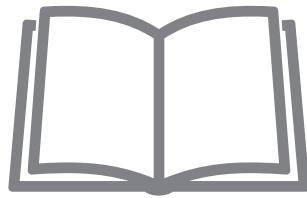


WOODMERE

ARTISTS IN BLOOM

ACTIVITY WORKBOOK

GAMES//COLORS//PLAY
ABSTRACTION



This workbook is designed to be viewed as a booklet with facing pages.
To view this document as intended, please download and open the pdf. Enjoy!

WELCOME!

Featured in this workbook are paintings that focus on **ABSTRACT** art. In abstract art, artists use colors, shapes, lines, textures, and patterns to show feelings, energy and movement, or a sense of place. Abstract art can be inspired by, but may not look like, something from real life.

Discover how artists use color in endless ways. Some use colors to tell a playful story; some mix colors to create light and shadow; others use colors that create a mood or express a feeling.

The inspiration of the art will help you explore many possibilities with color. Use markers, colored pencils, crayons, oil pastels, and watercolor paints for the activities in this book.



MOE BROOKER

American, born 1940

I Can't Keep From Singing #2

2001

Oil on paper

Woodmere Art Museum: Museum purchase,
with funds generously provided by The Barra
Foundation Art Acquisition Fund, 2003

Moe Brooker grew up in South Philadelphia. His work is influenced by jazz, graffiti art, his grandmother's quilts, and church choirs. **Colors** make his pictures sing, just like musical notes.

This painting was inspired by the beautiful gospel song "How Can I Keep from Singing?." Rich colors, shapes, and lines flow up and down like the melody of the song.

Let's look at the **shapes**, **colors**, and **lines** that make this **abstract** painting.

Shapes can feel like musical beats in an artwork. Find the big shapes. Find the smaller shapes.

Compare the big and small shapes to see which shapes feel fast and which feel slow.

Diagonal **lines** create a sense of movement. Use your finger to follow the **movement** of diagonal and zigzag lines. Feel the difference between lines that move with **short lines** and others that move with **long lines**.

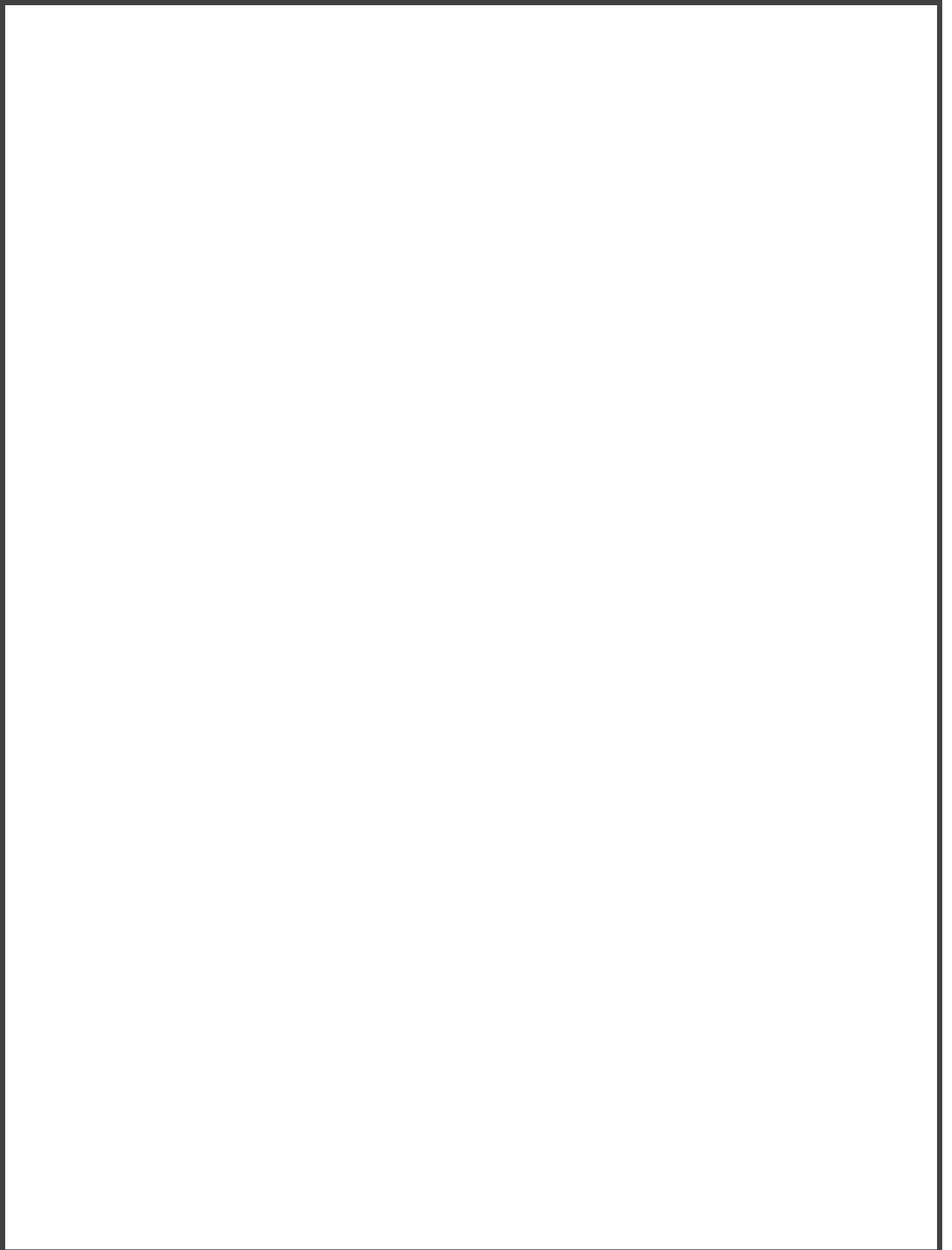
Colors create **mood** and **atmosphere** in an artwork. Imagine hearing the colors. Some can feel loud in comparison with others that seem quiet. Look at all the colors and decide which colors are loud and which are quiet.

What kind of feeling or mood does this painting give you?

On the next page:

Create your own abstract picture. Think of a song, feeling, or a favorite place. Is it quiet or loud? What colors come to mind? What shapes? What lines can you use to express the movement and energy?

Or, go outside and use colored chalks to make an abstract picture on the sidewalk!





MORRIS BLACKBURN

American, 1902-1979

Study for Appalachian Spring

1946

Watercolor and graphite on paper

Woodmere Art Museum:

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. B. Herbert Lee, 2016

Morris Blackburn began this colorful painting using a pencil. His curvy **lines** gracefully flow all over the paper.

Blackburn was inspired by the musical composition, *Appalachian Spring*, by Aaron Copland. It tells a story of American pioneers in the 19th century, living in a farming community in Pennsylvania, near the Appalachian Mountains.

Follow a line that curves horizontally across, from one side to the other.

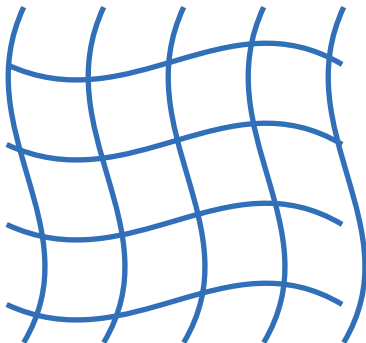


Follow a line that curves vertically, up and down.



What happens when these lines **intersect**?

When lines cross over one another, or intersect, they make **shapes**.



After the artist drew the lines, he used watercolor paint on white paper to fill the shapes with **colors**. The colors seem like lights. What colors do you see?

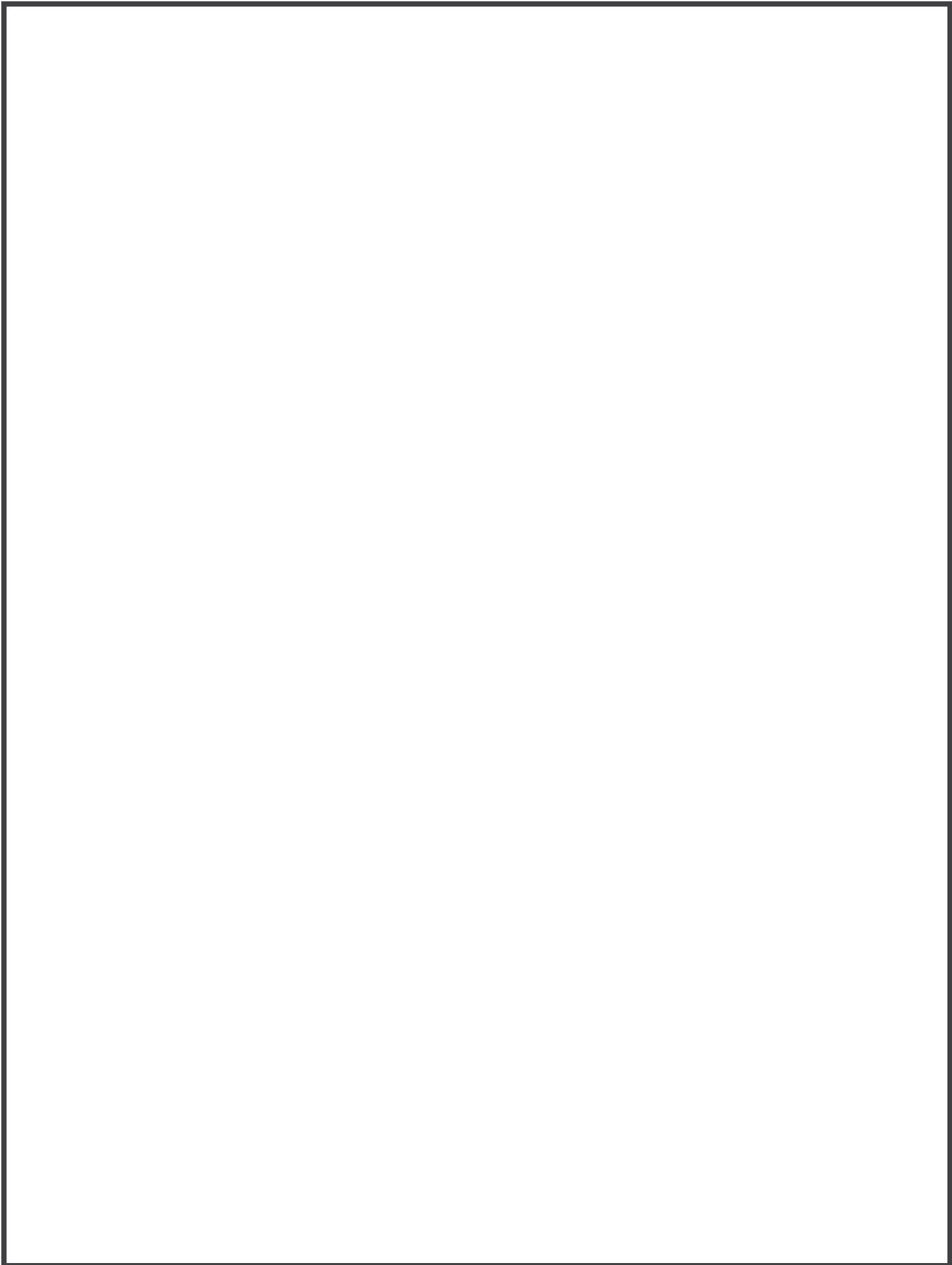
Blackburn chose curvy lines to show the feeling of the music, of sunlight spreading over rolling hills. How might this be different if he used straight lines or zigzag lines?

