

# Combining Dance and Art - Grades 5-12

**Needed Material:** Any number of pictures of abstract art

**Instructions:** For this activity, the students will explore creative dance and choreography through abstract art. The instructor can bring in different art works and ask what the art work looks like to the students. Are there lines and what directions are they going in? Are there any shapes and if so what are they? Ask the students about colors, the flow of the designs, and if the flow is going up, down, left, right, straight, circle, zig-zag, etc.

Once you've identified the different aspects of the art, try coming up with movement for those different aspects. For example, if you have a painting that has the color blue with straight lines and triangle shapes, you can establish that for the color blue they must jump, the straight lines are for the direction you're going in, and the triangle means to make that shape with your hands or arms. If it's easier, you can also pick favorite elements of the pictures and move to them.

For example, the color is a movement, lines or pathways are directions, and shapes are the form to put your body in. Try whatever is most fun and easy to understand with your students, and allow them to come up with their own movement for the art work. You can also give each student their own art work photo and give them some time to come up with their own choreography. Once everyone is done allow the students to showcase their work.

Examples of abstract art is below. Happy creating!

