



TITLE: *Geometric Colors*
ARTIST: Roger Elliot
DATE: n.d.
SIZE: 40 1/2" x 40 1/2 "
MEDIUM: Painting
ACQUISITION # : 69.1
Additional Works by Artist in Collection?
 Yes ___ No X

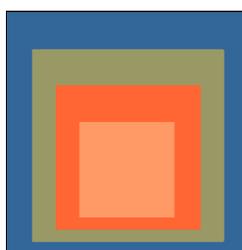
Artist's Biography

Roger Elliot created paintings from geometric shapes while using vibrant colors. This painting was part of the permanent collection when the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts first opened its doors in 1970. His painting shows similarities to that of the geometric abstraction movement. His painting *Geometric Colors* resembles a compilation of multiple pieces by Josef Albers. Albers was also associated with the color field painters who often used simple geometric shapes. In his piece Elliot incorporates influences from Albers' series *Homage to the Square* as well as Albers' painting titled *To Mitia*. In contrast to Albers' generally straight-forward, symmetrical presentation in the series *Homage to the Square*, Elliot tilts his asymmetrical composition for a more complex approach.

About the Art

In Elliot's painting he uses the technique of "taping off." One can see the difference in paintings when an artist tapes off and when he/she doesn't. When a painting is taped off all the lines are perfect and one can see a small raised edge created from the tape. This is present in Elliot's painting. He also makes his piece look tilted by not making perfectly vertical lines. He plays with the geometric shapes in relationship to space and the way colors create recession and projection.

Related Artist: Joseph Albers



Homage to the Square
 1958
 Oil on board
 (masonite)



To Mitia
 1940
 Oil on masonite

Josef Albers (1888-1976) grew up in Germany. Albers moved to the United States in 1933. Albers was an art theoretician who was a leader of post-Abstract Expressionist styles such as color field painting. His best known series, *Homage to the Square*, was a well organized exploration of the relationship between physical art objects and their effect on the way they are perceived.

Related Terminology

Geometric Abstraction: A form of abstract art based on the usage of simple geometric forms to create a non-representational composition.

References

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/12662/Josef-Albers>

GEOMETRIC ART

Activity Lesson Plan: K-5

Session Activity: In Roger Elliot's *Geometric Colors*, the artist uses geometric shapes and color juxtapositions to create his paintings. This is similar to many geometric abstractionists who use shapes like triangles, circles, rectangles, squares and other geometric forms. In his piece, however, Elliot incorporates only straight-line geometry; no curves are present. This work by Elliot bears similarities to the work of Joseph Albers, particularly his piece, *To Mitia*, done in 1940, and his box series titled *Homage to the Square*. Albers work explores the sense of space created by the positioning of color. Students will be given sheets of paper to create their own versions of *Geometric Colors* in collage form.

Materials: paper (8x10 inches), color construction paper (for kindergarten have shapes pre-cut), scissors, and glue.

Activity Procedures: First, view Elliot's painting. Discuss his use of geometric shapes and positioning of color to create projection and recession. Cut construction paper according to the geometric shapes desired. Glue the shapes onto the base paper, overlapping to create an Elliot-type composition. Utilize color to create a sense of space. Dependent on the position of the color, some shapes may recede and others project. Display the work. As a group talk about the way the collages may relate to one another and the way they are different. Look for receding and projecting shapes. Discover, as a group, which color or color creates recession and projection.

Objectives:

Students will see the way shapes can create art and color on color can create a sense of space through the optical illusion of recession and projection.

Vocabulary:

- **Geometric Shapes:** shapes utilizing straight lines, edges, and angles like triangles, squares, and rectangles. Shapes such as circles are also geometric shapes.
- **Projection:** to show an object or area coming towards the viewer. An example of projection is the way the yellow in this section of Elliot's painting comes toward the viewer.
- **Recession:** to show an object or area going back into the distance. An example of recession can also be seen in this section of Elliot's painting. Most of the dark areas appear to be behind the other shapes.



SunShine State Standards: 3-5

Arts: Visual Arts
Strand: Skills and Techniques
Standard 1,#3: Knows the effects & functions of using various organizational elements & principles of design when creating works of art.(VA.A.1.2.3)

SunShine State Standards: 9-12

Arts: Visual Arts
Strand: Aesthetics & Critical Analysis
Standard 1,#1: Understands and determines the differences between the artist's intent and public interpretation through evaluative criteria and judgment. (VA.D.1.4.1)

COLOR TO CREATE SPACE

Activity Lesson Plan: 6-12

Session Activity: Elliot, unlike Josef Albers, used tape to create the straight lines of his shapes and then pulled the tape off after painting each section. This is the reason raised edges are visible in the painting and the work looks so exact as though created industrially or digitally. Students will use poster board or canvas board to create their own versions of *Geometric Colors* using this tape method. Students will also be asked to explore digital uses of color to create space whether in video games, photography, or some other use.

Materials: Painters tape, paint, paintbrushes, and canvas board or poster board cut into 11x14" pieces.

Activity Procedures / Discussion questions: View and discuss Roger Elliot's painting. Determine the way these geometrical shapes are laid out, the reasons the artist made the painting slightly tilted, and the way he used the method of taping off the shapes. Further, talk about his creation of space through color on color, the way some shapes recede and others project. Tape off areas on the board; select the ones to be paired first, second, and so on. Paint must dry before pulling off the tape. New shapes can be created through overlapping. Make sure the bottom layers dry before applying paint to other layers.

Now, discuss the way Elliot's work relates to contemporary design, for example in video game design like Wii Fitness, particularly the "table tilt." At the end of the game color rotates and moves to create projection and recession. The colors used are blue, yellow, and orange. Ask students to find other examples in video games or advertising or other design use. Have them bring items or examples to class to discuss.