



**Noyes**  
Museum of Art  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

Lesson Plan: #NoyesArtatHome

## Fred Noyes Art Project: “Swirls” Drawing



Fred W. Noyes, Jr., *Fish Swirls*, acrylic on paper, 1999.007.196

### Overview:

Fred Winslow Noyes, Jr. was an artist, businessman, and collector. He and his wife, Ethel, were the founders of The Noyes Museum of Art. Over the course of Fred Noyes’s lifetime, his artistic style changed dramatically from realistic to abstract work. His later work, in the 1970s, was lively, rhythmic and colorful, conveying the joy of life, and evocative of the work of Spanish artist Joan Miro. This art project is based on his later, abstract work.

### Project Description:

Using a piece of white paper and bright markers, create an abstract Fred Noyes “Swirl” drawing.

### Supplies:

- 8.5 x 11” piece of white paper (can be copier paper)
- Markers or pencils in a variety of colors (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple and black)
- Pencil
- Sharpie or other permanent black marker

### Steps:

1. Look at the Fred Noyes *Fish Swirls* painting (see above.)
2. This is an **abstract** painting. An abstract painting does not look like something from real life. It may consist of lines, shapes, colors, and textures, in combination or by themselves.
  - What kinds of lines do you see in this painting: straight, curved, wavy, angled, or zigzags?
  - Do the lines overlap?

- What kinds of lines do you see inside of the shapes?
3. Use a pencil to make your own “Swirl” drawing. Fill the page. Keep space in between the lines.
  4. Draw over your lines with a permanent black marker. (It can be a Sharpie.)
  5. Now look at the **color wheel** below:



It consists of three “**primary**” colors and three “**secondary**” colors.

- **Primary colors: red, yellow, and blue.** Primary colors can be combined to make any color of the rainbow. They can not be made with other colors.
- **Secondary colors: purple, green, and orange.** Secondary colors are created by combining two of the primary colors.

6. **Colors: What colors do you see** in the Fred Noyes *Fish Swirls* painting?
  - The colors in *Fish Swirl* are mostly blue and orange.
  - Are the colors **next to or opposite** each other on the color wheel?
    - Blue and orange are **opposites** on the color wheel and are called **complementary** colors. When placed next to each other, they create a lively, vibrant **contrast** in an artwork.
  - Are there **warm colors**? Warm colors remind you of heat, such as the colors of the sun and fire. Examples: **red, yellow, and orange.**
    - There are warm colors in the painting: orange and red
  - Are there **cool colors**? Cool colors remind you of cool and cold things such as water and the sky. Examples: **blue, green, and purple.**
    - There are cool colors in the painting: blue and green
7. Pick colors for your “Swirl” drawing. Think about the color scheme that you’d like to create. Will it have lots of **contrast**? Will it be **warm**? Will it be **cool**? Or a **combination** of both?
8. **Fill the page** with color and shapes!
9. **Sign your name** on the front or back – as the artist, you should sign your work.
10. **Look at your artwork.** What do you like about it and what would you change? This is an art activity that you can do over and over, changing it and improving on it time and time again.

Share pictures of your artwork with us! Don’t forget to use [#NoyesArtatHome](https://www.instagram.com/NoyesArtatHome) and tag us with your completed project! We will be posting work by community artists on our social media pages. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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<http://noyesmuseum.org/> <https://www.artsgarageac.com/>



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