“Kandinsky Color Study”

Objective: Students will explore color mixing to create Kandinsky-inspired work

Materials
- 12"x 18" White Drawing Paper
- Red, Yellow and Blue Liquid Tempera Paint
- Medium-sized paintbrushes
- Reference: Color Study: Squares with Concentric Circles by Kandinsky
- Paper plates or other mixing trays

Motivation
- Review the primary colors.
- Read Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh and/or watch OK Go’s Primary Colors video to introduce or review color mixing.
- View Color Study: Squares with Concentric Circles by Kandinsky. Ask students how they think Kandinsky created some of the different colors in the painting.

Step 1: Divide Paper
Using a series of three folds, students will divide their papers into eight sections. First, students will take their papers and fold them in half from left to right to create folders. Next, students will fold the folders in half from left to right to create long, skinny rectangles. Finally, students will fold these rectangles from top to bottom. When the papers are opened back up, each student will have eight equal rectangles to work with.

Step 2: Mark Grid and Centers
Using yellow paint, have students trace over the folds with their brushes to make the sections more prominent. Using the red, yellow and blue paint, have students paint small circles in the centers of each section of paper.

Step 3: Paint Concentric Circles
Have students create concentric circles around their center circles using the primary colors as well as colors they mix themselves. You can ask them to mix and use the secondary colors, or simply let them experiment. Remind students to stop each set of circles once they touch the yellow grid.

Tip: If using paper plates, encourage students to keep their mixed colors separate so they don’t end up with just one shade of brown to use.

Tip: To extend this lesson, you can have students add details (stripes, spots, lines, designs, etc…) with paint or oil pastels during a subsequent class period.

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