

# Composition & Compositional Structures.





## Hi! I'm Nelly

I am an abstract artist. Originally I've studied classical painting and dedicated years to hon my skills as a realist artist. However with time my work begun looking more and more abstract and I've decided to embrace that and expand on that direction. Hence, embracing change and paying attention to what your heart really craves is a big part of what I believe in. And this is what Joy&Making is all about. No matter what level you are at here you will learn to believe and trust yourself so you can create authentic art with confidence embrace the unknown and who you are.

Im thrilled to welcome you to the amazing Joy&Making art group. Our members are art enthusiasts like you and me who happily share their work, knowledge and support throughout. Hope so see you there!

**And now on to composition!**

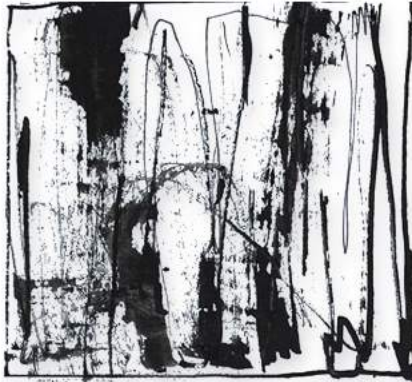


# COMPOSITION

## What is it & Why do we need it?

When you look at a successful painting, that is interesting and captivating, chances are it has a strong compositional structure. Possibly, more than one! Compositional structures are the visual rules with which creative elements are organized. These structures are not set in stone and can work together, and often do.

