

Real to Abstract



INTRO

- [Theo van Doesburg](#) + [Piet Mondrian](#) worked closely together as leader of [de Stijl art movement](#). They believed the abstract qualities they loved and used in their paintings - simple geometric shapes, vibrant contrasting colours while discarding all unnecessary detail expressed a new social order + harmony after the world-wide atrocities of the preceding era.

EQUIPMENT

- **Materials:** Pencil, rubber, cloth, Soft chalk or Oil pastels + white, A2 or A2 paper
- **Resources:** Photo of your pet, a cow! Or objects for a still life

ARTIST IMAGES

- [Theo van Doesburg](#)
- [Piet Mondrian](#)
- [Patrick Heron](#)

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 - **#artroom516** – use at the end every post message

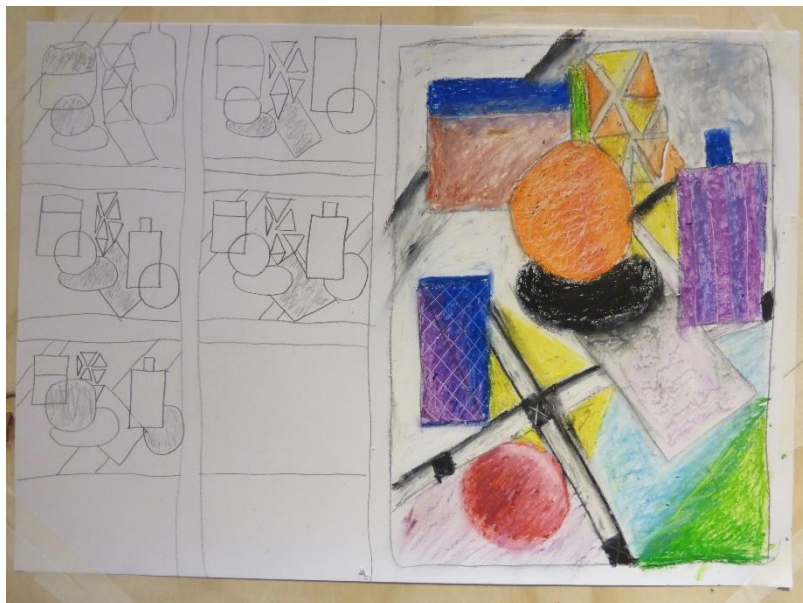
Real to Abstract

TASK 1

4 or 6 -steps to abstraction (or more if needed)

This task is following a similar process as van Doesburg did with his cow drawing

STUDENT EXAMPLE



1. Layout your page by drawing 4 or 6 x frames (about A5/A6 size) on your page. You can use them either portrait or landscape direction.
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2. In your first frame: make an accurate well observed [naturalistic](#) drawing of your subject
 - a. You can choose a photo of your pet, a cow, or set up a simple still life of 3-5 objects
 - b. Concentrate on achieving accurate shapes and tonal shading (light, middle, dark tones)
 3. In the next 3 or 5 frames: re-draw your subject simplify it each time until you have an abstract image based on your original drawing.
 - a. Look for simple geometric shapes within the naturalistic shapes you have in your 1st sketch
 - b. Create shapes from within the objects you have drawn and from the background until you merge the 2 spaces into a flat image.
 - c. You can be more flexible than van Doesburg and use a wider range of abstract shapes such as ovals, circles, curves, etc
 - d. Your naturalistic drawing, once transformed into abstract shapes of different tonal values, can be played with, moved, flipped, enlarged/reduced, etc – all in the name of good simple composition
 4. You should now have created a tonal drawing of shapes and tones similar to van Doesburgs final abstract cow drawing.

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TASK 2

From tones to colour

- Copy the shapes of your final abstract drawing (outlines only) onto a full-size piece of paper (A2 or A3 in size)
 - You can make changes and make it even more abstract while copying
- Adding in colour can be done in different ways depending on your preferred style



Take inspiration from [Mondrian](#) by clicking on the link to see an image

- Colour the shapes so they have hard, clearly defined edges.
- Colour the inside of the shapes with uniform blocks of colour with minimal variation
- Use black outlines but vary the thickness for added interest



Take inspiration from [Patrick Heron](#) by clicking on the link to see an image

- Be more painterly – show your mark-making and allow colours to mix a little
- Colour the shapes so they have soft edges as if the shapes are overlapping a bit
- Layer your shapes so it looks like you have coloured the same shape multiple times on top of each other, slightly shifting the position + size of the shapes
- Use either soft chalk pastels or oil pastels depending on your preference.

TASK 3

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