

**Second: October**  
**Lesson 1: Self Portrait**  
**Chalk Pastels**

**Objective:** To combine lines and shapes into an abstract face using warm and cool color families

**Technique:** To combine line, shape, and color in a non-realistic, abstracted face. To explore warm and cool color relationships to create contrast and “color dominance”.

**Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)**

9”x12” light blue construction paper (for warm pastels) – in the bin or check shelf

9”x12” peach construction paper (for cool pastels) – in the bin or check shelf

Chalk pastels (warm or cool) – in the bin

Black crayons – in the bin

Baby wipes – in the bin or on the shelf

Spray fixative – in the bin or on the shelf

Half of the class will receive the light blue paper and will be using mostly “warm” pastel colors. The other half will be using the peach paper and mostly “cool” pastel colors.

**Visuals:**

*Senecio: Head of an Old Man*, Paul Klee

Color Wheel

Sample artwork

**Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)**

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Students will be drawing a portrait using many kinds of lines and shapes. They will be working with chalk pastels. Show *Senecio: Head of an Old Man* by Paul Klee. Klee was a Swiss artist and teacher who loved theater. He was very interested in masks and puppets. He also loved children’s art, and took many ideas for his own works from children. Today you will create your own abstract portrait. Show sample artwork.

When introducing Pastels, explain to students that pastel artists consider themselves “Painters”. They “paint” with pastels, adding color to the surface of the paper, building color intensity and blending different colors to make unique colors much the same as artist do who use wet paint out of a tube and a paint brush. For variety, areas of color can be a single solid color or can show one color shifting into other colors.

Additional artist and student samples are provided to show how a face can be the subject of an abstract painting. These samples show how unexpected color combinations, including warm and cool colors and opposite colors from the color wheel (complimentary colors) placed near each other in the composition can create “Color Vibrations” that excite the eye when looking at the artwork.

**Note** how, in the student samples below, one of the main dividing lines is a strong vertical that includes the nose. This can be a good starting point to establish the abstraction of the face.

Visual interest in the design can be created by: strong lines, variety of shapes and shape sizes, color dominance (one color group accented by spots of another color group).

Remind your artists to use the full surface of the page for their composition. Think of shapes as puzzle pieces.

**Terms:** (when possible, include and explain these terms when presenting the lesson)

**Composition:** The overall design for a work of art; how the shapes are placed and fit together.

**Warm Colors:** The colors on the color wheel in the yellow-orange-red range. “Hot” colors.

**Cool Colors:** The colors on the color wheel in the green-blue-purple range. Colors suggestive of water, etc.

**Analogous Colors:** A group of colors that sit along the same side of the color wheel, next-door neighbors.

**Complimentary Colors:** The colors directly opposite each other on a color wheel: yellow/purple, orange/blue, red/green.

**Color Dominance:** A color combination that is mostly one color group, warms or cools, or analogous group, with minimal accents of the compliment/opposite of the main color group.

**Color Vibration:** The visual effect created by placing opposite or contrasting colors near each other.

1. Review (5 min)

- Pastel use and technique: They resemble chalk, but are quite different. Pastels can be used to draw, sketch, color, add small details, and even to blend and smear like paint or chalk.
- **Holding and applying:** Hold your pastel sideways (NOT a like pencil or crayon), between thumb and forefinger. Press softly but firmly on one spot of the paper; this will give you a short but broad mark/streak.
- **Blocking:** Blocking is filling in a space with color. You can use the side or the tip of the pastels and color in your shapes. Your hand will control how dark or light you want to make the color—a bit more pressure on the pastel may make the color appear darker; and less pressure may make the color appear lighter.
- **Blending:** Blending is done by starting with one color, and rubbing an area/patch of color on the paper; next, lightly rub another layer of color over the first color. These two layers will visually blend and look like a color somewhere in between the 2 colors of the pastel.
- **Tip:** Advise students to BE CAREFUL. Avoid blowing the pastel dust up; rather tilt the paper and let dust fall on your desk.
- Show color wheel: Some colors are primary, they cannot be mixed. Others are secondary, they are made by mixing two primary colors
- Some of you have warm colors (red-yellow-orange) and will use a light blue paper
- Some of you have cool colors (blue-green-violet) and have a peach paper

2. Plan and Draw (5 min)

- Choose a geometric shape for your face (square, rectangle, oval, etc.) Each picture has one big shape. Draw the shape with your choice of pastel
- Draw two lines across your face, keeping within the geometric shape. This way your face is divided in 3 or 4 large areas. You may choose any kind of line (zig-zag, curved, straight, etc.), and draw it in any direction (diagonal, intersecting, etc.)
- Draw lines for neck
- Draw features using lines and shapes. Features do not need to be the same size or shape. The face is abstract, which means you will select only 2-3 features to put on your face (suggest: eyes, nose, mouth). Whatever you choose, draw your features as large as possible; this way it will be easiest for you to color them with your pastels.