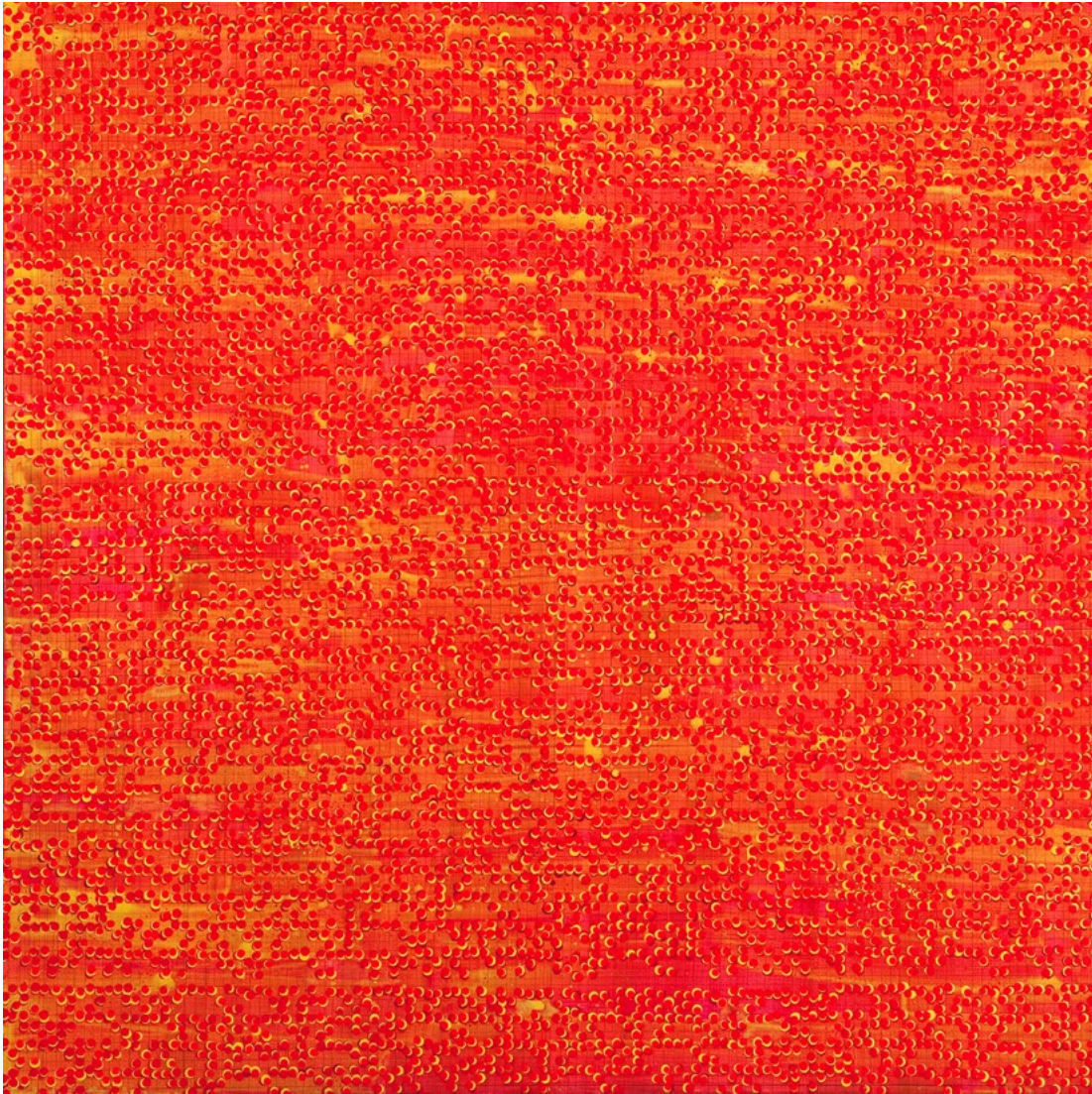
On the next page:

Decide if you want to hold your paper vertically or horizontally.

