

Landmarks Guide for Older Children



Sol LeWitt
American, 1928–2007

WALL DRAWING #520
1987/2013

Colored ink wash on wall

Subject: Instruction-Based Art

Activity: Follow instructions to create a work of art similar to Sol LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #520*

Materials: Paper, pencil, red, yellow, and blue crayons or colored pencils

Vocabulary: Composition, geometric, horizontal line, vertical line

Introduction

Sol LeWitt (1928–2007) wrote instructions for making works of art that other people create. LeWitt once said, “The idea becomes the machine that makes the art.” He included shapes, lines, and color in his instructions the same way composers use musical notes to express their ideas.

Sol LeWitt's compositions continue to be created by teams of people who follow instructions he wrote when he was alive. *Wall Drawing #520* took a team of six people 20 days to execute.

Questions

What geometric elements do you see in *Wall Drawing #520*?

How is he different from a musical composer?

How is Sol LeWitt similar to a musical composer?

What colors do you see?

How did he make each color?

Activity

Using paper, a pencil, and colors, follow the instructions to create an image:

Make a shape by drawing two horizontal lines and two vertical lines, all the same length and connecting end to end. Repeat the first step two times to make three shapes. Color one shape red, one blue, and one yellow. Fill the background with green scribbles by overlapping blue and yellow scribbles.

Compare your artwork to your partner's. How are they similar? How are they different?



Vocabulary

Composition - An artistic arrangement of shapes and colors in a work of art

Geometric - Simple shapes such as lines, circles, squares, and triangles

Horizontal line - Points from side to side

Vertical line - Points up and down