

# Norton Simon Museum

## Art-Making Activity: Decorative Cards

In *Heavy Circles*, Vassily Kandinsky (Russian, 1866–1944) explored overlapping, colorful circles—one of his favorite shapes—floating in space. In *From Cool Depths*, he used sprayed watercolor and stencils to create his design. Experiment with overlapping shapes by tracing objects from around your home that remind you of a friend or loved one, and then create a decorative card for this special person.



Vassily Kandinsky (Russian, 1866–1944): *Heavy Circles*, 1927, oil on canvas and *From Cool Depths*, 1928, watercolor on wove paper, mounted on cardboard, Norton Simon Museum, The Blue Four Galka Scheyer Collection

### Materials:



- White cardstock or other thick paper cut to 6.5" x 10" (fits a 5" x 7" envelope)
- 3–4 objects that remind you of a friend or loved one
- Color pencils, crayons or markers
- Collage papers
- Scissors
- Glue

## Steps:



To create a card, fold your cardstock in half, so that the shorter sides of the paper touch.



Begin by gathering objects that remind you of a friend or loved one. For example, my best friend loves to bake, so I chose items from my kitchen. (For larger objects, choose just a section.). Then arrange the objects on your card, experimenting with overlapping shapes.



Once you have an arrangement that you like, tape the edges of the objects to the table to keep them in place. Then trace them onto your card.



Thinking about your friend or loved one's favorite colors, use color pencils, crayons or markers to color in your composition.



Explore adding collage to accent your shapes.



Open the card, and write a note inside, sharing the special meaning behind your design.