

GEOMETRIC ABSTRACTION

Exhibition Focus: *Tony DeLap: A Retrospective*



Tamariz III, 2013, wood and acrylic on linen, 58 x 60 x 1 ½ in.



Circus Time, 2017, acrylic paint and canvas, 42 x 84 x 2 in.

Background

Tony DeLap is Orange County's foremost living artist. He has been at the nexus of significant art movements throughout his career. A leading practitioner of Southern California minimalism and "finish/fetish," he also played a part in the development of op art, hard-edge painting, the California Light and Space movement, and site-specific installation. Tony DeLap is Orange County's foremost living artist. For years he has played with the concept of an artwork's edge and explored the point where painting and sculpture intersect. His expertise and interest in magic have led him to make objects "float" and otherwise defy explanation.

Lesson Overview

In this art activity, students will create their own geometric artwork inspired by Tony DeLap's hard-edge paintings. Students use artists' tape to mask off a shape-based composition, then color in their artwork using paint or dry media. This activity may be adapted to utilize materials that are readily available in your classroom.

Materials

- Watercolor paper or white cardstock
- Thin artists' tape (or blue painters' tape)
- One of the following media options:
 - Watercolor (or watercolor pencil)
 - Acrylic paint pens
 - Color pencil
 - Marker
 - Crayon or oil pastel
 - Scissors

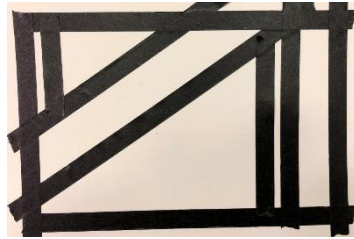
Project Steps

LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

Project designed by the Laguna Art Museum Education Department

Step 1: Have students tear or cut strips of artist’s tape and use these strips to mask off areas of their paper in *geometric* shapes. The areas covered in tape will remain white in the final artwork.

Discuss *composition* with your students— how can they thoughtfully divide up their page into different shapes? What small shapes can fit into larger ones? Look at Tony Delap’s artworks to see how the artist creates a composition using geometric shapes.



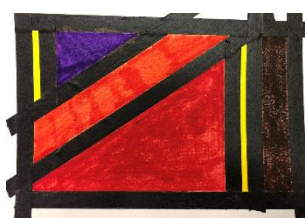
Step 2: Using one of the suggested media options, students color or paint in each geometric section. If using wet media, allow the paint to dry completely before removing the artists’ tape. Examples in watercolor pencil, acrylic paint pen, marker, and color pencil are shown below:



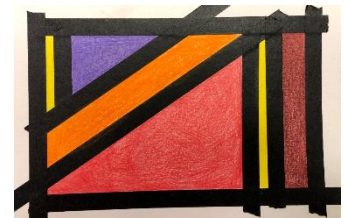
Watercolor pencil



Acrylic paint pen



Marker



Color pencil

Step 3: Students carefully peel off the artists’ tape, revealing crisp, geometric lines around their finished hard-edge artwork.

Modifications:

- Create a multi-layered project by taping off and coloring additional shapes on top of the first layer.
- Cut away sections of the finished artwork to create a shaped “canvas” and utilize empty space as part of the composition (you can also have students do this at the beginning of the project before Step 1).



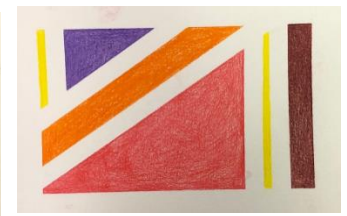
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