Think of a place or a song. Draw curvy, straight, or zigzag lines across, up and down, and over your paper. Discover the shapes you make with intersecting lines.

Add color. Try using watercolor paint. The more water you use in watercolor paints, the more it dilutes the color which makes it paler. With less water and lots of paint on your brush, the color will be bolder.





JURI KIM

American, born Korea 1964

Melancholic Exception

2010

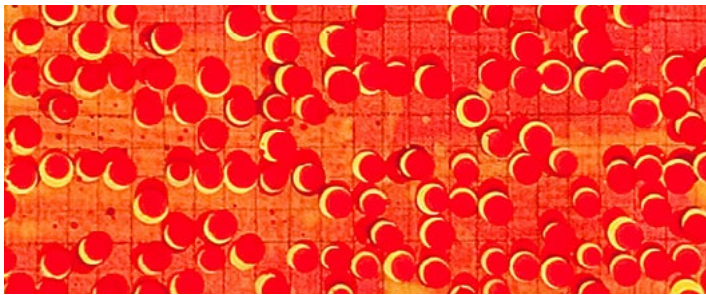
Acrylic on canvas

Woodmere Art Museum: Gift of the artist, 2011

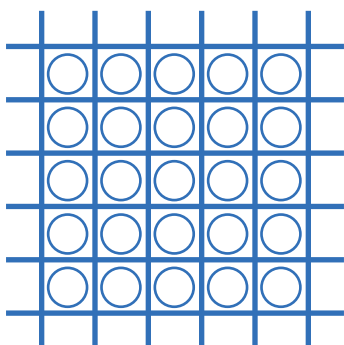
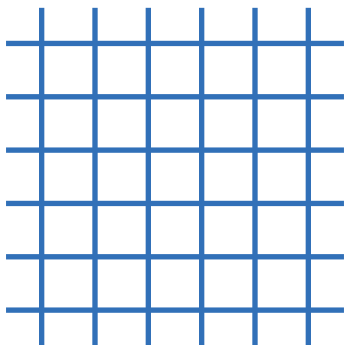
What **colors** do you see in this painting?

What **shapes** do you see?

What's hard to see, unless you look at a detail, is how the painting's surface is made up of tiny red and yellow circles on top of a painted surface.



The artist **Juri Kim** began this artwork by drawing a grid and painting the surface a mixture of red, yellow, and orange. A **grid** is a picture made up of **vertical** and **horizontal lines** that criss-cross at right angles. Kim then drew circles inside the squares of the grid.



The artist used only **RED**, **YELLOW**, and **ORANGE** for this painting. These colors are in a family called **WARM**. These are the colors of the sun and fire, and often give a feeling of happiness and excitement.

Look at the big painting. How do these colors make you feel?

BLUE, **GREEN**, and **PURPLE** are in the color family called **COOL**. These are the colors of night, the ocean, and forests, and often give the feeling of calm.

Look on the next page to experiment with how this painting would look using only cool colors. Then experiment using a combination of warm and cool colors.

On the next page:

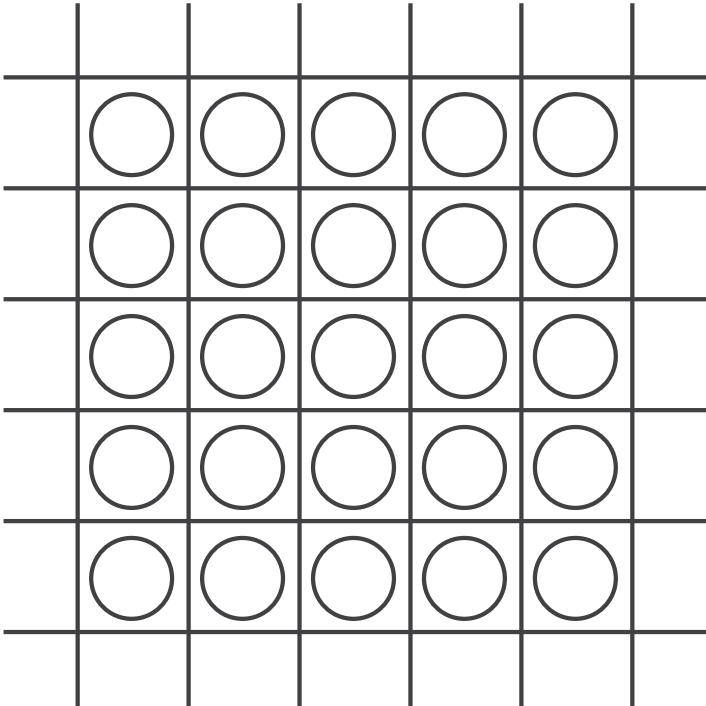
See how Kim's painting would look and feel differently with cool colors.



Then see how warm and cool colors affect each other when they are used together.

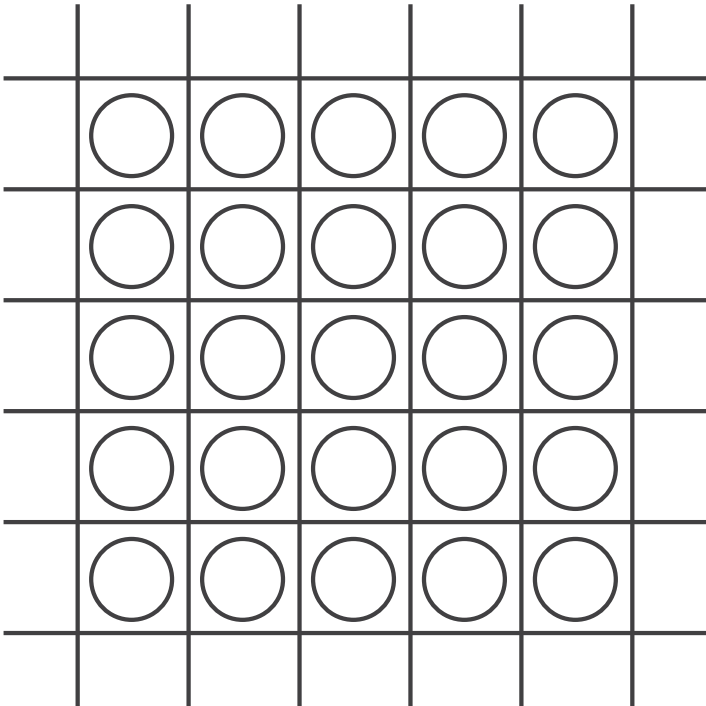
Color the circles in this grid a **cool** color.

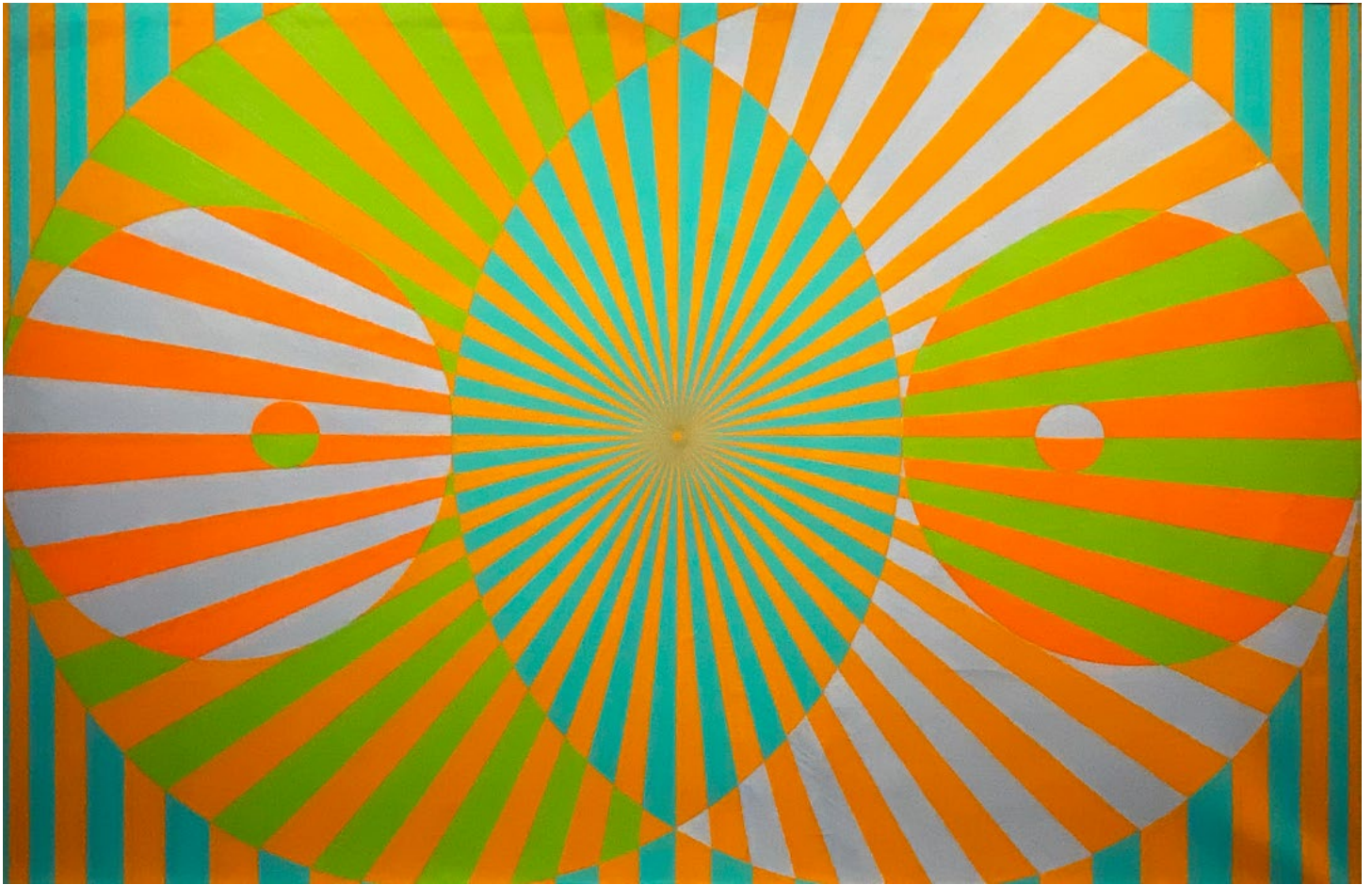
Color the space around the circle with different **cool** color.



Color the circles in the grid with a **cool** color.

Color the space around the circles with a **warm** color.





EDNA ANDRADE

American, 1917-2008

Ahmet Hello

1967

Oil on linen

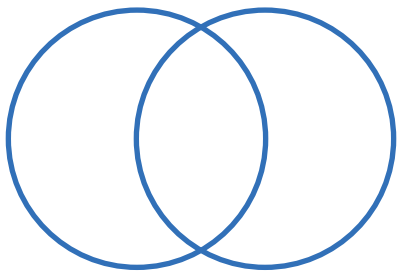
Private Collection

This painting by **Edna Andrade** is an example of **Op art**, short for “optical art.” Optical relates to how we see. Op art uses colors, shapes, and lines to create a sense of movement and vibration.

Edna Andrade taught Color and Design at the University of the Arts where she gave her students exercises called “problems with colors and shapes.” These exercises led her to create paintings with optical effects of **colors** and **shapes**.

What colors do you see in this painting?
What colors and shapes “jump” forward?
Which move back?

Andrade’s painting is based on a **Venn Diagram**, a picture with two large circles that overlap in the middle. Find the Venn Diagram in this painting.



The middle shape shows the color both circles have in common. What color is that?

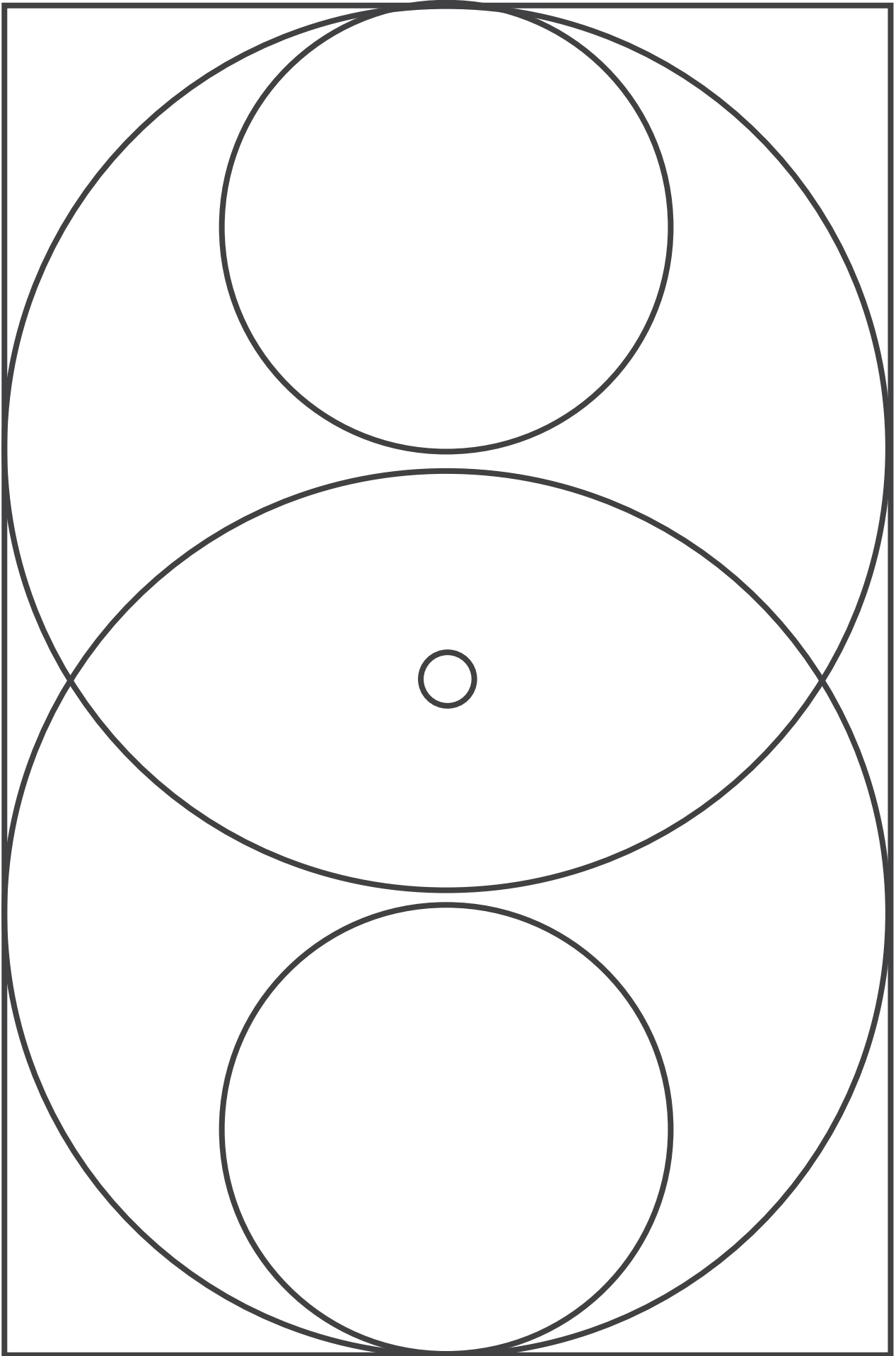
Andrade has set up a system of orange **diagonal** lines radiating out from the center. The orange diagonal lines alternate with green and blue throughout the painting.

