

*“More important than having a romance with the object that I’m drawing, is to have a romance with the mark that I am making.”*

**Grade Level:** 1st – 4th grade  
**Time Required:** 2 45-min. class periods

**Objective:**

Students are introduced to several works of contemporary art associated with shapes, and make a piece of their own art inspired by Jim Dine’s famous heart motif.

**National Core Arts Standards**

**Creating:** #1, 2, 3  
**Presenting/Producing:** #5  
**Responding:** #7, 8, 9  
**Connecting:** #11

<http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>

**Vocabulary:**

Contemporary Art  
Complimentary  
Analogous  
Color Scheme  
Mark  
Warm/Cool  
Harmonious

**Materials:**

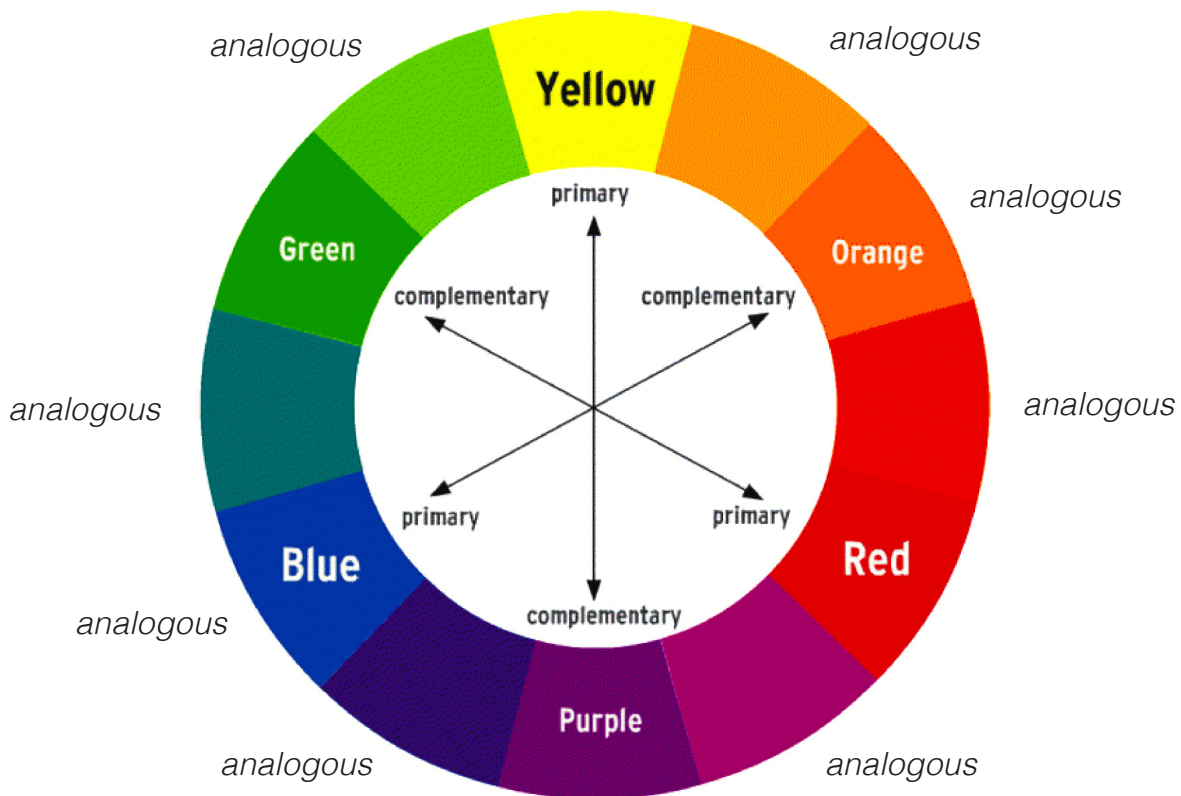
FC Tempera Paint  
Brushes – flat and round  
Pencils  
White 9x12 Construction Paper  
Paper plates and paper towels

[www.greatartstartshere.com](http://www.greatartstartshere.com)  
[www.fabercastell.com](http://www.fabercastell.com)

## **THE ART OF SHAPES, by Margaret Steele, 1997**

The Art of Shapes is a unique board book teaching young students and adults alike about the many different shapes, each one corresponding to a piece of contemporary art with some short text discussing it.

For the month of February, the heart shape embraced by the contemporary artist Jim Dine is celebrated. Get out the paint, and have a Happy ValenDines Day!

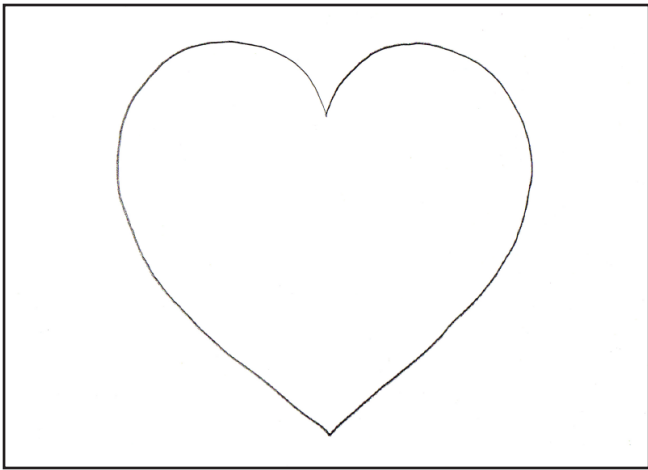


### **Painting Stations**

Set up different painting stations with tubs of analogous complementary color schemes which students can choose from for their artwork. The art shown in this lesson plan is created with the complimentary colors of red and green, along with their analogous colors positioned on either side of them on the color wheel. Refer to the above color wheel to understand and consider other possible color schemes to offer.

Keep tubs of color clean by instructing students to take turns using the brushes provided in each tub of paint, and not dipping brushes into different colors.

Include a tub of white paint at each station and demonstrate how lighter tints of colors can be made by adding varying amounts of white to new tints that they create on their own paper plate palettes. Provide extra mixing brushes for this, with a small water container for brush cleaning between colors.



**1. Demonstrate** how to draw a large freehand heart shape on 9x12 white paper. If students are young, you can prep each piece of paper with two dots as drawing guides; one at the bottom point of the heart, and one top center.



**Begin** with the background, and show how to start with the first color and make random splotches, or “marks,” throughout the paper. Repeat method with the second analogous color, and then the third. Go round and round using different sized brushes with these colors and any tints created, creating a harmonious effect.



**3.** Once the backgrounds are dry, or perhaps during the next class session, set up the stations with the warm, complimentary colors to the backgrounds created with their analogous colors for the heart image. Instruct students to paint the heart in the same fashion as they painted the background.

Mount all artwork on a flattering choice of colored construction paper.