

COMPOSITION TRIPTYCH

Drawing & Painting

2015-2016

Buford High School

Essential Questions

- What is composition?
- How do I develop interesting, dynamic, and effective compositions in my artwork?

Georgia Performance Standards

- VAHSVAPR.1 Uses formal qualities of art (elements and principles) to create unified compositions and communicate meaning.

The Problem

- Create a triptych of nonobjective designs using three different compositional principles.

The Vocabulary

Triptych - A painting or carving that has three side-by-side parts, panels, or canvases.

Nonobjective - Artworks having no recognizable subject matter (not recognizable as such things as houses, trees, people, etc.)

Composition - The plan, placement or arrangement of the elements of art in a work.

Inspiration/Ideation - Triptychs



Jeannie Sellmer, *Autumn Wanderings*



Bianka Guna, *Dead Languages*



Paul Klee, *Abstract in Pastels*

Inspiration/Ideation

Nonobjective design using a
SYMMETRICAL composition

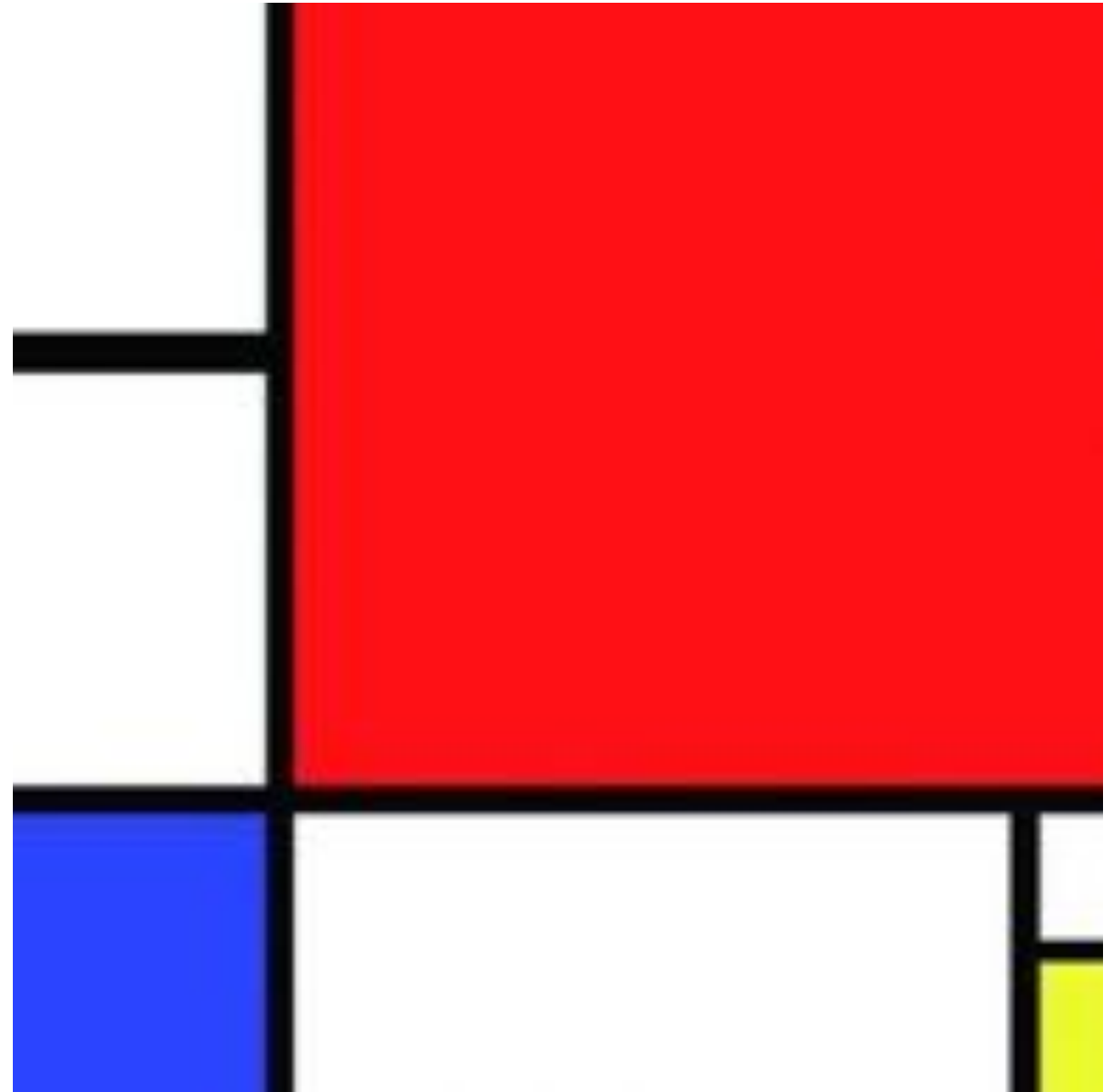


Matt W. Moore, from the Symmetry Series

Inspiration/Ideation

Nonobjective design using an
ASYMMETRICAL composition

Piet Mondrian, *Composition with Red, Blue, and Yellow*



Inspiration/Ideation

Nonobjective design using a
RADIAL composition

Tibetan Mandala



Inspiration/Ideation

Nonobjective design using
a VERTICAL composition

Linda McCurry, *Veeds*



Inspiration/Ideation

Nonobjective design using a
HORIZONTAL composition

Gwen Marston, *Small Study 4*



Inspiration/Ideation

Nonobjective design using a
RULE OF THIRDS composition

Student work



Research

- Try image searches using the vocabulary terms we have covered: nonobjective, symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial, vertical, horizontal, rule of thirds.
- You can look up artworks and images that aren't nonobjective – then you can use these as idea generators for your nonobjective work
- You can also begin looking up triptychs – nonobjective or objective to preview your project

Informed Ideation/Inspiration

- Now that you are familiar with the six compositional arrangements, narrow down to just 3 that you want to use for your triptych project – you must use 3 *different* compositions
