



CIRCLES, CIRCLES, CIRCLES

A lesson about pattern
Sonia Delaunay: Color Moves: Art & Fashion
Karen La Du – MFA, Ed.



Sonia Delaunay: 1885-1979

- Born in Gradisk, Ukraine. Educated by a wealthy relative in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- She was a successful abstract painter who was also a designer.
- Her designs were applied to clothing, home décor, stage sets, books, & car interiors.
- She sold her designs in her shop in Paris; *Boutique Simultané*, during the 1920's.
- Her paintings were not widely acclaimed until the 1950's.
- She often collaborated with her husband, the artist Robert Delaunay.
- Together they formulated many theories of color, geometry and light.

Rhythm
Sonia Delaunay
Oil on canvas
Exhibited at Salon des Tuileries 1938
Private Collection
Image copyright 1970: Sonia Delaunay



Materials:

- Watercolor paper: 18" x 24"
- Watercolors, tempera, or acrylic paints
- Assorted sized brushes
- Rulers and t-squares
- Compasses or round tracers in many sizes
- Soft graphite pencils

Process:

- Engage students in a discussion of colors and geometric shapes.
- Encourage color mixing experimentation on scraps of paper or matboard.
- Discuss how different sized circles could be arranged to form a pattern.
- Point out the central organization of the circles of *Rhythm*.
- Have students lightly draw a vertical line down the middle of the paper.
- Demonstrate using compasses/tracers to arrange circles in an all over design.
- Emphasize the necessity to draw lightly.
- Review painting techniques and care of painting materials.
- Allow sufficient time to complete the paintings.
- Ask students to consider how their pattern could be used on an everyday object.

Vocabulary:

- Design
- Pattern
- Primary colors
- Secondary colors
- Tints and shades
- Concentric circles
- Geometric shapes

National Core Arts Standards

SWABT

Students will be able to: