

## Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Project

Spotlight on CAM's Collection

### SONIA DELAUNEY

About the Artist:

“One who knows how to appreciate color relationships, the influence of one color with another, their contrasts and dissonances, is promised an infinite variety of images.”

**Sonia Delaunay** (November 14, 1885 – December 5, 1979) was a Ukrainian-born Russian artist, who spent most of her working life in Paris. She formally trained in Russia and Germany before moving to France and expanding her practice to include textile, fashion, and set design. She co-founded the Orphism art movement, noted for its use of strong colors and geometric shapes, with her husband Robert Delaunay and others. She was the first living female artist to have a retrospective exhibition at the Louvre in 1964, and in 1975 was named an officer of the French

Legion of Honor. Orphism is a style of painting is noted for its use of strong colors and geometric shapes. The poet Guillaume Apollinaire called Delaunay's new style of abstract work "Orphism" in reference to the musician Orpheus in Greek mythology whose music had magical powers.



## ART AT HOME – COLORFUL CANVAS

### What You'll Need:

- Large thick Paper (printmaking paper, poster board, canvas, etc.)
- Pencil and eraser
- Dark Marker
- Compass, or different sizes of circles to outline
- Ruler
- Several Colors of Paint (can substitute with other coloring material like chalk or markers)
- If using paint, paint brushes and containers for each color of paint

Look up images of Sonia Delauney's work for inspiration before you begin. You will notice many paintings that use concentric circles with lines drawn through them to create other geometric shapes. Keep these ideas in mind when creating your design.

- Step 1 – Lightly begin to outline a series of concentric circles on your paper. Try to keep at least an inch or two between circles so it will be easier to color in later. Take up the whole paper!
- Step 2 – Once you have your circles laid out on the paper, begin to lightly draw straight lines through the center of the circles to create other shapes.
- Step 3 – Once you are happy with your design, outline every line with your marker.
- Step 4 – Lay out all your colors of paint (or coloring material) so you can see all your options at once. Begin to paint in each shape in your design. Stagger the colors so that the same two colors of paint do not touch.
- Step 5 – Lay your painting outside to dry.
- Step 6 – Give your painting a title!
- Step 7 – Help clean up your supplies and workspace.

### Tips:

- During the drawing phase of your project, use very light lines so that you can make changes if you decide to, or erase easily.
- Before you begin painting, give some thought to your color combinations – think of interesting pairings or set of colors, decide if you want the colors want to go from light to dark, or if you want the pattern to be random, etc.

### Questions to Ask One Another:

- Does your painting look like something specific to you? Did you have that image in mind when you were doing the design, or did it happen on its own?
- Turn your painting on its side – how does it look different? Give it a new title! Keep doing this as you rotate the work entirely.
- Did you find yourself focused on color? Did you focus on something else, for example the shapes, or the overall composition?

### Follow Up Project Idea:

- Take your work outside! Do this same project on your driveway, sidewalk, etc. for the whole neighborhood to enjoy!