## Types of Composition



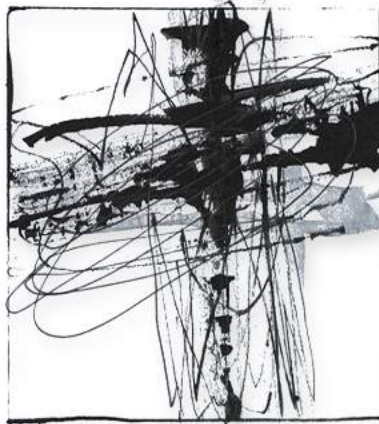
**Vertical**



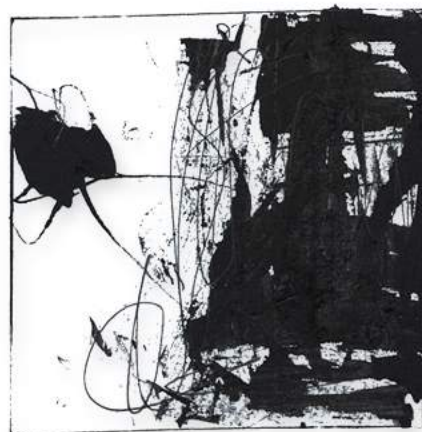
**Horizontal**



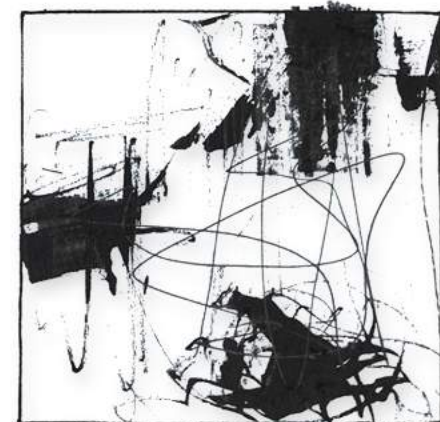
**Diagonal**



**Cross, "L" Shape  
or Radiating**



**Unbalanced**



**Three Points  
Composition**

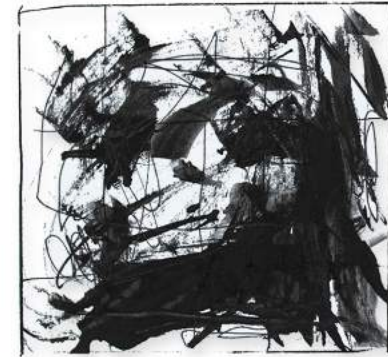
## Types of Composition



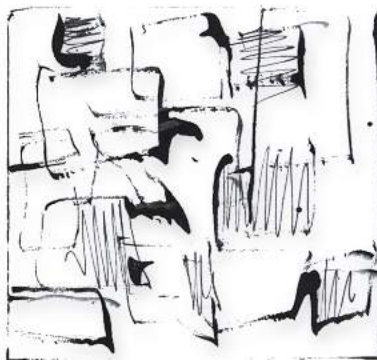
**Radiating**



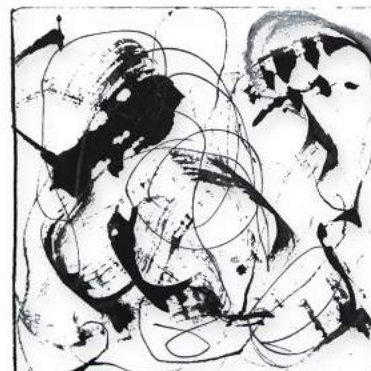
**Circular**



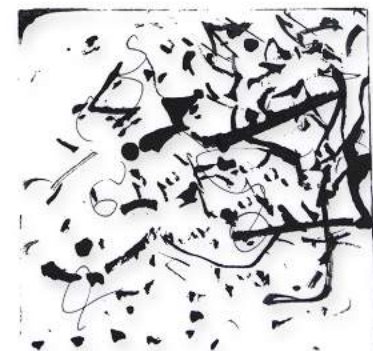
**Grid/ Rule of Thirds**



**Overlapping Frames**



**Curvilinear**

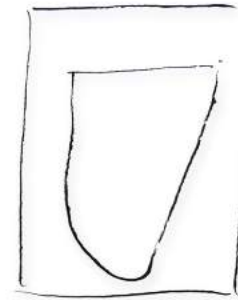


**Constellations**

## How does **Composition work** in your painting?

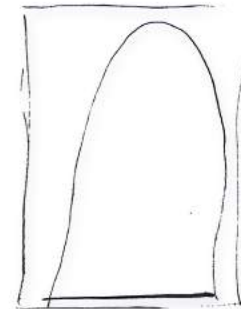
Composition is not only the structure that holds your work together but it is also the message behind your painting. Often with abstract art it is hard to understand yourself what is it that you are trying to convey. Hence composition helps set the mood of your work and communicates the idea, energy and emotion.

With compositional structures in mind your work becomes more intentional, thus more mature and more professional.



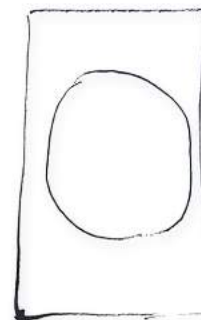
### **V Shape**

Happiness/ positivity  
(as elements go up in  
a v shape)



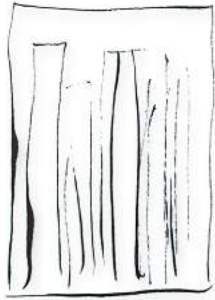
### **Bell shape**

Bell shape  
down, sadness



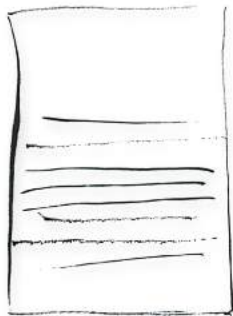
### **Circular**

Circular movement  
would signify - Harmony



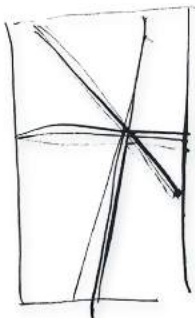
### Vertical

Vertical movement would signify festivity, victory.



### Horizontal

Horizontal movement would translate as tranquility, stability



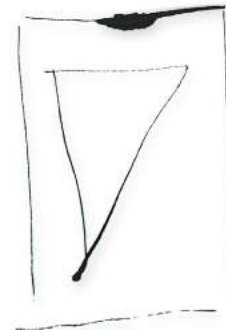
### Cross or radiating

Cross or radiating movement would read as dynamic composition and can signify conflict, clash, or turmoil. this does not necessarily mean something negative but it would be the opposite of tranquil.



### Stability Triangle

Where elements aligned in perfect trio. usually used in religious icons and Renaissance paintings



### Reversed Triangle

The opposite of stability

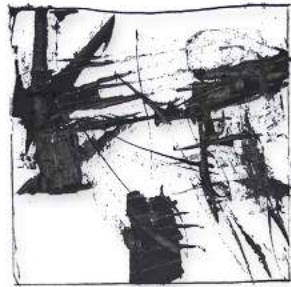


### Diagonal Composition

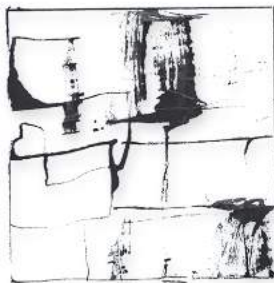
Its a dynamic arrangement and crates a sense of movement across the page, as most of us read left to right bottom to top.

## Take a look at the examples below

Each frame contains emotional equivalent or association that comes with the various placements.



