

ELEMENTARY

**LAURA MOSQUERA**  
CONTEMPORARY LATINA ARTIST

Exploring  
Cultural  
Heritage

## WHAT WE LEARNED

- Laura Mosquera is a contemporary Latina abstract artist. We defined each of those terms.
- We were introduced to other abstract artists: Frankenthaler, Pollock, Kandinsky and Matisse.
- We identified places important to Laura's life.
- We discussed an artist's process from planning the work to designing an art show and beyond.

## ART ACTIVITY: ABSTRACT PAPER COLLAGE

The students made a collage from their choices of papers. They used geometric and organic shapes to illustrate feelings about a particular topic.

## CONNECTIONS AT HOME

Explore these resources to increase your understanding of Abstract art:

- [Learn more about Abstract art:](#)
- [Abstract painting project](#)
- [Art With Mati and Dada: Kandinsky](#)
- [Art with Mati and Dada: Henri Matisse](#)
- [Make with Tate Kids-Live: Collage](#)
- [Frank Stella Art lesson #1 by Art Squid](#)
- [Frank Stella Art lesson #2 by Art Squid](#)

## LIBRARY BOOK LIST FOR FURTHER READING

- *The Noisy Paintbox: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art* by Barb Rosenstock
- *The Swimmers: Paper Cut Outs with Matisse* by Ms. Bianchi
- *Art Museum Opposites by Friedland and Shoemaker Spy Shapes in Art* by Lucy Micklethwait
- *The Art Book for Children, Book Two* by Amanda Renshaw (reference pages 46-47, 50-51, 58-59, 62-65)
- *Discovering Great Artists* by Kohl and Solga

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

## FOR PARENTS

Abstract art can be intimidating and misunderstood by many. Making abstract art can be similar to writing poetry or music in that often the goal is to convey a feeling, rather than a realistic image. Ask your child to tell you about his/her collage. What was your child trying to communicate?



## MATISSE AT HOME

Can you make your own version of “The Snail”? Matisse was sick in bed and could not paint. He used colored pieces of paper and scissors to make a picture of a snail. Can you see how inventive he was to change media when his circumstances changed?

### Materials for 2 Projects:

- Colored paper (Optional, white copy paper that you can color or paint and then cut up)
- Scissors
- glue stick
- pencil
- patterned scrapbook or wallpaper
- fur
- sandpaper

**Directions:** Choose a piece of paper to be the background of your work. Using the different colored papers, cut out random shapes. Glue the shapes on to the background paper to form the shape of a snail. Then, make another collage of a different animal. Experiment using different patterned papers and textures.

## TRY A KANDINSKY

Kandinsky connected music and his painting. See what this music looks like!



### Materials:

- paper
- paints
- paintbrush
- cup to rinse brush
- device to play music from the links below

**Directions:** Ask a parent to help you play one of the following songs: [\*Carnival of the Animals: The Aquarium\*](#) or [\*Carnival of the Animals: Fossils\*](#) by Saint-Saens. While you listen to the music, paint with the colors and strokes that feel like the music you hear. Abstract art is often intended to reflect the artist’s feeling. See if you can reflect the feeling of the song? If you finish one song, you can choose a different song to paint.

## M&G EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G’s goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.

