

Interacting Colors
Painted Paper Collage inspired by the artwork of [Emma Amos](#)



Visual Art Concepts:

Shape
Color

Materials:

- 5 - 7 sheets of white paper - multimedia, watercolor, construction (paint 6 with one as the backing)
- Various colors of acrylic paint
- Paint brush, water cup, paper plate or plastic lid for palette
- Scissors
- Glue stick

Artist Inspiration

[Emma Amos](#) (March 16, 1937, - May 20, 2020)

“I like that people can read their own meanings into my paintings and that those readings may be quite different from mine.”

“My work has often taken shots at assumptions about skin color and the privileges of power and of whiteness.”



Emma Amos loved color. As a weaver she always loved yarn; as a painter she loved relying on color. She enjoyed painting on linen canvas as it reminded her of working with fabric. Emma Amos was fascinated the relationship of colors and how they look when put next to different colors. She may be best known for her Falling Figures Series. Her figures float in space and appear disjointed with head and shoulders at the bottom of the canvas, and a pair of legs at the top. She said she liked the idea of somebody trying to catch and hold on to you.

Emma Amos, Out in Front, 1982 3 25 18 –artsmia
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STEPS

- 1.** Paint collage materials to cut into shapes and assemble. Think about a figure as a silhouette. This figure could represent you, anyone, or anything. Your figure will be floating in some way. Think about the colors in the environment you want to represent. A city scene may consist of greys, yellows, red, while a forest scene may have greens, browns, and blues.

- 2.** Use paint to cover the entire side of each paper with just one color. Continue until you have each piece of paper painted a different color. Try mixing colors on a palette to get unique hues. Let papers dry.



- 3.** Think about the types of shapes in your environment: nature may be represented with organic, freeform shapes, buildings may be represented with geometric shapes. Draw and cut your figure and shapes from your painted papers. As you cut, begin to layer and arrange shapes on a backing piece of paper.
In the example, there are stylized shapes for mountains, rocks, the beach, seaweed, sky and sea. The figure is looking out with wind blowing through my hair.
- 4.** Continue to cut, arrange, rearrange, overlap and layer until you achieve the look you want. Explore and notice how the colors interact with each other. You may want to take a picture to remember the order for gluing. Then, glue each shape down flat until all are securely attached.
- 5.** Share and display your artwork! Notice and enjoy how the light where it is displayed will change the appearance of the colors you painted.