Three Points



Overlapping Frames



Curvilinear





## Exercise

I'd like to show you a fun little exercise you can do to get more confident about **Composition & Compositional Structures.**



NELLY TASYRLIN

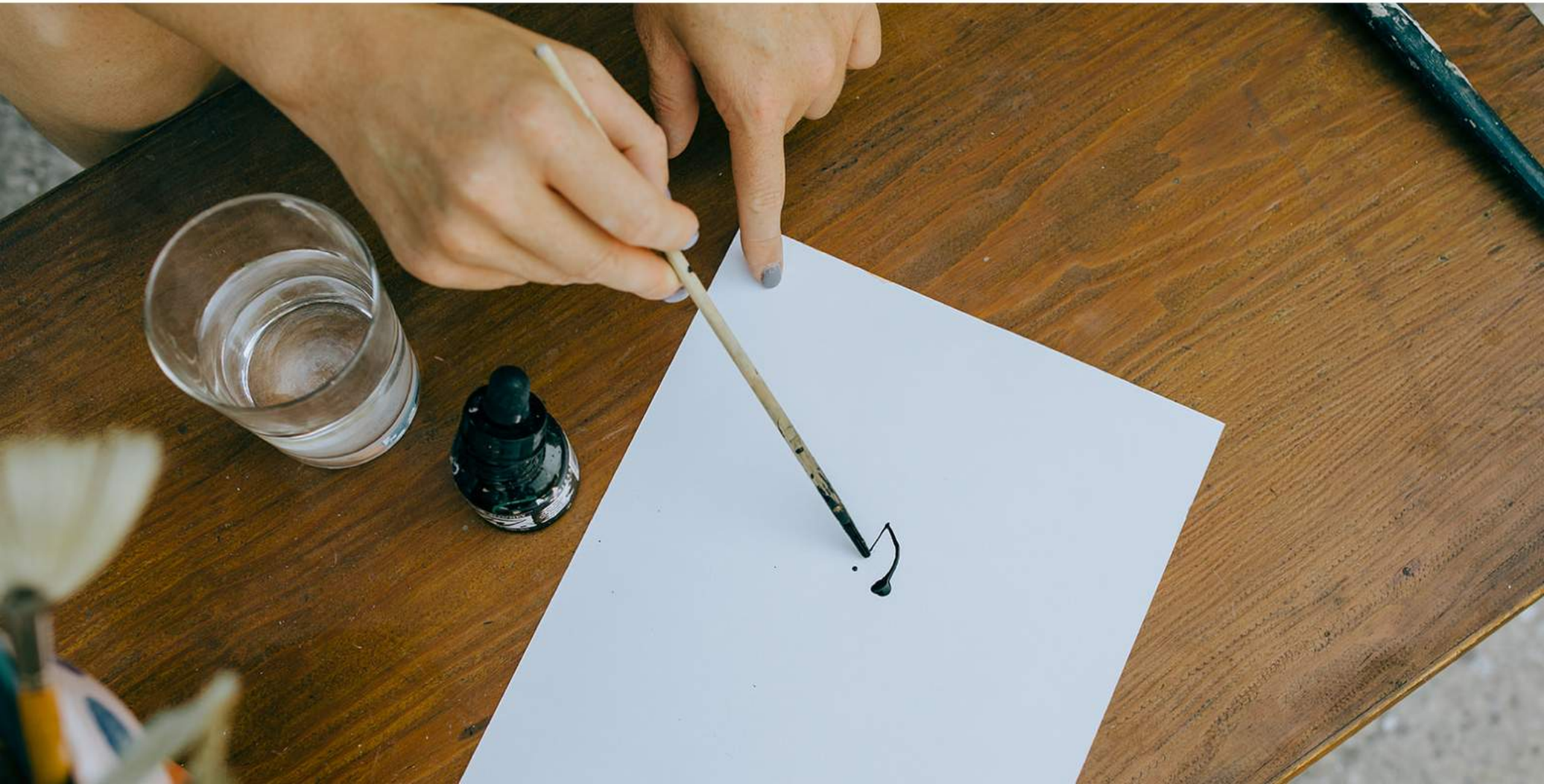


## Here is what you'll need:

1. Surface to paint on
2. Ink or black acrylic paint, water color
3. A couple more colors of your choice
4. Brush or wooden stick
5. Water
6. View finder: 2 L shape white paper cut outs glued together to form a window.

## Step 1:

Start by adding some marks on to the paper. Doodles, rakish lines, let it all flow freely.



## Step 2:

Then add some water, you can pour water or use a spray bottle. Let gravity do it's thing and allow for the paper to dry.



## Step 3:

You can add additional colours.



