

Guided Critique

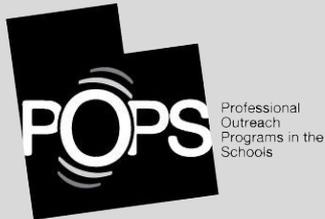
Bonnie Gile Phillips

Whole Wheat and Tuna, 1981

Watercolor

Springville Museum of Art Collection

Grade Level: 3-5





Look at this painting, *Whole Wheat and Tuna*, by Bonnie Phillips and describe what you see.

1. Which colors do you think represent whole wheat? Which colors represent tuna?
2. What shapes do you see?
3. What patterns do you see?

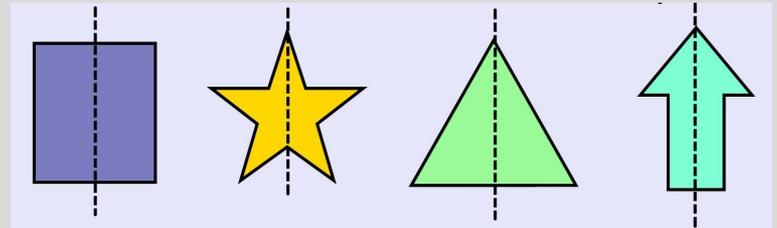


Respond

This work of art uses shapes to form a pattern with symmetry.

What is symmetry?

- Symmetry is when something is the same on both sides.
- A shape or artwork has symmetry if you fold it down the middle and both sides of the shape are exactly the same, like a reflection in a mirror.
- Below is an example of some shapes with symmetry.



1. Where can you draw a line in the painting to show its symmetry?



Respond

What is a pattern?

A pattern is a repeated design.

Example: square, triangle, circle (repeat)



1. Describe some of the patterns in this painting?
2. How does the artist use color along with shapes to make different patterns?



Create your own

Create your own pattern with symmetry using a square, triangle, and circle. Each shape is assigned a number.

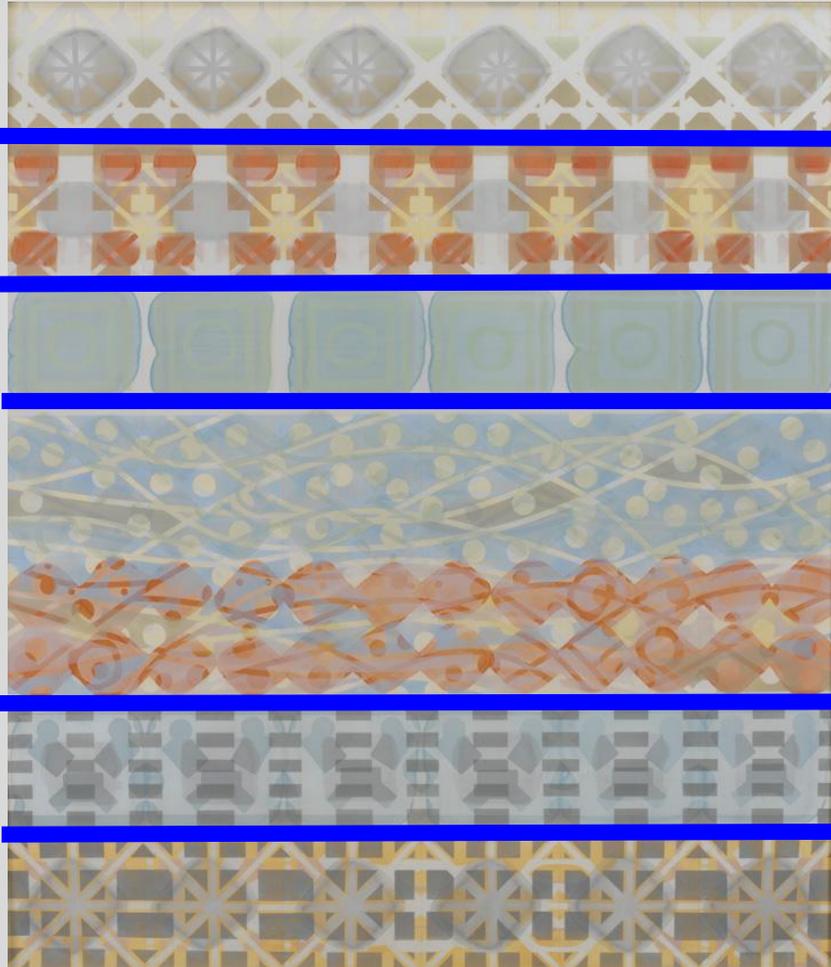
Example: $\square = 1$ $\triangle = 2$ $\circ = 3$



The line drawn above is like a mirror. It shows that the pattern is the same on both sides.

Steps to create your own pattern:

1. Choose a pattern/number sequence:
 - a. Square, triangle, circle
 - b. Triangle, circle, square
 - c. Circle, square, triangle
2. Repeat pattern two times and draw a line
3. Draw the opposite pattern on the other side of the line. Ex: if you used $\square \triangle \circ (1,2,3)$ then draw the opposite pattern $\circ \triangle \square (3,2,1)$



What is an optical illusion?

An optical illusion tricks our brain by using color, light, and pattern.

The painting is broken down into smaller sections. Look at how the artist uses light, color, and pattern to create an optical illusion.

1. What is the optical illusion in each section?
2. Which sections look like they are moving?
3. Which sections look like they are 3D instead of flat?



