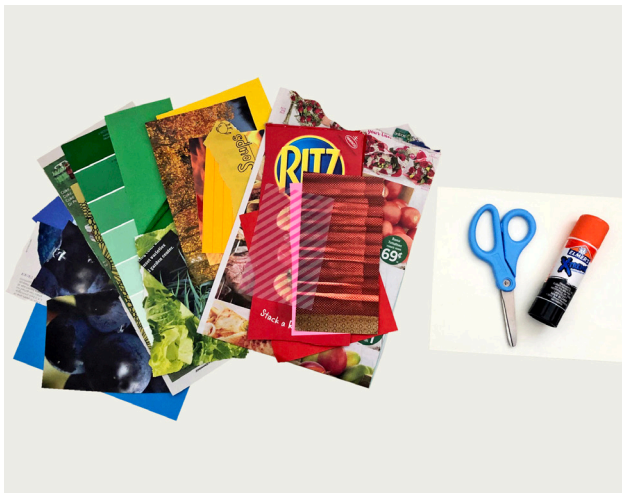

Norton Simon Museum

Art-Making Activity **Color Expressions**

Vassily Kandinsky (Russian, 1866–1944) recalled that, at the age of three, one of the colors that impressed him was a “bright juicy green.” The artist used such a color many years later in his painting *Open Green*. As an artist, Kandinsky believed that music and art were connected and that color and shape could affect mood. How do the colors and shapes in *Open Green* make you feel?

In this art-making activity, explore how colors can express mood by creating a collage using different colored papers.

Vassily Kandinsky (Russian, 1866–1944), *Open Green*, 1923, oil on canvas, The Norton Simon Foundation



Materials

- Collage papers of different colors (from magazines, newspapers, advertisements, scrap papers, snack boxes, etc.)
- Construction paper
- Thick paper or cardboard (base for your collage)
- Scissors
- Glue



1

Take a moment to check in with yourself by closing your eyes and noticing how you feel. Is there a color(s) that matches your mood? Think of other colors and what moods you would associate with them. Then gather your papers and sort them by color. For inspiration, consider playing some music that evokes similar feelings while you make your collage.



2

Begin by cutting your color papers into shapes. If the colors you are thinking about are similar, you can sort them by their value, the lightness or darkness of the color.



3

Explore different ways of arranging your papers onto your thick paper or cardboard base.



4

Then, glue your shapes down onto your base.

Finally, take a moment to look at and experience the different colors and feelings of your artwork—a colorful expression of yourself! Share your creation with a friend or family member.

