

1st Grade November
Lesson 2: Geometric Pattern Design
Paper Collage

Objectives:

To plan and design a collage based on repeating and alternating patterns of colors and shapes.
To understand how rhythm and balance can be used in art.

Technique: Paper Collage

Materials List

9"x9" black construction paper (cut down) for background
Miscellaneous colored construction paper, cut to geometric shapes,
either in warm OR cool colors per student
Glue

Visuals:

Zebegen, Victor Vasarely visual
Quilt Block Patterns
Spanish Tile Patterns
Sample artwork

Lesson Prep, 15-20 minutes

Review the lesson. Make a practice demo if you prefer.

Before set-up allow yourself time to check your material supplies and restock your box as needed, especially assorted colored paper, cut to geometric shapes. The teacher workroom and die cut paper cutters are available for this.

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson and/or email them the lesson in advance.

Set up the classroom.

Distribute assorted colored paper shapes so half of the class is supplied with cool colors and the other half with warm colors.

Teaching the lesson, 1 hour total

Introduce yourself and your aides.

Lesson Introduction: (10 minutes)

Students will be creating a geometric collage, using primarily warm or cool shapes, black (background) paper, and glue.

Show **Zebegen**, by Victor Vasarely. Mr. Vasarely is a respected Hungarian artist of "pop art", where art appears to be 3-dimensional. His vibrant choice of colors make the geometric shapes appear to vibrate. Today you will be arranging patterns and colors to design a dynamic collage. *(Also show quilt and tile samples.)*

When we think of **rhythm** we often think of music. **Rhythm** can be an important part of designing art too. Think about tile patterns on walls and floors, quilt patterns or Persian rugs, wallpaper, fabric for clothes or curtains. Artists designed all these items and many of these designs include repeating shapes and/or colors.

We are going to focus on **arranging** pieces of colored paper into patterns that **repeat, in color and/or shape**.

Repeating patterns can repeat in any direction: (*demonstrate on white board*)

Across (horizontally), up and down (vertically), on a diagonal, in a radiating or circular pattern.

Patterns can also be **flipped, or reversed**, to show **symmetry**. An example of this would be the wings of a butterfly or two sides of a valentine heart.

Shapes or colors can repeat or alternate in different combinations.

Examples: Red, orange, orange, red, orange, orange....

Blue, green, blue, green...

Circle, square, triangle, triangle, circle, square, triangle, triangle....

Design and Assemble (the rest of the lesson, 45 minutes)

The geometric shapes that have been distributed in warm or cool color groups include a variety of shapes. They all have straight edges to be arranged and aligned to form unique patterns. (Students should use either a warm or cool color dominance but can add minor amounts of complimentary colors for contrast if it helps their composition.)

On the black background paper, plan the composition with the colored paper shapes, experimenting and moving the pieces around. Start with a central pattern. Choose a large shape or cluster of shapes that the rest of the design will be built around.

Continue to build the design, possibly making border patterns or flipping patterns for mirror image patterning/symmetry. (*Show the quilt and tile samples again as reference sources.*)

Ask:

Where does each composition demonstrate rhythm?

How does each composition show balance?

Work around and outward, building and gluing, building and gluing.

The black background will be part of the design where it is seen between the colored pieces.

Continue until the collage blocks are complete. They should fill the square background.

Have students sign and date the back of their work.

Share. Arrange blocks in a large grid to show a larger assemblage of design. Is there a way to organize the individual blocks to create a larger color pattern?

Clean up

Separate shapes into warm and cool colors.

Return all materials to bin.

Return materials to the art closet.

Principles of Design

Just as you learn grammar to organize words and communicate in spoken and written languages, you learn the principles of design to organize the elements of art to communicate effectively in a visual language. These principles are guidelines—not rules—to help you express yourself artistically. Understanding these principles also will help you to appreciate how other artists try to communicate through their work.

The six principles of design are rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, and unity.

Rhythm

Rhythm indicates movement by the repetition of a certain art element or combination of elements. The repeated element—a shape or line, for example—is called a motif. The artist uses the repetition of a motif to lead the viewer's eye around the work of art.



Random rhythm happens when a motif is repeated in no apparent order, with irregular spacing between one motif and the next.

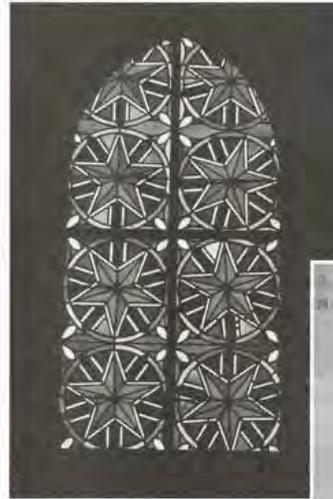


Regular rhythm occurs when identical motifs with identical spacing between them are repeated. This steady rhythm may become monotonous to the viewer if not relieved by a change in elements such as shape or color.

22 ART

Balance

Balance is the visual stability of the composition. If a work of art has visual balance, then the viewer feels that the elements have been arranged just right. If there is an imbalance, then the viewer feels something's wrong—that the elements need to be rearranged.



A formal balance occurs when similar elements are placed on each side of the central axis (a drawn or imaginary line through the center of the work). When both sides of a composition are mirror images of each other, this formal arrangement is called symmetry.