3. Color (35 min)

- Hold up two fingers...these two fingers are going to be your “paintbrush.”
- For pastels, you don’t smear colors together with the palm of your hand. All you need are just the tips of your fingers. When your fingers get dirty, ask for a wipe to clean them and then you can change colors.
- After all the shapes are completed, block in shapes with colors—and blend colors—with different colored pastels.
- Fill in each of your large shapes and features with a different pastel color. You may choose to build up one color, or layer and blend different colors within each shape
- Try to use different hues, or colors, next to each other; this way your faces will look very colorful and interesting (blue next to green, red next to orange, etc.)

4. Complete and Share (5 min)

- Emphasis: With a black crayon, outline head and neck
- Decide which lines and shapes you want to stand out. Trace over with a black crayon
- Using corner of pastel, add smaller highlighted accents of color for finishing emphasis
- Sign name, bottom right corner
- Give a title
- Share

**Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)**

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Spray artwork with pastel fixative **outside** the classroom (do not allow children to be present when spraying and close doors to the classroom)

Line papers on the ground next to each other and allow each to dry for a couple of minutes before returning to classroom.

Return pastels to containers

Return all materials to bin

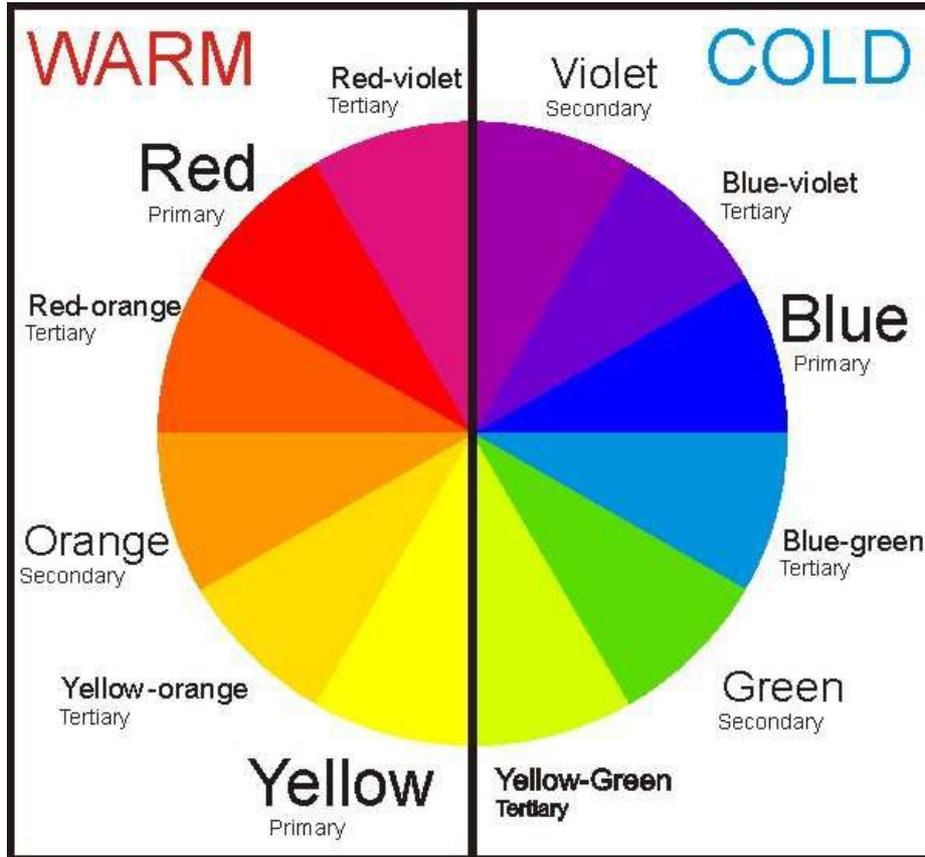
Return all materials to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



*Senecio: Head of an Old Man, Paul Klee*



Warm & Cold Color Wheel



Abstract Portrait by Pablo Picasso



Student Samples  
Abstract Faces