

### Objectives

- Students will write words fluently in cursive.
- Students will understand what abstract art is.
- Students will create an abstracted work of art with cursive writing, words inspired by a Mother Goose poem, and colors that represent the poem.

### Introduction

Show students Donald Penrod Olsen's, *Chelsea VI* (Don't tell them the title)

Discuss the image and ask the following questions:

- What do you think this painting represents?
- What shapes do you see?
- Do you see any letters?
- Why do you think the artist used these colors?

Now tell the students the title and ask:

- Why do you think the artist named it that?
- Do you think this painting is of a person?

Show students Karl G. Ackerman's, *The Blackbird That Got Into The Garden* (Don't tell them the title)

Discuss the image and ask the following questions:

- What do you see in this painting?
- How do the colors make you feel?
- What are three words you can use to describe this artwork?

Now tell the students the title and ask:

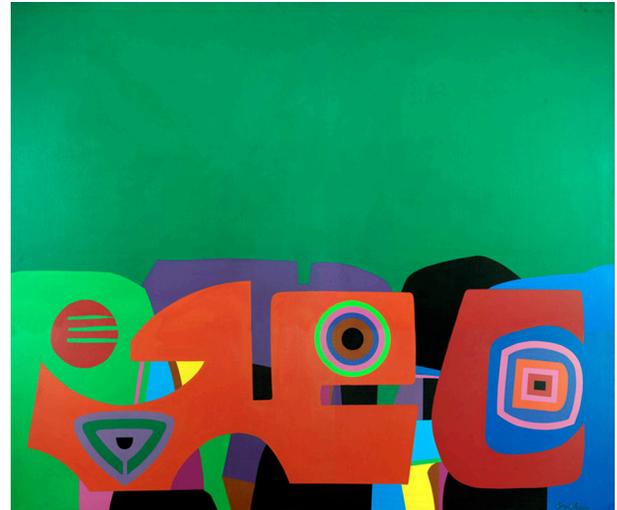
- Why do you think the artist named it that?
- Do you see any blackbirds?
- Do they look like real birds?

Tell the students that this painting was inspired by a poem. You could read them "Sing a Song of Sixpence" by Mother Goose as an example of a poem that might have inspired the artist. Describe how the black parts of the paintings might represent the blackbirds and the other fragments of the painting might represent the pie the blackbirds are escaping from.

### Definitions

**Abstract:** existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence.

**Abstract Art:** art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use shapes, colors, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect.



Donald Penrod Olsen, *Chelsea VI*, 1980

### Materials

- Donald Penrod Olsen, *Chelsea VI*
- Karl G. Ackerman, *The Blackbird That Got Into The Garden*
- Mother Goose Poems (choose 1 or a variety) (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/mother-goose>)
- Paper
- Black Markers (Sharpies)
- Colored Markers/Pencils

### Images from the Museum

- Donald Penrod Olsen, *Chelsea VI*
- Karl G. Ackerman, *The Blackbird That Got Into The Garden*

### Utah Core Standards

#### Language Standard 1

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- Fluently, independently, and legibly write all upper and lower case cursive letters.
- Produce grade-appropriate text using legible cursive writing.

#### Reading: Literature Standard 2

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

#### Visual Arts Strand CONNECT (4.V.CO.)

Students will relate artistic skills, ideas, and work with personal meaning and external context.

## Activity

Pass out a Mother Goose Poem to each student. After each student has a poem they will read it through and circle 5-8 words they think are important to the poem. Once they have their list of words they are ready to create.

Using a clean sheet of paper they will write their words in cursive in a random pattern with a black marker. The words should overlap each other and go in all directions (diagonal, backwards, upside down, etc.) The words should be repeated until the page is full.

Students should now have an abstracted outline with open spaces. Students will now choose 2-3 colors from a variety of colored markers, crayons, or pencils. that compliment the meaning or feeling of their poem. Use the colors to fill in the open spaces of their abstract artwork.

