

Colour + Shape | Primary Worksheet

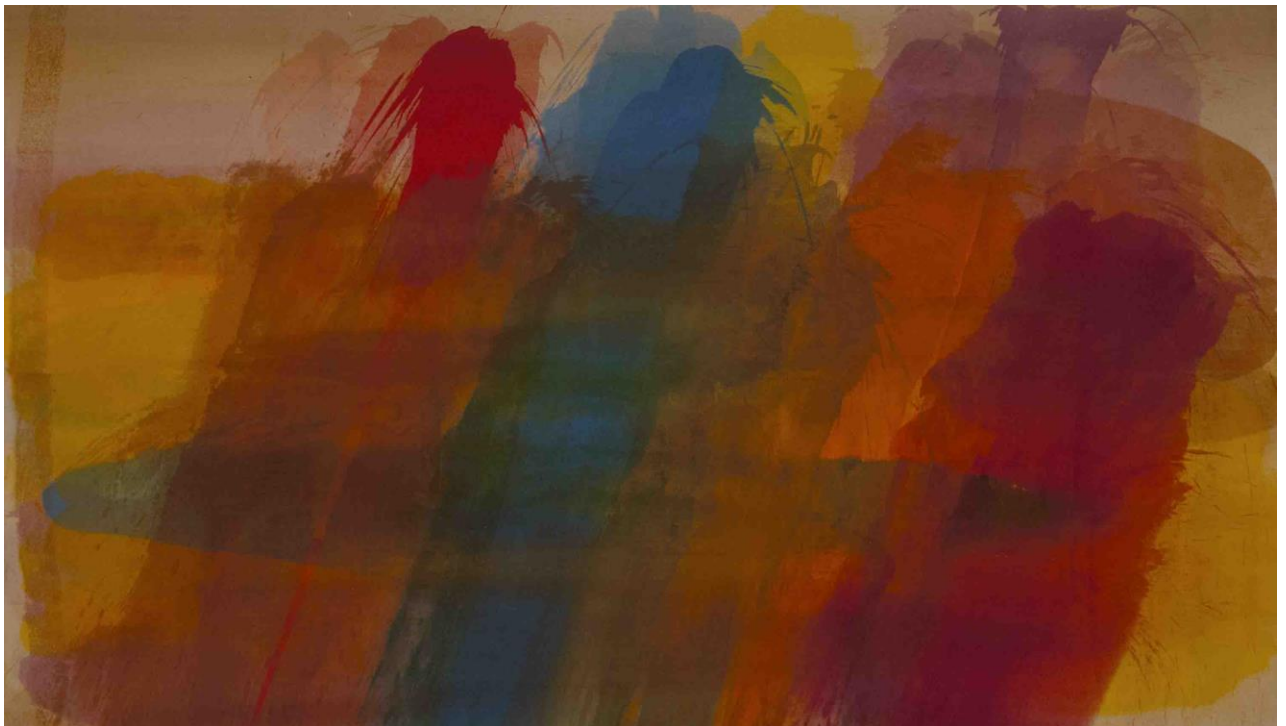
How are colour and shape used to create art? Discover colourful artworks and fun activities to use in your classroom or while at the gallery viewing the artwork.

- **This worksheet is based on artwork in the COVENTRY exhibition.**
- **You will need a pencil + sketch pad / spare paper.**
- **Activities to be done in the NERAM art studio or back in the classroom.**

Colour

How is colour used in art? Some artists believe that colour is just as important as the subject you are painting. Artists like Albert Irvin's painting *Discoverer*, 1972 uses multiple colours, layered splashes dripped and smudged to create his effects. He mostly uses colours, as opposed to figures, to create emotion and feeling.

Let's explore the different ways colour is used.



Albert Irvin
Discoverer, 1972
Synthetic polymer paint on canvas
243.5 x 440.4cm
Gift of Chandler Coventry 1979

1. The Coventry Exhibition is full of wonderful colours. What is your **favourite colour**? How does this colour make you **feel**? Write your answers below.

