

# Abstract Color Mixing

**Objective:** To explore color mixing, discuss color families and vocabulary, and create cohesive abstract lines and shapes.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade recommended (can be modified for younger and older students).

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### National Core Art Standards:

Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.

Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

See more at: <http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>

### Materials:

- Paper
- Liquid Tempera Paint
- Pencil
- Colored Pencil
- Water Cup and Paint Brushes



**Finished Project**

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### Open the Conversation:

Start by discussing the primary colors, tints, and shades. If you plan to include the secondary colors, discuss those as well and ask students to distinguish between the two. Practice mixing tints and shades. Extend this lesson by including intermediate colors, tones, or various color schemes tailored to your curricular needs.

Demonstrate how to mix colors using the liquid tempera paint and show students how to paint to fill shapes smoothly and completely.

Consider facilitating a conversation about the works of Josef Albers, Romero Britto, or compare and contrast the two artists.



**Make sure you have all supplies ready.**

## Step One:

Determine the total number of colors you will use. For example, if you choose red, yellow and blue, you will need three areas for each of the three primary colors.

Use a pencil to create the number of areas you will need on your paper – in this case, three. The paper can be creatively divided as long as it has three areas.

Trace over these pencil lines with a colored pencil.

## Step Two:

Divide each of the three areas into three sections. One section will be for the hue, another the tint, and another is for the shade of the color. Do NOT trace over these lines with colored pencil. Label these lightly with regular pencil if needed, but don't forget to erase before painting!

## Step Three:

Using the liquid tempera paint, students can start mixing and adding color. Encourage students to mix their tints and shades fully before painting each of the sections smoothly and completely. Students should also clean and dry their brushes before mixing and painting each new hue, tint, or shade. Encourage students to fill the page with saturated colors to complete their composition. Let dry.

## Step Four:

Once dry, have students use a small brush and black paint (or a Sharpie) to outline each of the sections. Then, move paintings to the drying rack to dry. Finish with your routine for clean-up!

