
Vibrating Edges

OBJECTIVE	Some colors, when placed next to each other, create a visual effect called “vibrating edges”. While some complementary colors exhibit this phenomenon several other color combinations produce the illusion that the edges of the colors vibrate. This exercise is designed to challenge your ability to mix colors and find two that appear to vibrate.
MATERIALS	• 9" x 12" watercolor paper • watercolor brushes • full set of gouache paint • water cup • painter's tape (optional) • pencil • eraser
GRADING	10 points (5 points for successful creation of vibrating edges effect + 5 points for neatness in execution)
INSTRUCTIONS	1) For this exercise you will need to create a simple non-objective design on a 6" x 6" square. Your completed design will have only two colors. Your design may reflect the idea of movement or vibration through repetition or dynamic shapes or derive inspiration from the geometric designs of Op art. 2) Use a blank piece of watercolor paper to experiment with different color combinations. You may use any of the colors in your set of paints. Try to use intense colors by avoiding shades. Tints will sometimes work better than the pure colors. The vibrating effect works best when colors are used in a pattern that forces the eye to move between near equal areas of alternating color.