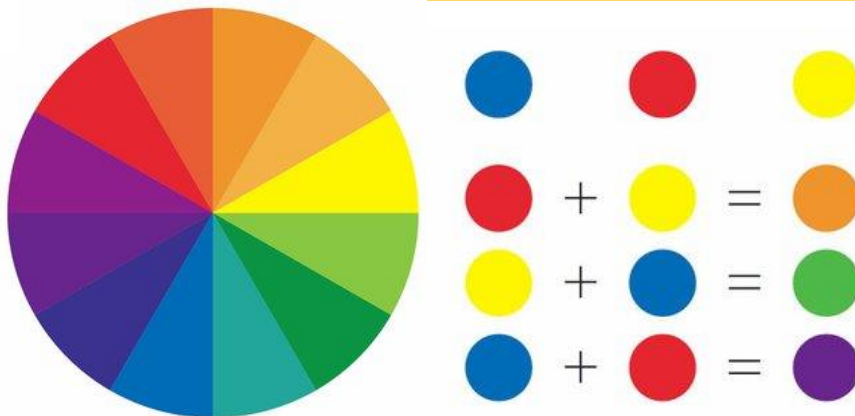


2. Artists often use a **colour wheel** like this one pictured below to help them choose colours for their artworks. Look at a selection of artwork in the exhibition, or if in the classroom look at the print outs in the education kit. Can you spot Primary, Secondary and Complementary colours? **Activity:** Using Primary colours **blue**, **red** and **yellow** make the secondary colours **orange**, **green** and **purple**

Primary colours are blue, red and yellow

Secondary colours are orange, green and purple which come from mixing primary colours.

Complementary colours such as purple and yellow, are opposite each other on the colour wheel. They create striking effects when placed together.



As a group let's discuss colour | For classroom or gallery space discussion.

1. What do different colours make you think of?
2. How do different colours make you feel?
3. What colour combinations go together?
4. What kinds of stories can be told through colour?

Experiment with colour | Using printed images of different everyday object have your group colour them in unnatural colours. For example, colour a cat pink or a tree blue. Discuss the effect it has on the image?

Shape

Shape is everywhere. A Shape is a flat area surrounded by edges or an outline. **Artists use all kinds of shapes.**

Geometric shapes like squares and triangles are mainly found in objects made by humans, like houses, cars and factories. **Irregular shapes** are more likely to come from nature like leaves, shells, and clouds – things that grow, flow and move. **How do you think artists could use shape to tell a story? Discuss as a group.**



Geometric Shapes






Irregular Shapes

Artist **Gunter Christmann** was fascinated with shapes. Discover his painting below *Attis*, 1975 and fill in the following questions.








Gunter Christmann
Attis, 1975
Acrylic on canvas
132.2 x 176.3cm
Gift of Chandler Coventry 1979

1. In the painting pictured, artist Gunter Christmann has used **shape** and **colour** to form his composition. What kind of shapes has he used? How has he arranged these shapes?    **Activity:** Using a range of geometric shapes, create a collage arranging the shapes into a form that pleases you.

2. What sort of **colours** has he used? For example, are there **Primary colours**?

3. **Compare** this painting by artist Gunter Christmann to Albert Irvin's painting *Discoverer* featured in the Colour section.

What are the differences? For example, how are the **shapes** different?

How does Gunter Christmann's painting make you **feel**?     

As a group let's discuss shape | For classroom or gallery space discussion.

1. What kind of emotions or personalities can shapes hold?
2. Do some shapes look more masculine than feminine? Why do you think that is?
3. How does scale affect shape? What's the difference between loads of tiny squares and one giant square?

Experiment with shape | Using colourful pencils draw an object using only shapes. For example, draw a car made of circles, draw a bird made of triangles. How does this effect the objects?

