

COMPOSITE SHAPE

A shape is a visually perceived area created either by an enclosing line or by color or value changes defining the outer edge. Our visual perception is dependent on our ability to recognize borders and boundaries that separate **figure** (positive shapes) from **ground** (negative shapes). When shapes touch and combine, they form what's called a **composite shape**.

Objective: Explore different representations through varying shape - natural, geometric and biomorphic. Continue study of successful compositions and balancing positive and negative space. Explore design ideas that deal with flat space/shape. Explore acrylic paint techniques.

Sketchbook Assignment: Choose **two small or medium-sized objects**— they must be from life. (Not from imagination, but photographs are okay. Must take your own photo.) Choose objects where you can recognize interesting negative space. Hand tools, kitchen utensils & plants are good choices.

1. Arrange the two objects in ways so that they overlap and sketch **9 thumbnail sketches illustrating different composite shape compositions.** These sketches are done from life or from your photographs. Printing/tracing is an option in your process.
 - a. 3 thumbnails are the shapes rendered naturally.
 - b. 3 thumbnails are the shapes rendered in a geometric style.
 - c. 3 thumbnails are the shapes rendered in a biomorphic style.
2. Final choice of composite image *must* touch all four sides.
3. Final choice of composite image must show positive and negative space working harmoniously.
4. Achieve as much detail in the outer edges as possible.
5. You can change the original size of the objects if that serves your design idea.
6. Play with the acrylic paint in your sketchbook before starting on the Bristol.

Assignment: Create a composite image using shape. Fill in EITHER all the negative space OR all the positive space with flat black acrylic paint. Fill in the other with white acrylic paint. Use little to no water in your paint mixture and try to achieve a flat, even surface area. Consider craftsmanship when painting edges. Leave no area of your paper raw - all areas (shapes) should be painted black or white.

Follow the border / reversal prompt demonstrated in class.

Materials: 14 x 17" Bristol, black and white acrylic paint, brushes, palette (DIY), tape, drawing materials

Below: Examples.

