

# Teaching Materials for Mark Thibeault Exhibit

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

*What skills are necessary for an artist to make abstract art?*

## **Mark Thibeault: Abstract Oil Painting**

Instagram: @markt\_art

[Mark Thibeault Website](#)

“Mark Thibeault’s practice extends across painting, music and lutherie. Working from his Telkwa studio in northern British Columbia Canada, he is inspired by the natural environment, and how it and human experience both continually adapt to the other’s changing influence and needs. The notion of constant change, adaptation and improvisation is part of his creative process. Thibeault’s paintings are rich with varied marks, layers of collage, acrylic and oil paint. The mood of each piece is governed by the previous line’s influence and affect.”

## **PRE-VISIT CONNECTION ACTIVITIES**

*Outcome of activities: brief “project plan” of what the abstract painting they plan to create.*

*Materials needed: pencil, paper, colour wheel (projected or printed).*

- For younger grades: watch this video about basic introduction to abstract art: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEV4PZKI9Es](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEV4PZKI9Es) and pause and discuss at each question.
- For older grades: watch this video about basic designs of abstract art: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJ9T0RF7EI4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJ9T0RF7EI4) and have students take notes of several designs that feel familiar to them, and one design that feels new to them.
  - This video is also available in PDF form: [Basic Designs of Abstract Art Supplementary PDF](#)
- Peruse Mark Thibeault’s “abstract” gallery on his website: <http://www.markthibeault.com/abstract.html>. Have students think-pair-share about each one: *What is the artist doing in this painting? What intentional choices did they make?* Prompt reflection on colour, line, and rhythm.
- Have students make a “project plan” for their own abstract painting. Students should use a colour wheel (find at the end of this document) to choose three colours for the colour scheme, and depending on grade level, they should choose some abstract art techniques they plan to utilize (from the videos).

## **POST-VISIT REFLECTION ACTIVITIES**

*Outcome of activities: abstract art painting.*

*Materials needed: acrylic paints, brushes, OR coloured pencil, OR other medium of teacher’s choice.*

### **Reflection on new learning:**

- Sharing circle: make a circle and ensure that no one is in front or behind anyone else. Explain that a sharing circle is an Indigenous method of learning, and it’s just as important of a job to

be a listener as a speaker. Teachers can pre-read about circle pedagogy and protocol here: <https://passthefeather.ca/sharing-circles/>.

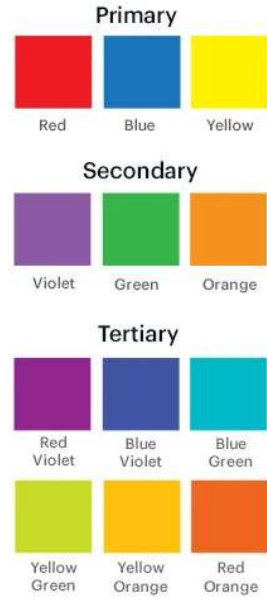
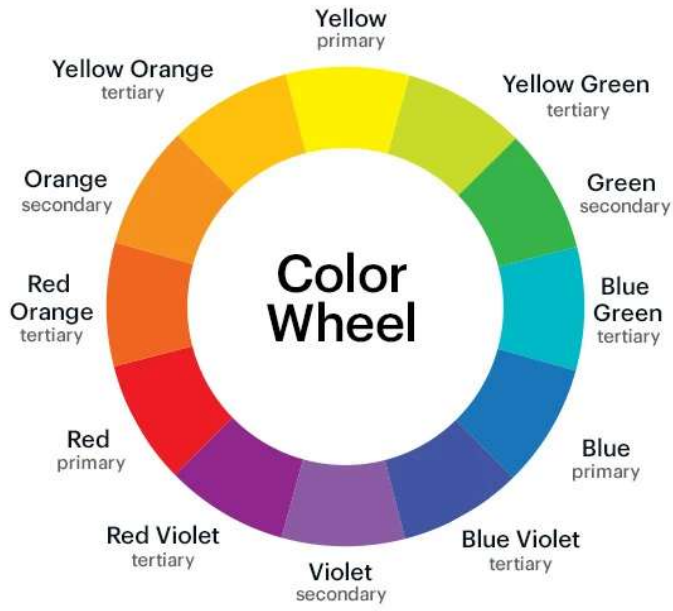
- Have students go in a circle to respond (or pass) to the following questions:
  - *What piece was your favourite? What intentional choices do you think the artist made?*
  - *Did you have a least-favourite piece? Why?*
  - *Think about the painting you are about to create. What do you want a viewer to feel when they look at it? What techniques do you plan to use?*

**Art activity:**

- Students should begin their own abstract piece, and as they go, write on a notecard or blank paper all the intentional choices they are making regarding colour, shape, lines, rhythm, designs, etc.

**Final closing piece:**

- Art Gallery walk-through OR show and tell... students should share their work with the class or with a partner, and should explain to the class or to a partner about the intentional choices they made today as an abstract artist.



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