



Elements: Color & Shape

Principles: Contrast

Materials:

- 9" x 12" white construction paper
- Black sharpie (fine tip)
- Oil pastels (or crayons)
- Pencil

Instructions:

1. Explain to students that they will be drawing a stalk of corn, either realistically or stylized and show the sample art.

2. Use a painting from **Kandinsky** (see below) whose colorful art showcases the use of circles, to provide an example of modern (or stylized) art. Use a painting from **Caravaggio** (see below) to illustrate realistic art.
3. Remind students of the differences between **warm** colors and **cool** colors. Let the students select several colors for their stalks. Also talk about the difference between **geometric shapes vs natural shapes**. OPTION: bring in a few stalk of actual corn, or Indian corn, for reference.
4. Have students **lightly sketch** which style of corn stalk they prefer to draw using pencil. Let them know that for the realistic corn there is no need to draw the individual kernels with pencil, as that can be done with sharpie instead.
5. After sketching 5 minutes or so (keeping it very basic), have students **sharpie outline/draw** for about 15 minutes.
6. Once marker is finished, have students **erase pencil** where needed.
7. Next, have students **add layers of oil pastel colors** to their corn stalks.
8. For textured background, have students use a peeled oil pastel for a rubbing. OR keep background white (though adding a bit of color helps to hide smudging).
9. Have students help clean their desks and put their name on the art.



Russian artist **Wassily Kandinsky** – *Squares with Concentric Circles* – 1913



Italian artist **Michelangelo Caravaggio** – *Basket of Fruit* - 1599