

HON Chi-fun

Suggested class activities for Junior Secondary

Artist: HON Chi-fun

Level: Junior Secondary

Theme: My Circles

Suggested length: 3 hours

Teaching concept:

Geometric shapes are fundamental elements of art. They can come together as patterns or as a tool for plotting the composition, conveying the rational side of artistic expression. The circles in HON Chi-fun's works are different, as they are used to express the rich emotions of the artist. Whether he used full circles, partial arcs, or three-dimensional spheres, HON was able to use acrylic paint to create a multitude of effects, infusing his works with different visual space and ambience, and conveying a wide range of emotions and ideas.

Through learning about HON's circles, this course aims to encourage students to explore the possibilities of expressing "self" using abstract circles. Employing different techniques including colour gradation, colour mixing and airbrushing, students express their personal emotions through different colours.

Required background knowledge:

1. The students should have learned about primary and secondary colours, and how to mix and create tertiary colours.
2. They should have learned the concepts of complementary and analogous colours.
3. They should have learned how to paint using the technique of colour gradation with wet paint.
4. They should have learned the concepts of solid and empty spaces, and symmetry.

Teaching goals:

1. Learn about and appreciate HON's creative style and the implications of his abstract circles through his video.
2. Learn the techniques of flat colouring and colour gradation using acrylic paint.
3. Use colour and brushwork to express personal emotions.
4. Learn how to use solid and empty spaces, symmetrical compositions and stencil printing to create circular shapes with airbrushing.
5. Learn about and understand yourself and others through creative works using abstract circles.

Suggested class activities:

1. Introduce HON Chi-fun and his artistic style (Suggested length: 5 mins)

Show the “Artist Introduction ppt” pp1-2

Born in Hong Kong in 1922, HON Chi-fun (1922-2019) started painting as a self-taught painter. In the 1960s he became full-time artist, and founded the Circle Art Group with seven other artists to promote modern art in Hong Kong. In 1969, he went to United States upon receiving a John D. Rockefeller III Fund Fellowship, and studied lithography and etching at the Pratt Graphic Centre in New York.

Most of HON’s earlier works were oil paintings of landscapes. Later, he created numerous paintings and prints employing abstract circular forms. The simple circular form embodies different colours, various brushstrokes, personal feelings and philosophies. His works demonstrate how Hong Kong’s East-meets-West culture gave birth to a unique artistic style.

2. Video viewing guide (Suggested length: 5 mins)

Show the “Artist Introduction ppt” p5

- Appreciate HON’s *When Mountains Roar*
- Check out the artist video and see what HON wanted to express through the work

- What do you see in the painting?
- What do you think that the artist wanted to express through the circular forms?



When Mountains Roar/ 1981
Acrylic on canvas
Collection of the Hong Kong Museum of Art

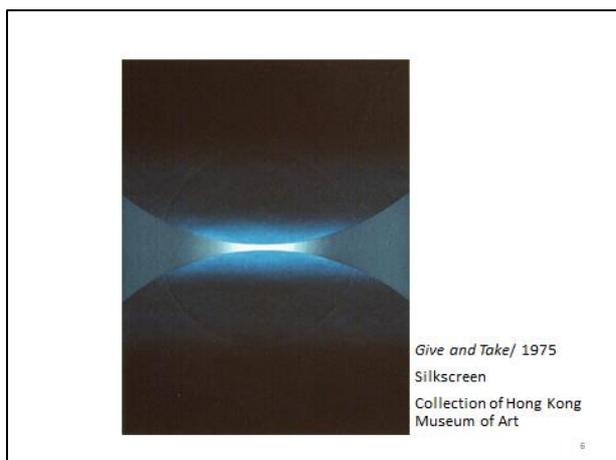
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3. Play the “Artist Video mp4” (Suggested length: 15mins)

Select parts of the video, depending on your chosen area of focus, pausing as needed to explain the content or ask questions.

4. **Appreciation of HON's works (Suggested length: 10mins)**

Show the **“Artist Introduction ppt” pp5-8**



Guide the students to appreciate in the following steps

- Descriptions: Describe the compositions and colours created in the works
(Circle, semicircle, repetitious and superimposed circles. Single, gradient, contrast and analogous colours)
- Formal Analysis: What are the painting methods that HON used in the video?
(Use of acrylic paint and screen printing)
- Explanation: Why does he paint “circles”?
(“Circles” reflects his philosophy, feelings and personality, and by painting “circles”, the artist goes through the process of finding his inner self)

5. **Introduce the art-making process (Suggested length: 10 mins)**

Show the **“Supplementary Teaching Materials p2-9 (Teachers are advised to reference the “Techniques Demonstration Video”)**

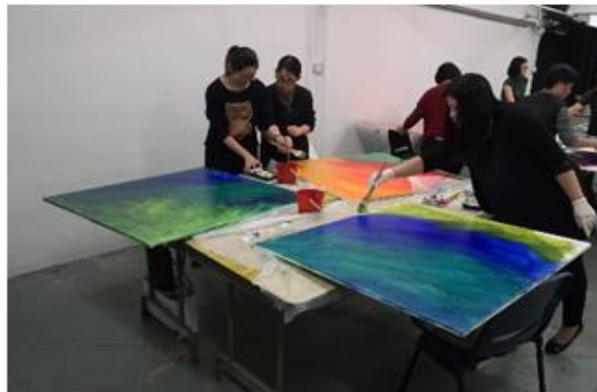
- Framed canvas (Square or rectangular in shape. It should not be too small)



1. Give each student a framed canvas

3

- Creating a background:



2. Creating a background: pick colours that can represent your feelings and apply the colours with heavy brush strokes, using the techniques of colour gradation to fill the canvases

4

- **Mixing the colours:**



The image shows a person's hands painting a canvas with a brush, creating a mix of red, orange, and yellow colors. To the right of the painting is a diagram consisting of three overlapping circles: a large red circle on the left, a large yellow circle on the right, and a smaller orange circle in the center where they overlap.

3. **Mixing the colours:** Mix and paint complementary or analogous colours on the canvases and wait for them to be dried.

5

- **Circular objects:**



The image shows three circular objects. On the left is a red and purple spray can labeled 'Scotch Super 77'. In the middle is a blue plastic lid. On the right is a red plastic bucket with a yellow label that has the Chinese characters '清水' (clear water) written on it.

4. **Circular objects:** Separate into groups and look for circular objects in various sizes in the classroom and create paper stencils in groups

6

- Making paper stencils:



5. Place various circular objects on drawing paper and draw the contours
6. Then, cut the stencils out according to the contours

7

- Applying colours with spray paint:

