

Monday's with MoMA!

STEP 1 - Look Closely



To get a closer look, visit this website, then click on the image for a larger view: [mo.ma/2UOQ5QZ](https://www.moma.org/artists/alejandro-otero)

Questions:

How does the artist use lines, shapes and colors to create rhythm and movement?

What sounds do you imagine this work might make?

What effect might it have if the shapes were arranged differently?

STEP 2: Learn More

This work, by Alejandro Otero, is called *Colorhythm 1*. It is part of a series of 75 paintings in which he used the same basic elements: brightly colored shapes and alternating light and dark bands. He arranged these elements in compositions that suggest different rhythms.

Compare *Colorhythm 1* with two other artworks from this series:



Colorhythm 12: mo.ma/3hrHU6W



Colorhythm 39: mo.ma/37KZU89

STEP 3: Activity

Materials: colored paper, magazines, or any other colorful paper you can find, scissors, a blank piece of paper, glue (*optional*),

1. Collect magazines, flyers, or newspapers that have a lot of colorful pages and images. Or you can use colored paper if you have it.
2. Cut various shapes out of colorful papers. Cut strips of different lengths from dark-colored papers.

3. Arrange these shapes and strips in different compositions. Try overlapping them in different ways. See what it looks like when they are close to each other or spaced far away. Experiment with horizontal and vertical formats.
4. Fill up your whole sheet of paper with the shapes and strips.
5. *Optional*: When you are happy with your composition, you can glue it down or take a photo of it.

STEP 4: Share!

Ask a friend or family member to tell you what sounds they think your artwork might make. Or, you can share your artwork with us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org



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Images: Alejandro Otero. *Colorhythm, 1*. 1955. Enamel on plywood. Inter-American Fund. © 2020 / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / AUTORARTE, Venezuela; Alejandro Otero. *Colorhythm 12*. 1956. Lacquer on wood. Promised gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros through the Latin American and Caribbean Fund in honor of Clara Rodriguez-Cisneros. © 2020 / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / AUTORARTE, Venezuela; Alejandro Otero. *Colorhythm 39*. 1959. Lacquer on wood. Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros through the Latin American and Caribbean Fund. © 2020 / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / AUTORARTE, Venezuela

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