



arts CORPS

**MAKE ART
ANYWAY.**

ART ACTIVITY
INSTRUCTIONS:

**ARE YOU DOWN WITH OPP?
OPTICAL ILLUSION ART PROJECT**

@ARTSCORPS

#MAKEARTANYWAY

OPTICAL ILLUSION PROJECT

Discipline: Visual Arts

Duration: 45 minutes

Age Range: Ages 14 - 18

Creator: Greg Thornton

Contact:
integration@artscorps.org

Materials:

Paper
Pencil
Black Sharpie
Colored Pencils
Eraser

Vocabulary:

Abstract Art
Convex
Concave
Complementary Colors
Shading

Have you ever looked at a drawing and wondered: How did the artist make this art that makes me think my eyes are playing tricks on me?

Learning Goals:

- You will learn how to create optical illusions with lines, shapes and forms.
- You will learn about the terms **concave** and **convex**.
- You will learn what **complementary colors** are.
- You will learn shading techniques that will help with the illusion of roundness and depth in a drawing on flat paper.

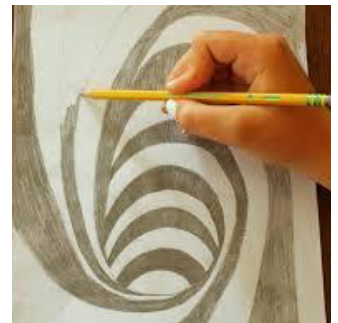
Activity Opening:

Let's look at some drawings together!

I want you to notice that there is 3D (three-dimensional) effect on all of these drawings, but these drawings are flat (two-dimensional.) Today you will learn some techniques to help you get a 3D effect in your drawings.



Look at this work by MC Escher. The skewed reflection of Escher gives the illusion of roundness in the orb and the hand gives the illusion of the roundness of the orb. Here are some other flat drawings that appear to be 3D:



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#CreativeSolidarity

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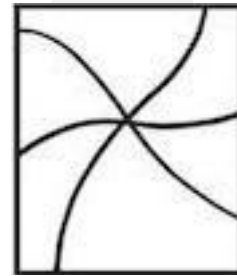
Abstract Art
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Steps/Instructions:

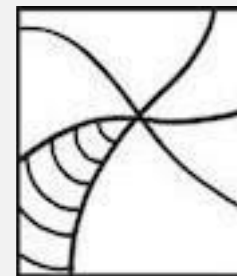
1. Draw a dot in the middle of your page.



2. Add an even number of lines from the dot to the edge of the page.



3. Draw **convex** curved lines. A convex curved line is an outline or surface curved like the exterior of a circle or sphere.



4. In opposite sections, draw **concave** curved lines. A concave curved line is an outline that curves inward like the interior of a circle or a sphere.

5. Fill the page with convex and concave curve lines switching back and forth between convex and concave in each section.



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6. Choose a **contrasting*** color scheme. Note: Create a **3D value** by coloring darker near the edges and coloring lighter in the middle of each section.



*Complementary colors contrast because they are opposite on the color wheel. Example: Red and Green, Orange and Blue, Yellow and Purple.

See color wheel below.



Activity Closing:

- What strategies did you learn today?
- Does your art play tricks on your eyes?
- You have created an optical illusion!

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO
VERSION OF THIS LESSON.**

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