There is only one space in this painting with a pattern of **vertical** lines. Can you find it?

On the next page:

Hold the drawing horizontally. Use the Venn Diagram to set up patterns of lines, shapes, and colors. *Optional: use a ruler or straight edge to draw your lines.*

See what optical illusions you create when you place a warm color such as **RED**, **YELLOW**, or **ORANGE** next to a cool color such as **BLUE**, **GREEN**, or **PURPLE**.





MAGDA VITALE

American, born 1939

Before the Storm

2000

Oil on paper

Woodmere Art Museum: Gift of the artist, 2011

Before the Storm is an **abstract landscape** by Magda Vitale, whose colorful, gestural paintings convey memories and observations of nature.

Here the artist paints large **shapes** of rich **colors** that move from edge to edge across the painting.

Have you ever seen the sea before a storm? In some places it is calm, while in other areas it is choppy.

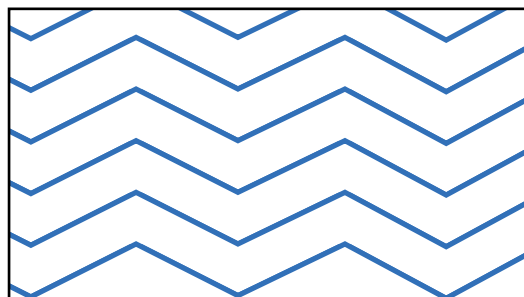
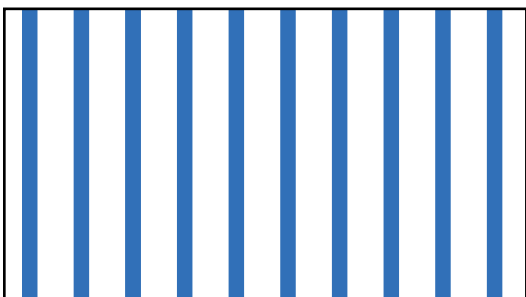
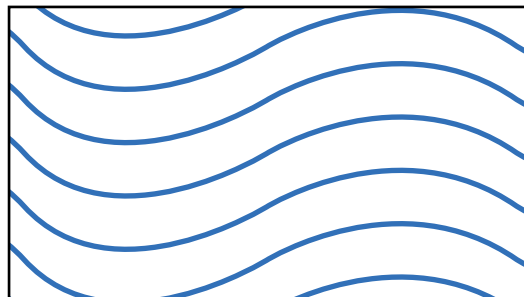
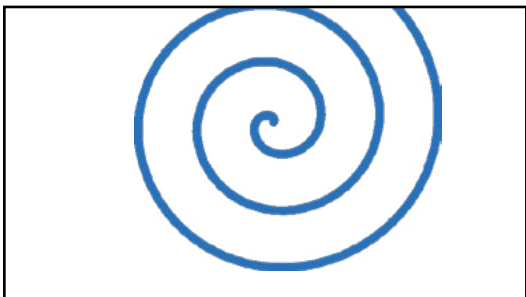
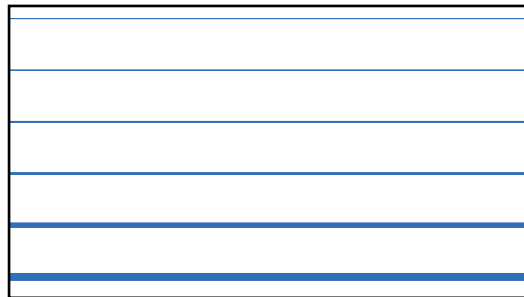
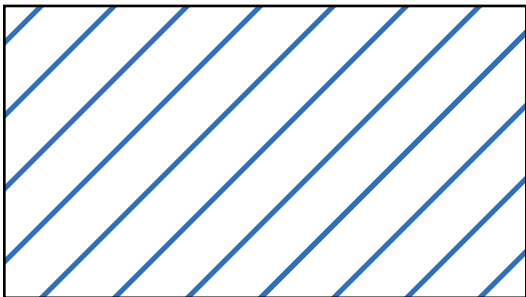
On one side of this painting, a sense of calmness is shown with **patterns** of **horizontal lines** and shapes. This is different from the **patterns** on the other side made up of **curving lines** that sweep up and down to capture the feel of wind on the water.

