WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Artist Sophie Taeuber-Arp

ARTIST INTRO:

Sophie Taeuber-Arp (b. 1889 – 1943) was a pioneering Swiss abstract artist. She wore many hats and was known as a designer working with textiles and costumes as well as furniture and interiors. Taeuber-Arp was also an applied arts teacher, puppet maker, dancer, architect, painter, sculptor, illustrator, and even magazine editor. She is considered one of the most important artists of the 20th century creating artworks that transcend beyond traditional craft and she helped to develop concrete art and geometric abstraction. Taeuber-Arp's enduring influence continues to inspire artists and designers around the world today.

ARTWORK:



WORKSHOP:

Let's take inspiration from Sophie Taeuber-Arp and make geometric abstractions and designs of our own with a few simple shapes!

- 1. Think of one, two, or three shapes
- 2. Choose at least three different colors of paper
- 3. With scissors begin to cut-out your shapes (Ex: Circles, Squares, Triangles, etc.)
- 4. Construct your *geometric abstraction* by playing around with where you'd like to place your shapes
- 5. Once the placement feels right, glue down your shapes to another piece of paper (your background) and use your ruler to make a few special connections with a simple line or two (or more)
- 6. Take a step back and look at your artwork.
- 7. Think about other places or ways that your artwork or design could exist elsewhere... (Ex: On canvas with paint, drawn with marker on a T-shirt, painted on a pillow, as a book cover, mural, or backdrop for a set, etc.)
- 8. Let your imagination run wild!

MATERIALS:

- Scissors
- Colored Paper
- Glue
- Ruler
- Pen or Pencil



Sophie Taeuber-Arp Quatre espaces à cercles rouges roulants, 1932

"I very much enjoyed working on the drawing, so much so that I made a whole of series small watercolors that I can use at any time for application on embroidered purses, pillows, rugs and wall hangings." Sophie Taeuber-Arp

FOLLOW UP:

What shapes and colors did you choose? Why? Did you enjoy the process of working with shapes? Was your finished work of art what you expected? What do you think *abstract* means? What does design mean to you? If you could put your artwork on anything or anywhere, what would you choose? How would you go about *applying* your art on to something else?

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