



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-original Art Activities: Abstract Drawing Inspired by Ida Kohlmeyer



Ida Kohlmeyer, *MYTHIC SERIES #31*, 1985, Mixed media on canvas,
Gift of the Roger H. Ogden Collection

Ida Kohlmeyer was an American painter and sculptor who lived in Louisiana. She attended Newcomb College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. She began painting in her 30s and returned to Newcomb College in 1956 to earn her Master of Fine Arts in painting. Kohlmeyer was primarily inspired by **abstract expressionists** such as Hans Hofmann, Mark Rothko, and Arshile Gorky. Inspired by hieroglyphs, shapes and signs, these symbols would show up in her later work. Kohlmeyer's work continues to be a prominent force in art museums throughout the United States!

Incorporate your own symbols into abstract artwork like artist Ida Kohlmeyer.

SEE IDA KOHLMAYER'S MYTHIC SERIES #31 IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL
EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG

Supplies

Colored Pencils or Markers, White Paper, Pencil

Instructions

Step 1: Look at Ida Kohlmeyer's artwork, *MYTHIC SERIES #31*. What shapes and symbols do you notice? What are your favorite symbols and shapes? I chose things that make me happy: sun, heart, banana and a smiley face! One of Kohlmeyer's **techniques** was to plan her **compositions** on a grid before painting her artwork!

Step 2: Use a pencil to draw the shapes that you brainstormed in a grid formation. Start by drawing the first shape in the left hand corner. Draw more shapes in a row across the top of the page. Start a new row when you reach the edge of the page. Continue new rows until you have filled the page with symbols.

Step 3: Use colored pencils to color your shapes and symbols! Use a marker to make your drawing pop!

Step 4: Shade in the background with a colored pencil! I chose two shades of blue to fill the background space. Choose any color you want!

Step 5: The final step is to add embellishments to your drawing. Add more shapes and symbols to fill in the space around your symbols! Squiggles are great to add!

Step 6: Well done! You have just completed a **mixed media abstract** drawing inspired by Ida Kohlmeyer!

Vocabulary

Abstract – an artwork that is comprised of shapes and colors

Technique – how the artist uses their media

Composition – the arrangement of elements within an artwork

Mixed Media – a single material used to create artwork, such as paint. Mixed media is when multiple materials are used

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