

Kandinsky Circles using DecoArt's Wax Effects
Grade 3-5



National Visual Arts Standards:

Grades 3-5:

Creating

1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2

Responding

7, 8, 9

Materials:

12 x 12" art paper

Circle stencils to trace (various sizes small to large)

Pencils

Oil pastels

Crayons

Colored pencils

Wax Effects Acrylic Paint (various colors)

Brushes

Paintbrushes

Water

Objectives

- The students will learn different color groups.
- The students will make a "non-objective" artwork.
- The students will experiment with combinations of different media.



Color Study. Squares with Concentric Circles

1913

Watercolor, gouache and crayon on paper

Students will look at the art of Wassily Kandinsky (Russian, 1866-1944). The teacher will show them various examples of his famous “circles”. Although Kandinsky painted many different types of images, his studies of color made by using concentric circles (circles inside of circles) are what he is most famous for doing. He wanted to see how colors worked together in different combinations. Also, he used different media (materials used to create the art) to make his circles. This was also a way for him to see how different media worked together to create artworks. Notice, in the above pictured artwork, what media he used (Watercolor, gouache and crayon). Artworks such as Kandinsky’s circles are known as “non-objective” art. Non-objective art does not have an image that is based on something that is identifiable. Instead, the artwork is focusing on an element of art or principle of design, process,etc.

1. Each student will get a 12 x 12 piece of art paper. The teacher will instruct them to fold the paper in half and crease the paper. The students will unfold the paper and turn it clockwise to fold it in half again. They will crease the paper again. The students will unfold the paper and lay it flat. Their square will be divided into 4 equal squares. Using their pencil, students will make a light line on top of both crease lines they folded in their paper.

2. Using various circle patterns, students will trace a large circle that fits in each of their 4 squares they made on their paper. Next, the students will use various smaller circle patterns to trace 2 more circles inside each of the 4 larger circles they drew. The teacher will explain to the students that it is fine if the circles in each section of the paper are not the same size. It is most important that the circles in each section are concentric and fit inside of each other.

3. The teacher will review various color groups with the students: primary colors, secondary colors, warm colors, cool colors, complementary colors, etc. After choosing one color group, students will trace over the circles they drew in the first section using crayons in the colors of their chosen color group. The colors can be traced in any order. They can experiment with using thick or thin lines.

4. The students will then choose 2 more color groups and do the same in 2 other sections of their square paper. One section's circles will be traced in oil pastels and the other section's circles will be traced in colored pencil. Again, the students will choose to make either thick or thin lines.

5. With the circles in the last section, the students will have the freedom to choose whatever colors they would like to experiment with to trace their circles. They may also choose

whatever media they would like to use to trace their inside circles or even use a combination of different media.

6. Using DecoArt's Wax Effects , students will begin to paint in their concentric circles. They need to choose colors of Wax Effects that go along with their choice of color group for each section of their paper. For example, if they chose primary colors, they could use Wax Effects Cobalt Turquoise Hue, Cadmium Red Hue, and Hanso Yellow Light. The teacher will instruct the students to do some experimenting with the Wax Effects Paint. It is translucent (see-through) and fun to layer. They can layer it over the traced lines that they already made using crayon, oil pastel, and colored pencil. They can go outside of their inside drawn circles and overlap the Wax Effects paint itself. Wax Effects works well over pencil, crayon, and oil pastel. The teacher will caution students not to layer the Wax Effects paint too thickly or it will take longer to dry.

7. Wax Effects dry relatively quickly. After allowing the Wax Effects paint to dry for a little bit, the paint's translucent quality can be seen. The teacher will instruct the students to go back to the first section they painted. It should be fairly dry. The students will choose a Wax Effects color that is totally different from the color group in that section and paint right over all of the circles in it and the white background. The paint colors of the circles underneath will still be seen but also slightly mix with the new color chosen.

8. The students will choose a color to paint over all of their remaining sections. They will continue to choose a Wax Effects paint that is completely different from the color group already in that section.

9. After all 4 sections are completed, the students will be asked to share their observations and conclusions about color , and outcomes of their free circles. The teacher will talk with the students about how a "non-objective" artwork like this would be

useful for an artist to do and the students' thoughts on this. The students will also reflect on their last chosen color for each section and how its transparency adds or detracts from the original color groups.

Vocabulary

Media

Concentric circles

Non-objective art

Color groups

Translucent