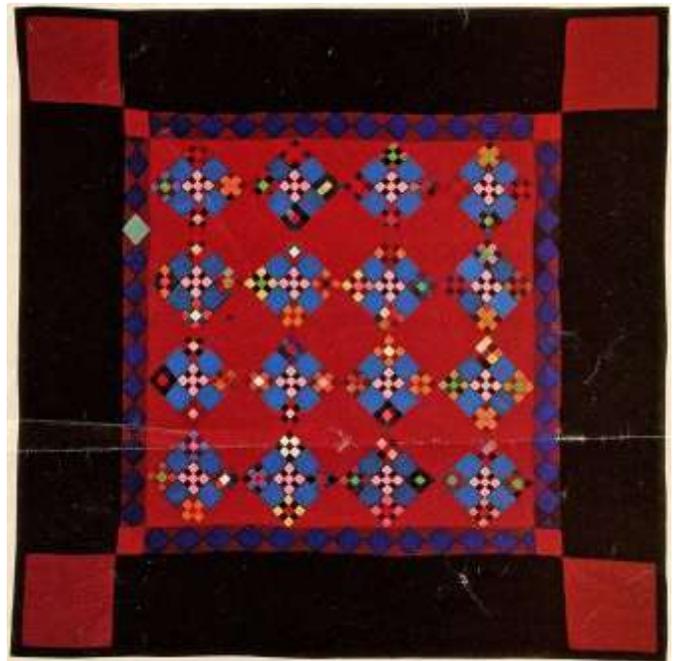


"Pair of Cranes in the Shadow of Flowers" (c. 1715) by Lang Shih-ning shows an informal, or asymmetrical, balance with unlike objects arranged with equal visual weight. The different elements of art—line, value, shape, space, color, and texture—all influence the visual weight of a composition. For example, a small area of bright color can balance a larger area of dull color.

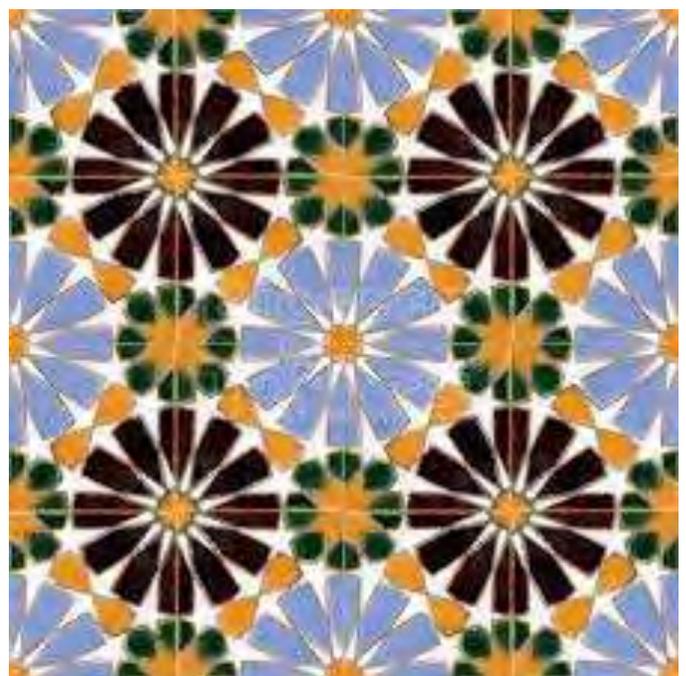
ART 23

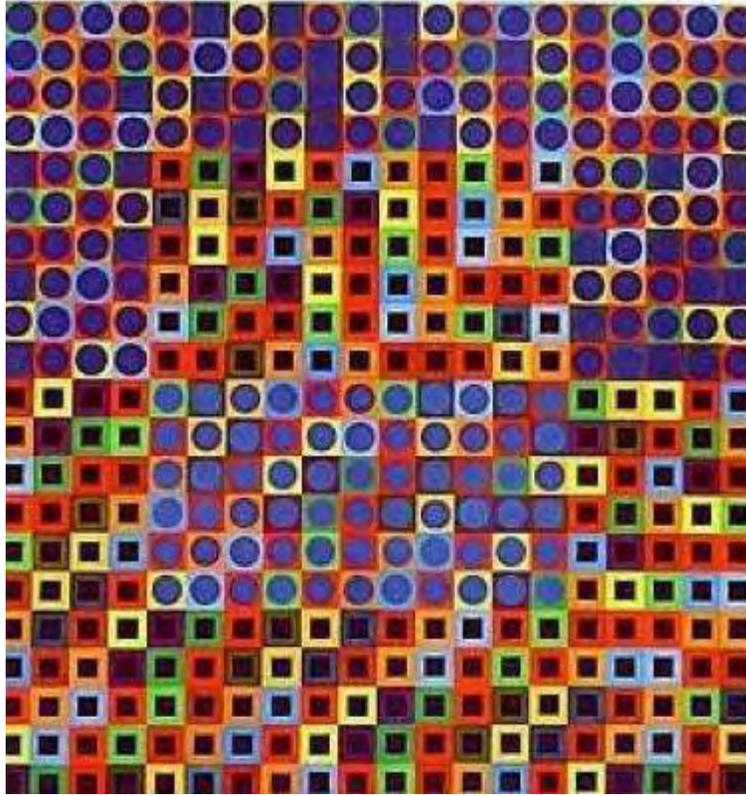
Supplemental reference material:
Explaining rhythm and balance.

Quilt Block design samples



Spanish Tile design samples





Zebegen, Victor Vasarely

Student Sample