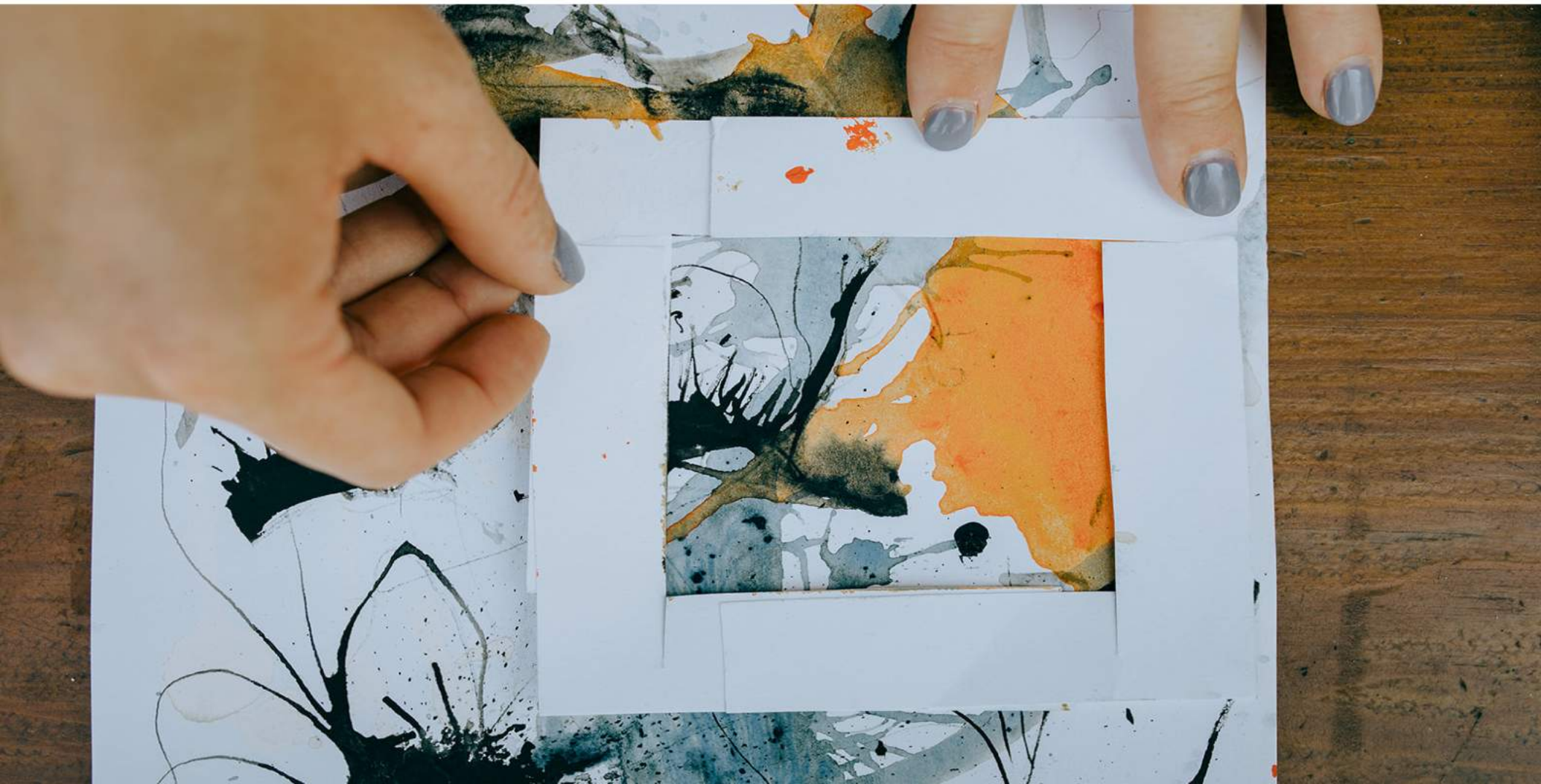
## Step 4:

Start by adding some marks on to the paper. Doodles, rakish lines, let it all flow freely.



## Step 5:

Once you feel you did enough, use the view finder to select parts of the paper that look interesting. One way to go about it is to reference the twelve compositional structures covered above.



## Step 6:

Cut out your best finds and use them as thumbnails in your future large paintings. Happy painting and enjoy your discovery







## Happy Painting & Enjoy Your Discovery!

Growing your skill as an artist takes courage and support. Joy&Making a community is all about sharing knowledge, support and inspiration. It's about focusing on the joy of the process and finding what is it that makes your art authentic and true to you. Join the free Joy&Making group and lets make some amazing art together.

**Joy&Making Group**

See you there!

**Nelly**

[www.nellytsyrlin.com](http://www.nellytsyrlin.com)

[@artgarageonline](https://www.instagram.com/artgarageonline)

[@artgaragetoronto](https://www.instagram.com/artgaragetoronto)