**Still Life of Flowers Created with Simple Shapes**

**Essential Question** Can you use simple shapes to draw a still life vase of flowers?

**Grade** Kindergarten

**Time** 15 minutes

**Art Concepts** Still life, realistic art, abstract art, symmetry

**Materials** 8½-by-11-inch white copy paper, black crayon or pencil (no eraser), crayons, oil pastels, or colored pencils

**Artwork in Focus** (1619)by Ambrosius Bosschaert

**Talking about Art Still life** is a genre of painting and drawing for which artists arrange objects and capture them––unmoving and standing “still” in a single moment of time. Dutch painter Ambrosius Bosschaert was famous for his **realistic** paintings of flowers. While other still-life artists also may have painted fruits, most of Bosschaert’s still lifes were of very full vases of colorful flowers adorned with a few shells and/or insects. He would always center his vase on a table, ledge, or in front of a window in a very **symmetrical** manner, meaning one side is like a mirror image of the other side.

What do you see in this picture? Do the flowers look real(like something you would see in real life) or **abstract** (like something you would see in your imagination)? Do you think these are cut flowers or are they still growing?

**Making Art** Let’s make our own vases of flowers using shapes!

1. Put your sheet of paper in front of you (vertically) and imagine dividing the paper into three parts, or into thirds. Where is the top of the paper? Where is the middle? Where is the bottom? Put your hand on the top of the paper; then in the middle; then the bottom.
2. Now, draw one circle (about the size of a quarter) anywhere on the top third of your paper.
3. Draw lots of ovals around the circle like flower petals.
4. Repeat, and draw a second circle on the top third. This time put smaller but longer thinner oval petals around it.
5. To create a vase, put your hand in the middle third of your paper and draw a smile or “U” shape (this will be the top of the vase).
6. Starting at one edge of the smile and ending at the other, draw a bigger “U” shape to create the body of the vase.
7. Now draw lines, or stems, from your flowers to your vase.
8. Add oval or triangular shapes on the stems to create leaves.
9. Draw a straight horizontal line across your paper, except where the vase is, creating the look of your vase of flowers being on a table.
10. Color in your flowers, vase, and table with crayons, colored pencils, or oil pastels and sign your art with your name at the bottom.
11. If you would like, draw more flowers and add them to your vase.

**Reflection** We just created a still life like Bosschaert! What shapes did you use to create flowers? What colors did you use?

Do you see objects around you or in your home that you could draw? What shapes would you use to draw them?

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

K.VA:Cr2.3: Create art that represents natural and constructed environments. K.VA:Re7.2: Describe what an image represents. 1.VA:Cr3: Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

Common Core State Standards Math

K.G.A.1: Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above*, *below*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to.* K.G.A.2: Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall size.

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