SHAPE AND COLOR:
FROM FIGURATIVE TO ABSTRACT

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Starting with a realistic painting or drawing, or even a photography, you can simplify all the shapes to turn them into polygons. Doing that, you create a new artwork, a polygonal abstract artwork.

Let’s see some examples of the step by step:
Start with a real painting

Simplify all the shapes turning every shape into a polygon (regular or irregular)

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Now you have only polygons. We have a **figurative polygonal artwork**. It is figurative, and not abstract, because we can still see that there is a face here.

You can also take the polygons and **disorder** them, to create an **abstract artwork**. Now it is abstract because we cannot see a face no more, just polygonal shapes: it is an abstract composition.

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Examples of abstract polygonal artworks:

**REMEMBER:** if you are panting an abstract artwork, you must pay the most important attention to COLOR.
CHOOSING THE COLORS: COLOR SCHEMES

**REMEMBER:** if you are panting an abstract artwork, you must pay the most important attention to COLOR.

How can we choose a good combination of color to use?

Using the **COLOR SCHEMES.** Color schemes are combinations of colors that create a good and beautiful chromatic harmony.

To understand the ideas behind color schemes we need to comprehend the **color wheel** first (also referred to as **color circle**). It is a circular color diagram introduced by Sir Isaac Newton in 1666, a visual representation of colors arranged circularly according to their chromatic relationship.

Color wheel is a starting point for combining colors. Color schemes are just logical combinations made using the wheel. It is an easy way to visualize the relationships between colors.

Which color schemes do exist?
Color Schemes

Complementary color scheme
Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel are considered to be complementary colors.
(example: Orange and Blue).

Rectangle (tetradic) color scheme
The rectangle or tetradic color scheme uses four colors arranged into two complementary pairs.
(example: Orange, Red, Blue and Green).

Analogous color scheme
Analogous color schemes use colors that are next to each other on the color wheel.
(example: Green, Blue-Green and Blue).

Triadic color scheme
A triadic color scheme uses colors that are evenly spaced around the color wheel.
(example: Yellow-Green, Red-Orange and Blue-Violet).

Square color scheme
The square color scheme is similar to the rectangle, but with all four colors spaced evenly around the color circle.
(example: Yellow, Red-Orange, Violet and Blue-Green).

Split-Complementary color scheme
The split-complementary color scheme is a variation of the complementary color scheme. In addition to the base color, it uses the two colors adjacent to its complement.
(example: Yellow, Red-Violet and Blue-Violet).
• **Monochromatic color scheme**
  This scheme is composed of different tints, shades of tones of the same color. These color schemes don’t create contrast or impact, they are relaxing and soft.

• **Analogous color scheme**
  These are colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. They usually match quite well creating serene sensations. We can find a lot of examples of this scheme in the natural world.

• **Complementary color scheme**
  Colors located across from each other on a color wheel, for example: blue and orange, yellow and purple. They usually create a vibrant look due to high contrast between them. A palette of this sort is great for emphasizing element that need to stand out.

• **Split-Complementary color scheme**
  A variation of the complementary color scheme. It is composed of the base color and two colors adjacent to its complement. That gives it strong visual contrast but without the tension of the complementary color scheme.

• **Triadic color scheme**
  This scheme is made of colors that are evenly spaced along the color wheel. A vibrant palette is produced.

• **Tetradic color scheme**
  This scheme is composed of four colors comprising of two complementary pairs.