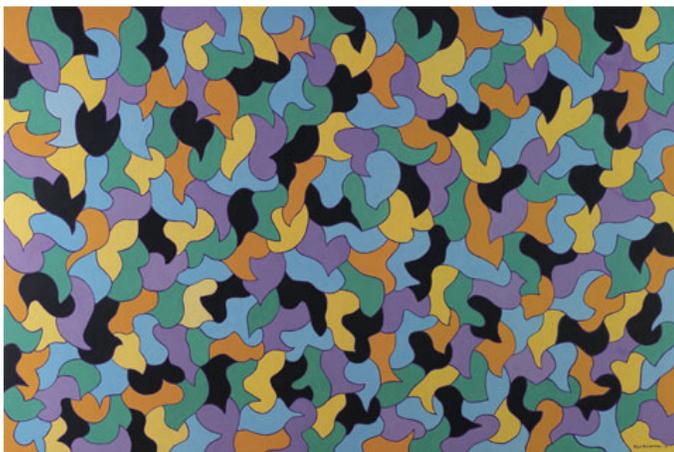
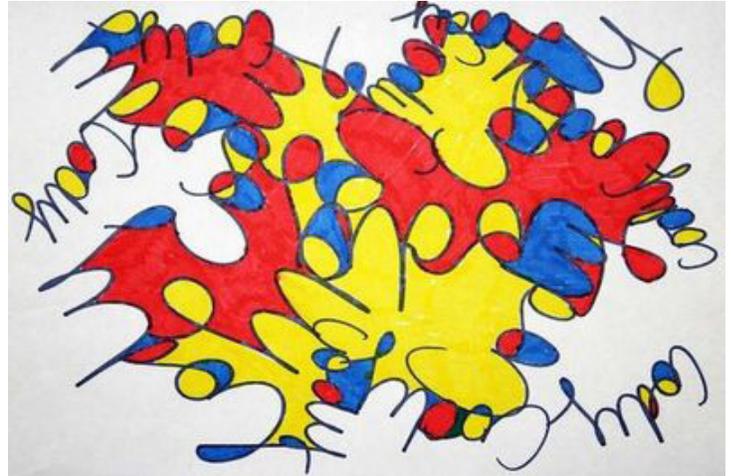
## Variations

- Students could choose one entire line from the verse to write instead of 5-8 words.
- Students could layer the words in the shape of an object from the poem.

## Assessment

Check student work for correct spelling and correct form of cursive letters. You could choose to have students present their work to the class and see if they can guess what poem is being represented.

Student Examples:



Karl G. Ackerman, *The Blackbird That Got Into The Garden*, 1993

### Sing a Song of Sixpence

BY MOTHER GOOSE

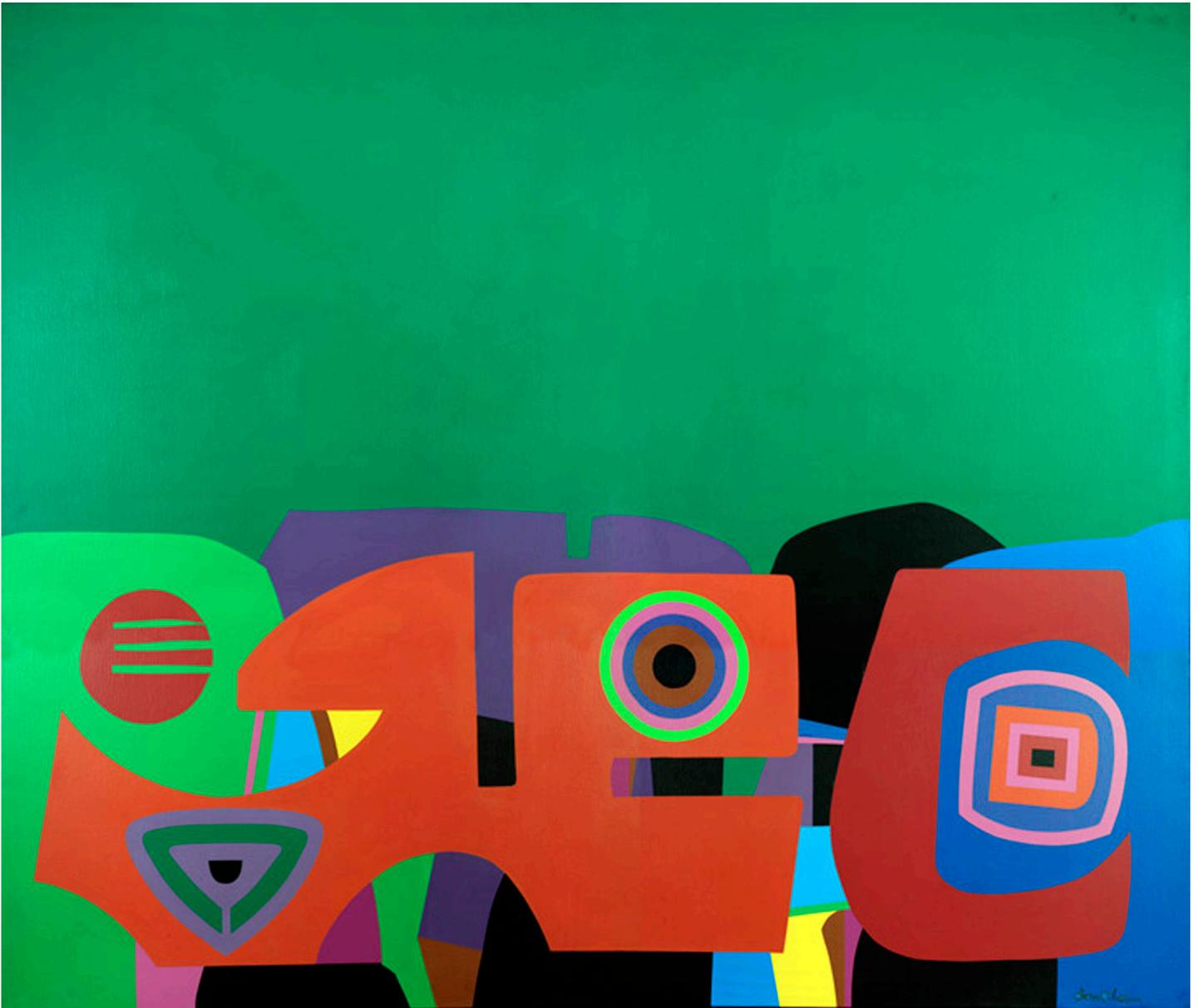
Sing a song of sixpence,  
A pocket full of rye,  
Four and twenty blackbirds  
Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened  
The birds began to sing—  
Wasn't that a dainty dish  
To set before the king?

