peggy Reeves’ lesson plan, Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Image from HansHoffman.net