Henri Matisse
Art Docent
Third Grade

Materials:
White cardstock
Colored paper to cut up
Scissors
Glue

Elements Included:
Shape
Color
Space

Principles Covered:
Movement
Rhythm
Balance/Harmony
Contrast

Present Slideshow

Demonstration:

1. Have students cut desired shapes out of colored paper. **They are free to use as little or as many colors as they would wish, but they need to cut out at least a dozen shapes or more.** They can have repetitions of the same shape if desired (I had one student make all blue shapes, with just one red shape that was visually awesome in the past!)

2. The students can cut out some simple rectangles to use behind their organic shapes if they wish. Have them cut at least 10 different shapes and sizes.
3. The students can arrange their cutouts on the white cardstock until they are satisfied with the balance and the UNITY of the composition.
4. Then have students glue the cutout shapes onto the white cardstock with the glue sticks. They should glue the rectangles down first if they want to keep them behind the organic shapes (like the second picture).
5. Have the students sign the back of their papers.

Lesson:
Excuse the students back to their seats to work on their collage paintings. Talk about the difference between ORGANIC and GEOMETRIC shapes. How does Matisse include both? How can you include both to CONTRAST and create visual interest? Discuss how Matisse used the paper to “paint” the shapes- he used COLLAGE to layer the paper and create visual depth and movement instead of brushes and paint. What are the differences? Can you see brush strokes in the collage?

Samples:



