

Look Inside

Chromatic Constructions



GRADE LEVEL

3 - 5

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Using collage, construct a compositions that teeters between multiple dimensions. Create rules to challenge oneself to create as many shapes and colors as possible.

GOALS

Students will understand:

- How close observation is a tool for learning and discovery
- Process of creating a work of art that captures the passing of time
- How art can help us learn shapes

ARTIST

David Row | Cushing, ME
Known for his use of irregular shaped canvases and rich colors, Row manipulates symbols of infinity and juncture- eclipses and x's- to create compositions that transform 2D surfaces to 3D compositions.

INTRODUCTION

The Shape of Things is the first major exhibition of painter and master printmaker **David Row's** work in his home state. Born in Portland, in 1949, Row is a multi-generational Mainer. His father's family settled in Perry, a small town in Washington County near the Canadian border, in the early 19th century. Row visited the family homestead many times as a child and thought of it "as the wildest place I'd ever seen."

Known for his use of irregularly shaped canvases and rich colors, Row manipulates symbols of infinity and juncture—ellipses and x's—to create spatially complex compositions that transform the illusory two-dimensional painted plane into multi-perspectival infinite space. Citing the unabashed physicality of Row's work, art critic Stephen Maine has described it as "calisthenic abstraction."

LESSON

Experience the Center for Maine Contemporary Arts exhibit virtually or in person, focusing on artist David Row's *The Shape of Things*. Explore the connection between shape and lines Using collage, construct a compositions that teeters between multiple dimensions. Create rules to challenge oneself to create as many shapes and colors as possible!

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Explain the importance of viewing, what is the job of the artist versus the job of the viewer? Engage your students in a conversation through observation of the work. What do you see when you look at this? How long do you think this took to complete? What is the importance of form? How does this apply to the artists work?

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Share out your art making experience whether it be with family, classmates, or us at the CMCA. Experience more of our virtual tour and visit us!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Using collage, construct a compositions that teeters between multiple dimensions. Create rules to challenge oneself to create as many shapes and colors as possible.

VOCABULARY

Design: arrangement of lines and shapes to form a pattern

Collage: form of art making that is a collection of different parts to form a new image

Outline: drawing/sketch restricted to 2D line construction

Color: way which an object reflects light; value, hue, natural or manmade

Balance: distribution of visual weight in an artwork; symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial

MATERIALS

- 8.5 x 11 card stock
- Pencils
- Plastic color tints
- Colored pencils
- Scissors



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Based on Row's artwork, cut a series of shapes out of the plastic color tints.

STEP 2

Place the color tint-shapes onto card stock, overlapping the translucent shapes into a collage. What colors are made in the overlapping zones? What shapes are formed between the shapes?

STEP 3

Using a pencil, trace the outline of your shape collage. Then, remove the color tint-shapes and color it in with colored pencils!

TEACHING TIPS:

-For younger age groups, limit the number of shapes cut out of the color tints.

-With older students, encourage the creation of as many shapes and colors using the color tints as possible.