Kandinsky Inspired Binary Code Concentric Circle Pattern

Lesson on Patterns

(*art + patterns*)

For Kandinsky, color meant more than just a visual component of a picture. Color is its soul. In his books, he described his own perspective on how colors interacted with each other and with the spectator in detail and very poetically. Moreover, Kandinsky was a synaesthete, i.e. he could 'hear colors' and 'see sounds.'

Perhaps one of Kandinsky's most widely recognizable works, Squares with Concentric Circles was not actually created to be an independent artwork, but rather a small study on the perception of different color combinations. Part of his artistic process was to perform studies like this, combining different color combinations with different shapes to see which felt the most 'right'. He would make several versions of these studies using loose brushwork, and always VERY saturated colors.

GRADES *K-5* Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Objective: Students will explore the use of color and how each colors appearance changes as it physically relates to other colors. They will also the use of patterns in art.

Preparation

Begin this lesson by looking at patterns and colors, have children pick out patterns in the room. For example, floor tiles, wall paper, clothing, etc. could be used as examples. Through this activity, ask children to explain what makes a pattern and what doesn't. Then have a discussion about the colors in those patterns. This would both introduce patterns and observations about color relationships as everyday occurrences, while also defining them in relatable and accessible words for your students.

Student Prompts

-Notice how the color red, for instance, looks different when it is next to colors like yellow and orange(colors next to it on the color wheel), and compare that to how the same red appears next to green or blue(colors opposite red on the color wheel).

- How do they relate to one another? How does the pattern 'feel'? How does the same color in 2 different patterns appear different based on the surrounding colors?

-What is your impression of these colors/patterns?

-Are patterns always manufactured? Can they also be natural?

Process and Materials to Follow