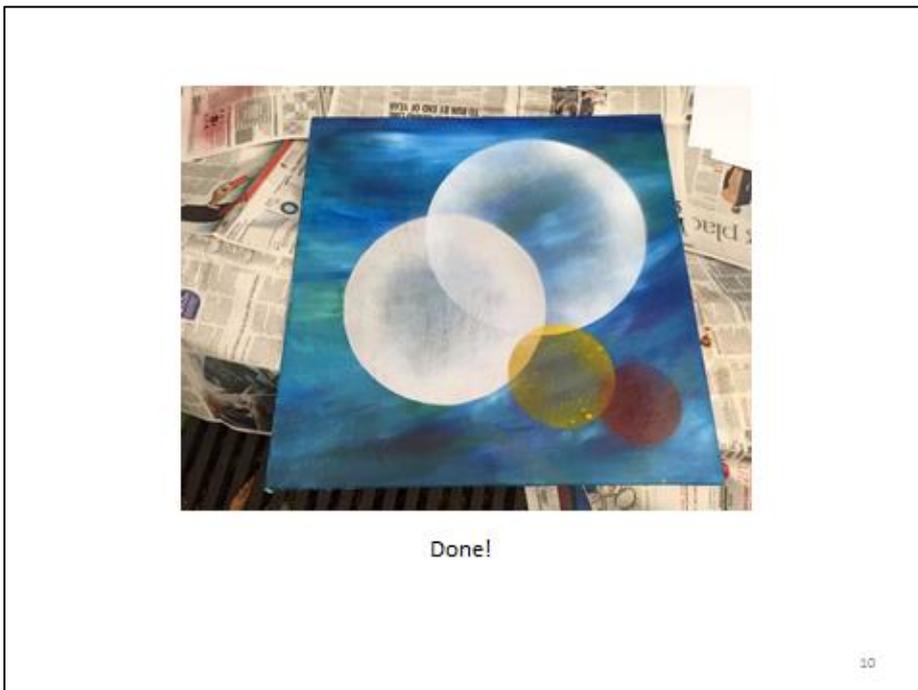
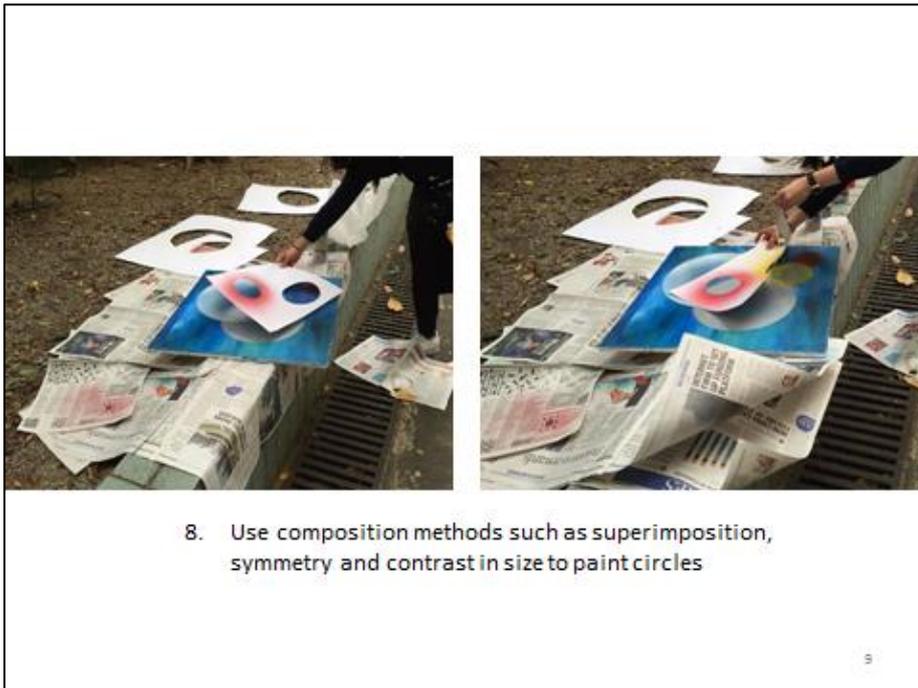
- The spraying has to be conducted in outdoor spaces
- The spraying area has to be covered with waste paper in advance
- The students must put on protective clothing, such as mask, apron and gloves, etc.



7. Place the paper stencils on the canvases and apply colour with spray paint

8

- The composition:



6. **Class activity (Suggested length: 120 mins)**

- Before the students start to paint circles, ask them to calm their minds for a minute and try to associate their thoughts and feelings with the circular form, so that they will be able to express their personality and feelings in their paintings.

7. **Appreciation of the students' works. (Suggested length: 20 mins)**

- The aim of this activity is to allow the students to share their feelings or personality, and appreciate and learn more about each other by sharing their creative works.

8. **Materials**

Framed canvas, acrylic paint, paint brush, paint knives, adhesive tape, scissors, drawing paper, toothbrush, sponge, colour mixing dish.