Analyze

The title of this painting is *Whole Wheat and Tuna*. Using your imagination look closely at the painting.

1. Can you come up with three new titles for the painting?
2. Why do you think the artist chose to use pattern and optical illusion?
3. How does it add to the meaning of the painting?

Context

Bonnie Phillips is a Utah artist. She and her husband, Denis Phillips, own and operate Phillips Gallery in Salt Lake City. Her style of art can be described as Op Art, abstract expressionist, semi-abstract, and geometric impressionism. Bonnie often uses watercolor on satin fabric to create her unique style.

The painting, *Whole Wheat and Tuna*, is an example of her Op art style. because it creates optical illusions.

Op Art: a form of abstract art that gives the illusion of movement by the precise use of pattern and color, or in which conflicting patterns emerge and overlap.



Compare and Contrast

Bonnie's husband, Denis, is also an artist. He goes back and forth between creating realism and abstract art. This painting, *Skyscape*, is an example of his abstract art.

Definition:

Abstract Art - Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of the real world but instead use shapes, colors, forms to achieve its effect.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/abstract-art>

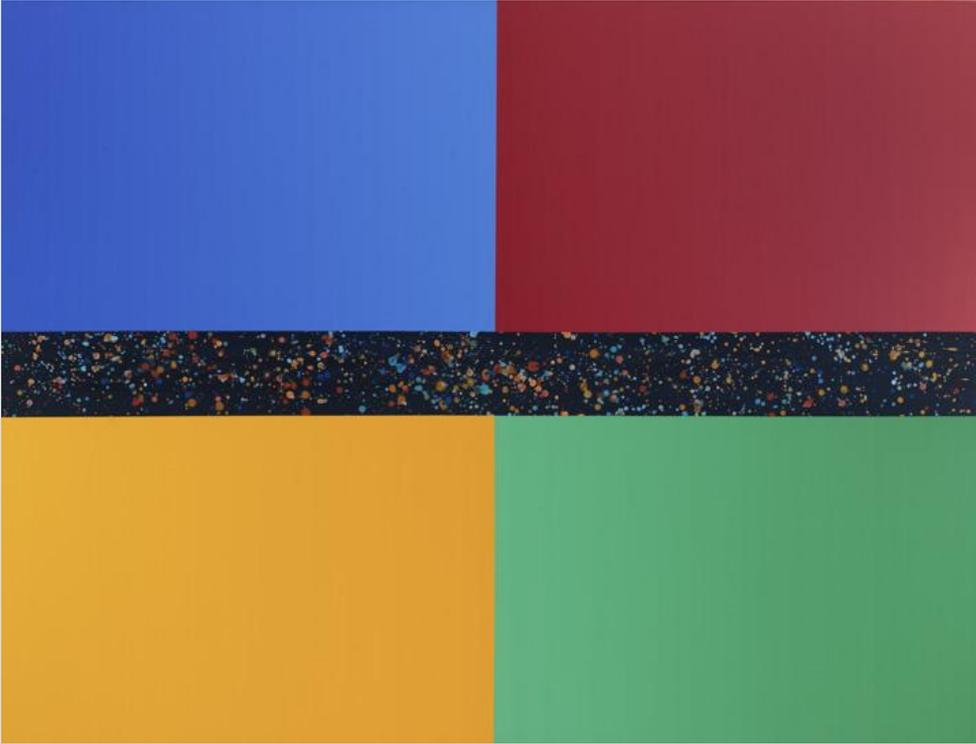
You have to use your imagination to see what is being represented, something that is abstract won't look like real life.

Compare and contrast Denis and Bonnie's abstract works.

- How are they similar?
- How are they different?
- Is there symmetry in *Skyscape*?

Using your imagination:

- Do you see the skyscape in this painting?
- Do you see the tuna sandwich in Bonnie's painting?



Denis Phillips, *Skyscape*, 2002, acrylic on canvas,
Springville Museum of Art

Conclusion

How do artists use math in art?

- ***Whole Wheat and Tuna* is an example of the use of geometry and pattern in art.**
 - What examples of geometry and pattern did you notice in *Whole Wheat and Tuna*?
 - How do they connect to making art?
- **What are some other ways artists use math in art?**
 - Proportion and fractions:
 - When artists draw people they use fractions or proportions.
 - Landscape painters will use the rule of thirds by dividing their canvas into three sections or $\frac{1}{3}$ for each section.
 - Lines, shapes, angles, golden rectangle:
 - Denis Phillip's painting, *Skyscape*, is an example of how abstract art uses lines and shapes to make a work of art. How many 90 degree angles can you find in that painting?
 - Sculpture artist will create 3-D works of art by measuring angles, forming lines, creating shapes, and using the Golden Rectangle.
 - Most artists use the Golden Rectangle (or Golden Mean) in creating their artwork. Watch the video of *Donald Duck in Mathmagic Land* on the "Further Learning" page to learn more about that.

Further Learning

- Learn about world famous artist, M.C. Escher. He is known for his use of geometry, symmetry, and other math concepts in his artwork.
 - <https://mcescher.com/>
- This video helps explain quadrilaterals. It's a great resource for third grade students who are learning about quadrilaterals. Or for anyone who needs a refresher!
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-ykHosJW9c>
- Watch this fun episode of *Donald Duck in Mathmagic Land* to learn more about an important concept in math and art called the golden rectangle. (28 minutes)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_ZHsk0-eF0https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_ZHsk0-eF0