

Tridem K

by Victor Vasarely

Print Facts

- Medium: Tempera on panel
- Date: 1968
- Size: 11 x 28 inches
- Location: Paris
- Period:
- Style: This painting belongs in a category called optical art. Optical art creates the illusion of depth or movement.
- Genre: Optical Illusion
- Tridem means three-dimensional

Artist Facts

- Vasarely is pronounced [Vass-ah-RELL-ee]
- Born 1908 in Hungary
- Died March 15, 1997 in Paris, France
- As a child he liked to draw trains and animals in motion, and he drew three-dimensional shapes.
- He originally studied medicine, but stopped to study at an art academy.
- In 1930 (age 22) he moved to Paris where he worked as a graphic designer and began working on his style of abstract art.
- He became a successful graphic designer, designing fabrics with his wife for a company in Paris.
- He also produced abstract sculpture.
- Vasarely created optical illusions (unreal or misleading objects in vision – your eyes play tricks on you) in his art by using contrasting colors and geometric shapes. He became known as the originator of optical art or “Op-Art”.

Key Element of Design to Teach

- **Form** is a three-dimensional object having volume and thickness. It is the illusion of a 3-D effect that can be implied with the use of light and shading techniques. Examples of geometric three-dimensional forms are a sphere, cube or a prism. Organic forms can be described using three-dimensional references such as “tree-shaped” or “hand-shaped”.

Possible Questions and Suggestions to Teach Form

- Does this painting look 3-D, like you could reach out and touch it?
- Where do the cubes look like they are coming out of the painting?
- Where do the cubes look like they are sinking into the painting?
- Does it change (which ones are coming out and sinking in)?

Keywords

- Repetition, Rhythm, Pattern, Movement, Optical Illusion, Abstract, Color, Shapes

Other Possible Questions and Suggestions

- What shapes do you see in this painting? Do you see any other shapes?
- Are the shapes the same color?
- Which ones are the same?
- Which parts of this painting seem to stand out the most?
- Can you identify where the artist has used complimentary colors?
- Stare at this painting. What happens to the shapes? They may seem to move around.
- Do you think the artist planned which colors he put where?
- Uncover this painting a piece at a time. Remove a piece at a time and ask what they see. Do you see people, animals, landscape? Why would an artist just paint circles and squares?
- How many different colors do you see? How would you describe the colors? Bright, dull, strong?
- What colors do you see the most?
- Where do you see dark in this painting? Light?
- Do you see primary or secondary colors?
- What color is the background of this painting? Why do you think the artist chose this?
- Bring in a Rubik's cube and show the students the similarities.