



Lesson: Abstract Pet Portraits

Ages: 6-10

Projected time: 30 min to 1 hour

Supplies needed: Pencil and paper and either crayons, colored pencils, or paint.

Project Intro: Pets move so quickly, but since they're around us so much we know a lot about them! Look closely at your pet, notice what shapes they're made up of. You can also do this project using a picture of any animal. Draw shapes to figure out the different parts of your pet, then draw an outline around the shapes so you can create your abstract pet portrait. Look at artist Paul Klee for inspiration. There are so many kinds of lines and shapes that you can use! Use any shapes you can think of to make your pet's portrait!

Artist or Medium Reference: Paul Klee (1879-1940) was a Swiss painter who also lived in Germany. He was a pioneer of abstract art and used both line and color in exciting ways. Check out some of his paintings of animals, at the end of this lesson, for inspiration as you work on your art today.

Vocabulary:

Abstract art is art that does not represent something exactly.

Line is an important element of art, what kinds of lines can you think of? Lines can be straight, curvy, zigzag, they can cross or do all kinds of things!

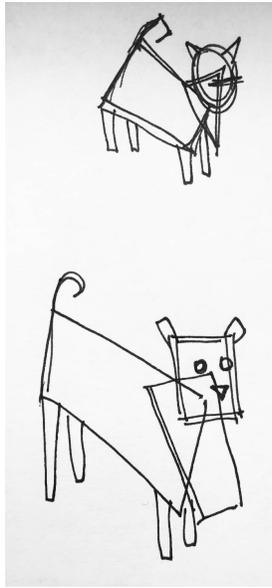
Shape is another element of art that artists use a lot.

Geometric Shapes are shapes that we hear about in math, like circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, rhomboids, even stars.

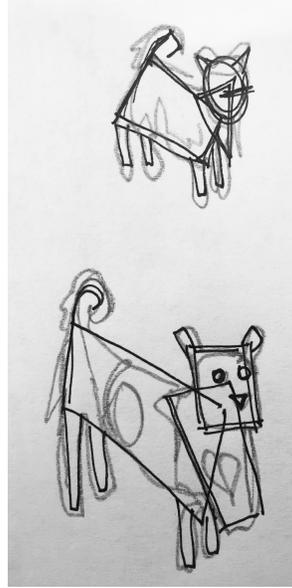
Organic Shapes are shapes found in nature, like clouds, trees, carrots, animals, wiggly ovals, etc.



This is Daisy the dog...



Step 1 – Shapes



Step 2 – Outline



Step 3 – Color!

Project steps:

Step 1: Look carefully at your pet or animal picture.

Do you notice any shapes? What do you see?

Do they have a round or square head?

Are their ears pointy triangles or long and droopy ovals?

Is their body round, oval, rectangular?

Whatever you see will work great. These shapes don't have to be exact... remember your artwork is going to be abstract!

It's up to your creative imagination, just have fun!

Step 2: Draw the shapes that you see when you look at your animal friend. These shapes can overlap, but they don't have to. What do you see?

Step 3: Outline your animal! All kinds of lines work great here, just be creative!

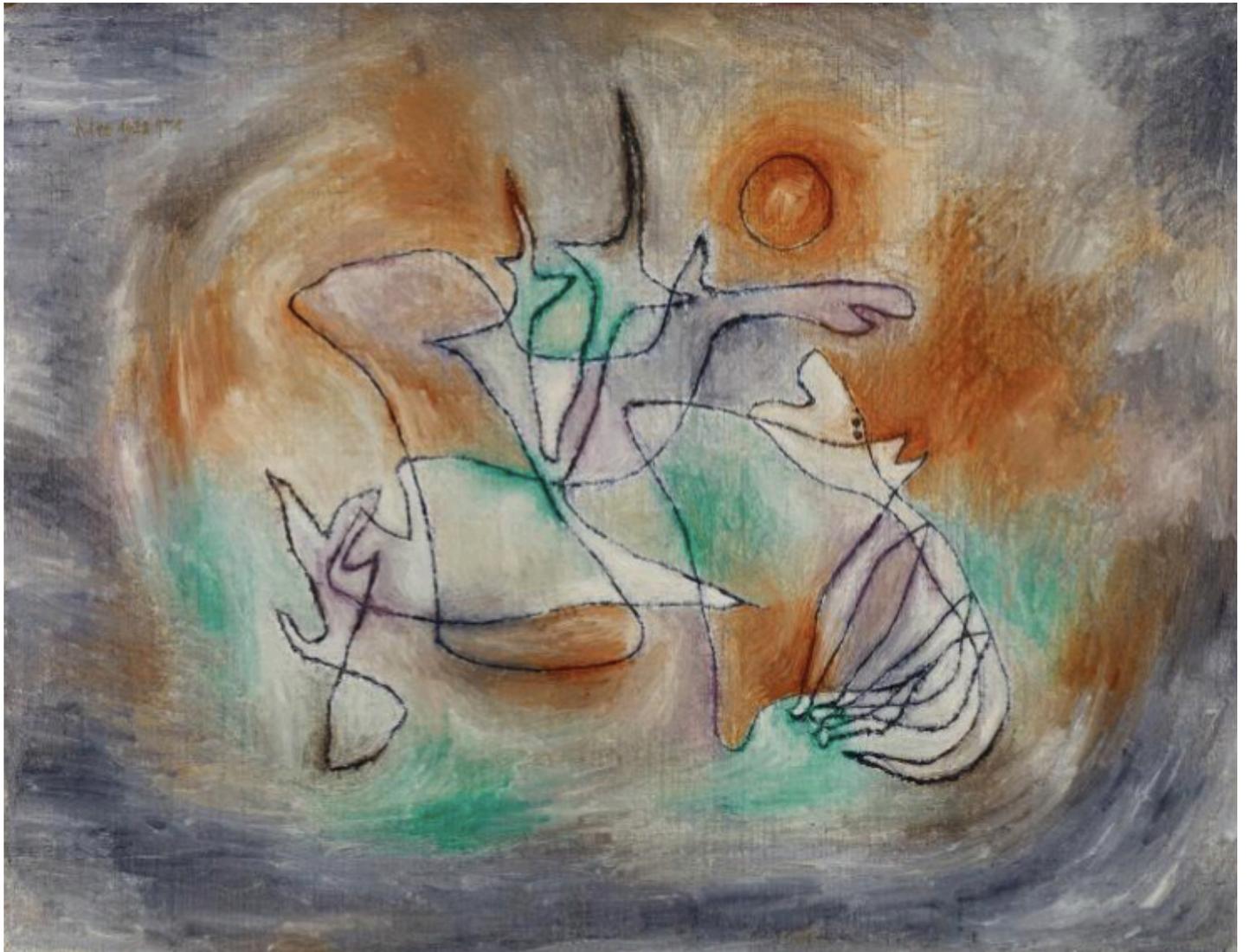
Step 4: Color in your drawing. You can use anything you have. For the examples below I used watercolor on the top drawing, and colored pencil on the bottom, to show you how ANY sort of material can get a great result with this project. Use your creative imagination!



Paul Klee, *Cat and Bird*, 1928



Paul Klee, *Fish Magic*, 1925



Paul Klee, *Howling Dog*, 1928