

ART LAB CAMP: Hot Art for Cool Kids at Home

Abstract Dimensions

ABSTRACT ART can be anything you design. The subject matter may or may not be recognizable. Often artists will abstract the objects or people they create by changing, simplifying, or exaggerating what they see. In this way, the elements of art (line, color, shape/form, texture, value, space) become more noticeable.

GO FIND! Look for this painting in the *Storytelling* exhibition upstairs at WAM:



← What do you see?

What are some recognizable shapes or forms?

Does this picture remind you of anything?

How do the lines and colors make you feel?

If this painting were a song, hum the tune.

Pick a line to follow with your eye; where do you end up?

George L.K. Morris, *Classical Interlude*, 1952–1954. Oil on Masonite, 35 x 28 inches. Wichita Art Museum, Roland P. Murdock Collection

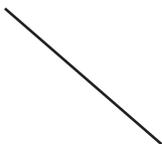
GO EXPLORE!

Try finding these elements of art—line, shape, form, color, and texture in your everyday life—the lines of a leaf, the color of a chair, or the texture of your favorite shirt. Look for the shapes you see in your house, and the forms that exist outside in your own backyard or neighborhood. You will notice that the elements of art are all around us and can inspire us to see things in a simplified, abstracted way!

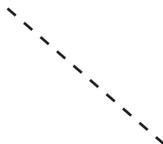
LINE: One point moving around in space. Lines begin as dots and can go off in any direction. Lines can express mood and show movement.

Can you find these lines?

Straight



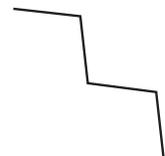
Broken



Curved

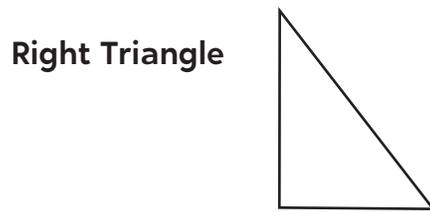
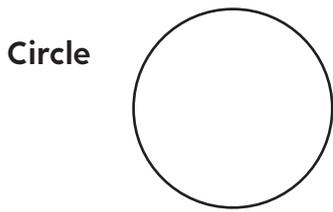


Zigzag



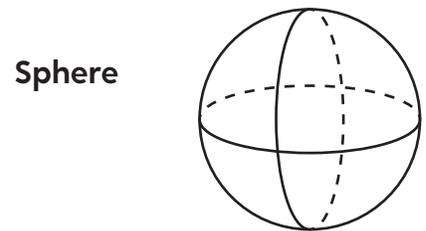
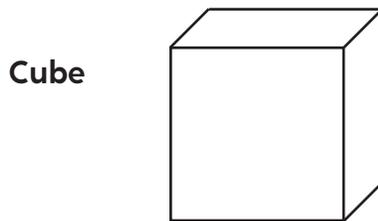
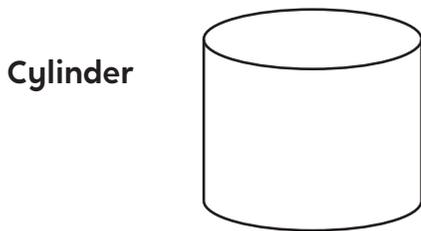
SHAPE: The outline of some mass; a shape that looks flat or two-dimensional.

Can you find these shapes?



FORM: Mass that takes up space (three-dimensional); or something that appears to be three-dimensional.

Can you find these forms?



COLOR: Made of three properties—hue, value, and intensity. A hue is the name of the color. Value reflects the darkness or lightness of a given color. Adding black deepens the color. Adding white lightens the color. A darker color is shaded, and a lighter color is tinted. Intensity is the density of color—how light affects the color—making it more transparent or more opaque.

Can you find these colors?

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Orange | Fuchsia | Yellow | Violet | Cobalt |
| Teal | Green | Indigo | Scarlet | Umber |

TEXTURE: The way things feel, or look as if they might feel, if touched.

Can you find these textures?

- Smooth** **Silky** **Rough** **Soft** **Spiny**

WICHITA ART MUSEUM

GO CREATE! Make a Yarn Painting

Explore the ideas of line, shape, form, color, and texture in creating your own abstract work of art using some simple supplies.



MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- Yarn (any colors you desire)
- Scissors
- School glue
- Water
- Measuring spoon
- Cardboard or heavy weight cardstock base
- Small container or bowl
- Plastic fork
- Protected work surface
- Watercolor paint or markers

DIRECTIONS:

1. Painting with yarn can get messy! Prepare your work surface by covering it to prevent the mess of potential glue drippings. You may want to have a wet paper towel ready for some of the mess.
2. Make the glue solution by adding 2–3 tablespoons of the school glue to the small container or bowl. Add an equal amount of water. Mix the glue solution well, using the plastic fork.
3. Cut various lengths of yarn in desired colors for your artwork.
4. Dip one string of yarn at a time into the glue solution, saturating it completely.
5. Pick up your saturated string with the fork and place onto the cardboard or cardstock base. Reposition it around to achieve a desired design. Try making various lines and shapes with the yarn.
6. Layer with more strings of yarn. Make sure to press the yarn down into the base so it stays put!
7. Let your artwork dry for several hours or overnight.
8. When fully dried, try adding color to your artwork with markers or watercolor paint.