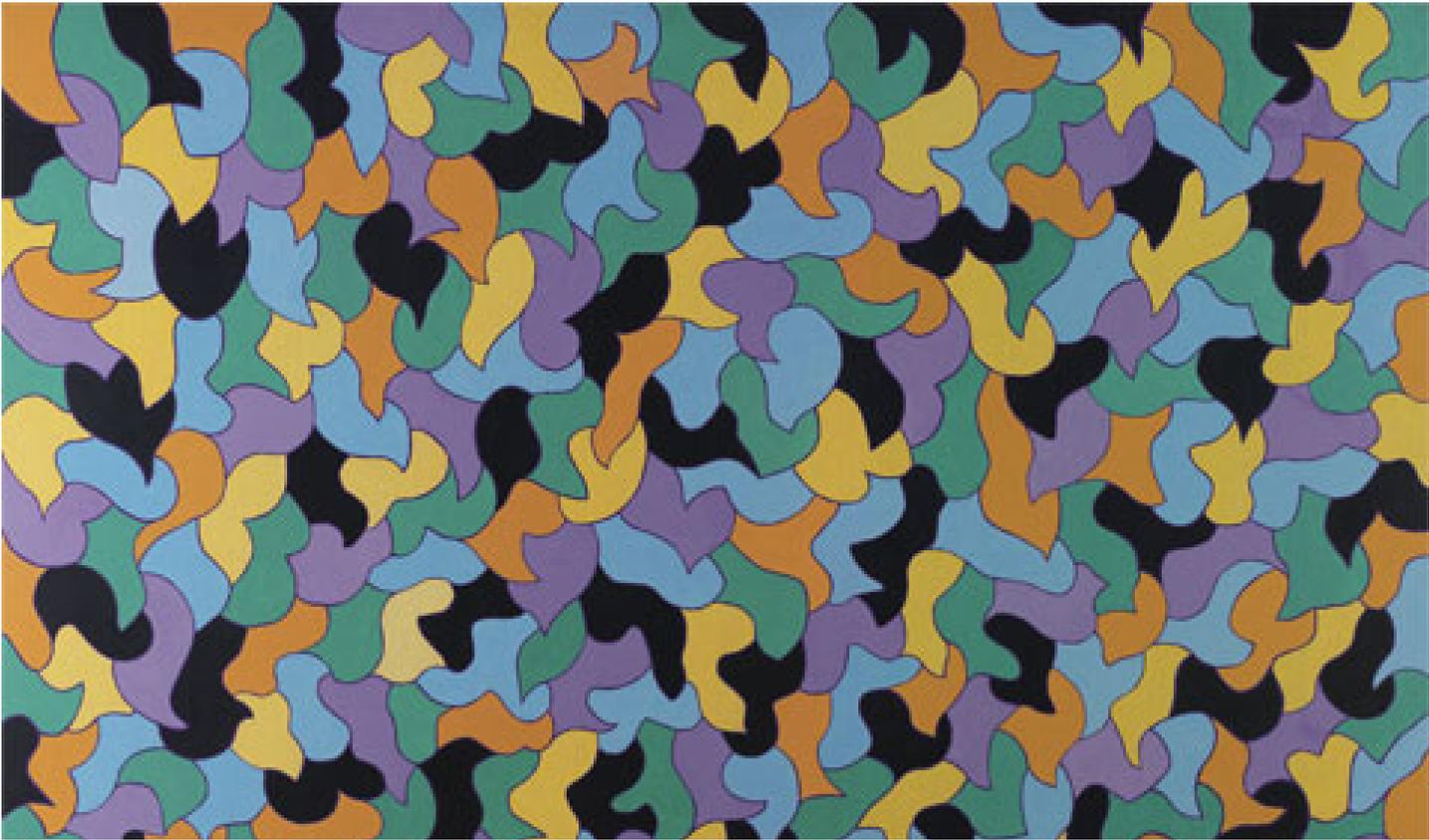
The king was in the counting-house  
Counting out his money,  
The queen was in the parlor  
Eating bread and honey,

The maid was in the garden  
Hanging out the clothes.  
Along came a blackbird  
And snipped off her nose.

Images (Can also be found at [www.smofa.org/collections](http://www.smofa.org/collections))



Donald Penrod Olsen, *Chelsea VI*, 1980



Karl G. Ackerman, *The Blackbird That Got Into The Garden*, 1993