

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Age: Elementary

Lesson Duration: 1-2 Hours

Subjects: Geometry & Math

Using and Recognizing Geometric Polygons & Angles in Drawing



Example by Lynn Prewitt

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY CANDICE
SMITH AND ADAPTED BY
MONA EDUCATORS

Description

Students will create drawings implementing the use of identifiable angles and polygons. Inspired by the work of Fay Jones, student will learn to recognize the use of geometry in a piece of artwork.

Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Polygons
- ✓ Angles
- ✓ Acute
- ✓ Obtuse
- ✓ Right
- ✓ Quadrilateral



Materials

- Newsprint
- Drawing paper
- Rulers
- Watercolor pencils
- Q-tips and water color brushes
- Images of Fay Jone's work (included in this lesson)



Photo of Fay Jones
Image Source: Wikipedia

About the Artist: Fay Jones

Fay Jones is a Seattle-based painter who has been exhibiting her work across the West Coast for over 30 years. Her whimsical work often features fictional characters made from watercolor, acrylic, or sumi ink. Jones has been awarded two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships during her career. [Click here for an Artist Talk with Fay Jones.](#)

Instructions

Preparation:

- 1)** Discuss where we see angles and polygons in our room, our school, and our world. Introduce some vocabulary.
- 2)** Display Fay Jones art piece(s) and practice using VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) to guide students in a discussion of the artwork.
 - Full-size images, VTS tips and resources are included at the end of this lesson
- 3)** Ask students if they see polygons, angles, and quadrilaterals. Look for as many examples as possible.

Procedure:

- 1) Demonstrate how to use a ruler to make a drawing that uses straight lines to make angles and polygons. If students have difficulty, brainstorm some possibilities as a group.
- 2) Use watercolor pencils to fill in the geometric shapes. Complete drawing using lines of any type.
- 3) Use brush or Q-tip to add water to the watercolor pencils.

Integration Topics

This lesson could be presented during a geometry unit in mathematics. The discussion might extend into the relative measure of specific angles and include isosceles, scalene, equilateral, square, rectangle, and rhombus.

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **First Grade:** (VA:Cr1.1.1) Engage collaboratively in exploration and imaginative play with materials.
- **Second Grade:** (VA:Cr1.1.2) Brainstorm collaboratively multiple approaches to an art or design problem.
- **Third Grade:** (VA:Cr1.2.3) Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the artmaking process.
- **Fourth Grade:** (VA:Cr1.1.4) Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem.
- **Fifth Grade:** (VA:Cr1.2.5) Identify and demonstrate diverse methods of artistic investigation to choose an approach for beginning a work of art.

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a researched-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that...?
What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to VTS in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: <https://www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators>

Blue Willow Plate (from the Water series) , 1990



Artwork copyright Fay Jones. Photo courtesy of Washington State Arts Commission.

Abandoned Beach (from the Water series) , 1990

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Artwork copyright Fay Jones. Photo courtesy of Washington State Arts Commission.

Flood (from the Water series) , 1990



Artwork copyright Fay Jones. Photo courtesy of North Thurston Public Schools.