- Since you are using 3 different compositions, you will want some way for your three panels to relate to each other. You can consider using the same group of colors, have lines that lead from the first to the third panel (but each panel still has a different, distinct composition), use similar shapes, etc.

Practice/Rough Drafts

- Sketch empty squares in groups of three
- Begin by drawing out simple NONOBJECTIVE designs using the three compositional arrangements you have chosen – you may want to test out more than 3, so don't get too detailed too fast
- Once you have decided upon your 3 basic compositional designs, use colored pencils to experiment with color combinations
- Decide if you prefer more intricate or more simple designs and plan accordingly – be careful not to be too detailed (you will have a hard time finishing in class), but don't draw a circle and 2 lines, because that's too simple!!

Production

- Get 3 squares of paper
- Use pencil to lightly sketch your three chosen compositions on each piece of paper
- Use folding techniques for symmetrical and radial (if you are using these types of composition)
- Begin coloring neatly using your chosen color combination with good craftsmanship

Revision/Refinement

- At any time before, during or even after production you are unsure or unsatisfied with your work, then stop and think it over – will changing your design, colors, etc. lead to a more successful work?
- Keep in mind that being hasty will most likely lead to sloppy work, which will mean that you don't care, which will show up in your finished piece...if you're going to do it, do it the best you can.
- On the other hand, don't paralyze yourself and your progress by constantly second-guessing yourself – if you truly planned and practiced, be willing to see out your idea to the end.

Finish/Reflection

- Compare your finished work to your rough drafts – are you aware of the difference between the two? Why is it a good idea not to get too detailed too early? Why is it a good idea to have more than one option?
- Did you end up changing your mind completely or did you stick with what you originally had in mind? Do you think you made the right choice?
- What would you change if you were going to start this project over?
- Which compositional arrangement is your favorite? Why?
- Make sure that you have your name on the back of each design and that you clip them together and place in your portfolio