

Color Crazy

From the FAM permanent collection

FAM
FITCHBURG
ART MUSEUM



Morgan Russell, (American, 1886-1953)
Synchromy (Eidos), c. 1922-23,
oil on canvas mounted on board. 1998.1



Carol Summers, *Aetna Waking*, 1960,
ink on paper (woodcut),
Gift of Herbert A. Colby in memory of
Charles F. Godley, 1981.20



Asante (Ashanti) artist, Ghana
Woman's Kente Cloth Garment (wrapper), c.1950,
silk, 14 hand-woven strips sewn together,
Museum Purchase, African Acquisition Fund, 2019.14



Edwin Ambrose Webster (American, 1869 – 1935)
Cactus, St. Paul, 1925, oil on canvas.
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Sleeper

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Looking for Inspiration

Artists use color to express a mood or emotion, to show warmth or coolness, or as a symbol. Think about colors in terms of emotions: We say we're "feeling blue" when we feel sad, and when we're angry we might think of the color red. In many cultures specific colors symbolize specific events, such as wearing green on St. Patrick's day, or, in Buddhist countries, wearing white at a funeral.

- Notice the types of colors used in each artwork. Are they bold, soft, dark, or light? Do they make the artwork feel warm or cool? How do they make you feel?
- Notice how the kente cloth uses color in rectangular shapes to make a pattern.

Materials Painting and/or collage materials

Instructions Experiment with color!

For Painting:

- Experiment by using untypical colors for the subject you choose to paint, like making a blue apple or a green dog.
- Try painting lots of different shapes in different colors right next to each other, like a puzzle.

For Collage:

- Cut out areas of solid colors from magazines. Cut the magazine scraps, construction paper, patterned paper, and/or fabric scraps into different shapes. You might choose to make all geometric shapes (made with straight lines), or all organic shapes (made with curvy lines), or a combination of both.
- Arrange them in a design on a piece of paper. Think about what colors you want to put next to each other.
- Glue the shapes down. Add sequins, buttons, recycled bottle caps, or other small craft supplies.