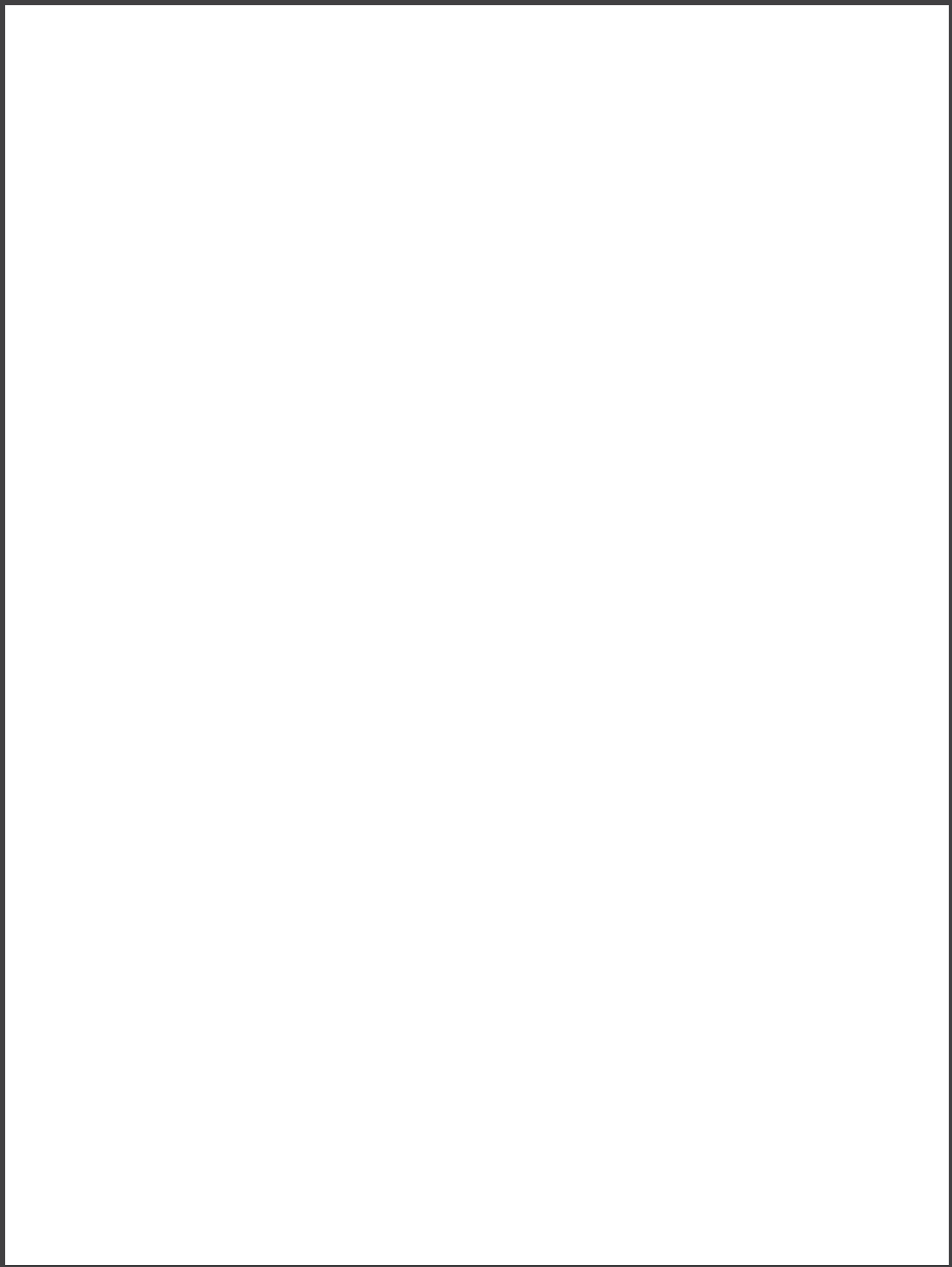
Find the horizontal, thick blue line near the top of the painting. This is called a **horizon line**, an imaginary line that artists use to separate the sky from the earth. A pattern of dark pink and blue lines move across the sky. We sense the growing energy of the coming storm.

On the next page:

Create your own abstract landscape. Decide if you want to hold the paper vertically or horizontally.

1. Draw a **horizon line** from edge to edge. It can be straight, curvy like hills, or zigzag like mountains or waves.
2. Draw more **lines** above and below to divide the sky, land, or sea into **shapes**.
3. Draw **patterns** of lines within selected shapes to suggest movement, calm, or stillness. (See box of lines)
4. Add **color** to express the **mood** of your landscape.





WoodmereArtMuseum
TELLING THE STORY OF PHILADELPHIA'S ART AND ARTISTS

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