

# CHALLENGE: Abstract

## Color Blocking

When you first look at an abstract photograph, you will likely not recognize the subject. This forces us to use our imagination and take a closer look at the image. For this activity we are going to practice color blocking. Color blocking is when you choose two or three different colors and use them boldly in your image. Color blocking uses color as a compositional tool, and is the subject of the image.

## MATERIALS

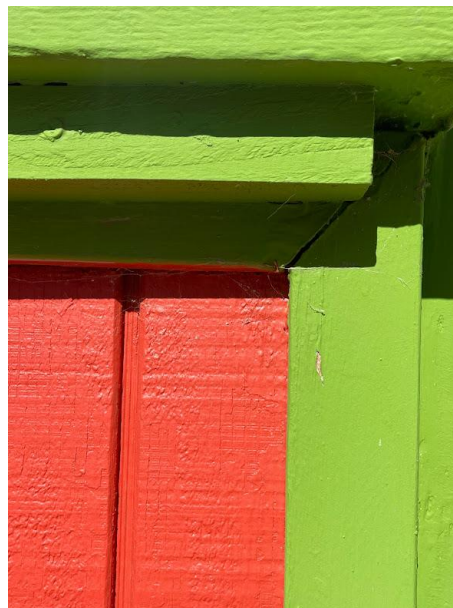
A device to take pictures with (Camera, smart phone, or tablet)

A colorful area to explore

## EXAMPLES



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## STEPS

### Vocab

- **Abstract-** does not attempt to represent reality, instead it focuses on elements of art like shape, color, form and texture.
- **Complementary Colors-** Two colors opposite on the color wheel like; yellow and purple, red and green, orange and blue.
- **Composition-** The way in which different elements of an artwork are combined or arranged.
- **Crop-** Remove or adjust the outside edges of an image (typically a photo) to improve framing or composition, draw a viewer's eye to the image subject

### Elements of Art

- **Line-** Can be vertical, horizontal, curved or jagged. Examples: roads, sunsets, bridges
- **Color-** Using warm or cool colors to set a mood
- **Texture-** how a surface feels (rough, smooth, wet or dry, soft or hard)
- **Shape-** shapes are generally flat, two-dimensional objects that can be characterized by their recognizable shape (circle, square, star, figure). They can be geometric or organic.
- **Space-** Either negative or positive space can be used to make a statement

#### Shoot

- Walk around and begin to look for colors that stand out to you and try to find complementary colors next to each other
- Once you find two bold colors you like, begin taking some photos
- Get in close and crop your colors
- This is an abstract image so we should not be able to easily recognize the subject
- Color is the subject of this image so make sure it's the star!
- Creating abstract images can be tricky, so take a lot of photos and start practicing

#### Tips

- Try out using interesting points of view, like a worms eye or birds eye
- Zoom into the colors you are focusing on
- Look for interesting textures in your color blocking
- Find shapes of different colors
- Take a color walk around your neighborhood and look for each set of complementary colors

## SHARE

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