

## Colors and Feelings

<b>Essential Question</b>	How do artists use color to convey feelings?
<b>Grade</b>	Kindergarten
<b>Time</b>	30–60 minutes
<b>Art Concepts</b>	Abstract, geometric, warm colors, cool colors, lines, shapes, horizontal, vertical, diagonal
<b>Materials</b>	Paper, ruler, pencil, coloring materials (oil pastels, crayons, colored pencils), a plastic lid for tracing

**Artwork in Focus** [Around a Round, 1959 by Frederick Hammersley](#)

**Talking about Art** Frederick Hammersley was an American artist. He was born in 1919 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was famous for his geometric abstract paintings. **Geometric** means shapes, like squares, circles, and triangles. **Abstract art** is not a realistic drawing or painting. It uses **lines, shapes**, and colors to communicate its meaning. If you see a painting of a tree, you would say, “That’s a tree.” An abstract painting would not look like anything real.

Look at Hammersley’s painting *Around a Round* for 30 seconds. What do you see? Would you call this painting geometric? Would you call it abstract? What makes you say that? Name the colors that you see. How do the colors make you feel? What do you think they might be saying or expressing? What kinds of lines do you see? What happens when they crisscross? What shapes do you see?

### Making Art

1. Use a ruler and a pencil to draw five lines on a sheet of paper, from one edge of the paper to the opposite. Some lines can go from side to side (**horizontal**); some lines can go up and down (**vertical**); some lines can be slanted (**diagonal**). If you do not have a ruler, use the straight edge of a piece of cardboard to draw the lines. If you want to add circles, trace them around the bottom of a can or jar lid. Now, what shapes do you see in your picture?
2. Many colors make art. One group of colors is called **warm colors**. These can make you feel warm, like the sun or a fire. Do you know these colors (red, orange, yellow)? Another group of colors is called **cool colors**. What colors can make you feel cool (blue, green, purple)? What things are cool colors? Color your drawing of shapes with oil pastels or crayons or colored pencils. Use only warm colors or use only cool colors. You can make another drawing of lines and color and color it with the other set of colors.

### Reflection

- Sometimes looking at colors can bring out feelings from inside us. How does the color blue make you feel? How does the color orange make you feel? All of us have different feelings throughout each day. All of us feel happy sometimes. All of us feel sad sometimes. Think about the different

feelings you felt today. We can make art that can express our feelings. We can use colors to show how we are feeling or how we want to feel. Sometimes, making art when we are feeling low can make us feel better.

- Look at your artwork. Did you choose warm colors or cool colors? How do those colors make you feel? When you make a second picture and use the other set of colors, how do *those* colors make you feel? Besides feeling warm or cool, how does the whole picture make you feel?

**Curriculum Connections** California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

PK.VA:Cr1.2: Engage in self-directed, creative art-making. 1.VA:Cr1.2: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.

PK.VA:Cr2.1: Use a variety of art-making tools. K.VA:Re8: Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details.

Prepared by Peggy Hasegawa with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)  
Education Department.