



Activity Card #2 Hidden Scribble Shapes

Devorah Sperber creates the illusion of shapes and depth in her sculptures by placing certain colors next to each other. Try this activity to further explore how artists might create the illusion of shapes using scribbles and colors.

Materials:

- White paper
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Directions:

1. Using a pencil, start drawing a continuous line on your paper, never picking up the pencil. Try making it curvy and straight and loopy until you have a big tangled drawing covering the entire piece of paper.
2. Now put down your pencil and take a look at your drawing. Do you see any recognizable shapes that you drew by accident? Maybe you won't see anything at first, but like with Devorah's work, it might take a second or third look for an image to pop out at you. And the image probably won't be very realistic, but perhaps it will give the impression of some thing from reality, like an animal, figure, or object.
3. When you do see a shape or series of lines that look like something, trace around the shape and coloring it in with colored pencils, crayons, or markers to bring out the object from the rest of the scribble drawing. Experiment with different color combinations to see how you might best draw attention to the hidden scribble shapes.



Activity Card #3 Optical Illusion Drawings

Devorah Sperber's work is about creating the illusion of an image. Try creating your own optical illusion drawings.

Materials:

- Crayons or markers, scissors, glue, ruler
- 1 large piece of paper (12 x 18) and 2 smaller pieces of paper (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11)

Directions:

1. Hold the two pieces of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 paper horizontally and draw two pictures of opposite scenes, like night and day, winter and summer, night and day, etc. Be sure to fill in the entire sheet of paper.
2. Hold the two papers horizontally and at the top measure in 1" inch across until you have 11 marks on the top of your drawing. (Make sure to make marks dark enough so you can see them.) Fold each drawing into an accordion book at each of these marks by folding in and out (looks like a "z") until the entire paper is folded up like a fan (**see A**).



A



B

3. Unfold the drawings and on the back, number the pieces 1 - 11. Then cut the drawings into 1" strips.
4. Hold the 12 x 18 piece of paper horizontally and also fold into an accordion book with 1" strips. Lay out your drawings on the 1" strips, starting with #1 strip from your first drawing and alternating with #1 strip from your second drawing. Alternate images until all 1" strips have been filled. Glue to 12 x 18 paper once you have the correct alternating images laid out (**see B**).
5. When dry, re-fold the paper into its accordion folds. When you view the drawing from one side it appears as one image and from the other side it appears to be another! Why do you think this happens?



Activity Card #1 Experimenting with Lenses

Devorah Sperber's work relies on lenses for the viewer's eye to make sense of the image in front of them. The lenses help the eye to put the pixelated colors together to form an image from art history. Now that you have worked with the Williams College students at Kidspaced, continue to experiment with lenses. This time you'll use some of the techniques you've learned to experiment with the effect different lenses have on viewing a famous work of art.

Materials: (see supplies from Williams and postcards from the Clark and WCMA)

- Concave lenses
- Convex lenses
- Art postcards
- Journals

1. Keep track of your findings in your journal. First, look at the image on your postcard through the concave lens. Now look at it through the convex lens. Write a description of what you see.

2. Try gently bending the top and bottom of the postcard to turn it into a concave shape. Have a partner hold the image for you while you look at it through a concave lens, then through a convex lens. Now reverse the process: turn the picture into a convex shape, look at it through each of the lenses. Again, write down what you see. How are your findings different from the first way you viewed the images?

3. Try different combinations: what happens if you look at the image through 2 lenses? How about 3?

4. Do you think that you would be able to recognize these famous works of art if you only saw the distorted versions of them?



Activity Card #4 Bug Eye Simulator

Before visiting Kidspace, you may have talked about Devorah's work and how she is interested in how humans see / understand images. Wouldn't it be interesting to understand how bugs see images too? The way insects see is quite different from the way humans see. Insects have much more complex eyes than we do, called compound eyes. Compound eyes have lots of tiny lenses as opposed to our one for each eye. Here's an activity that will enable you to see like an insect with compound eyes.

The bug eye simulator gives you a view of images similar to Devorah's interpretations of famous paintings. Devorah creates images that are pixelated, which means breaking down an image into tiny colored dots that combine to make a whole image. While Devorah breaks up images by making "pixels" out of spools of colored thread, your bug eye simulator breaks up your vision by showing you many small views (of the same larger view) through each straw.

Materials

- Drinking straws
 - Scissors
 - Rubber bands
 - Postcard, poster, magazine image
1. Cut drinking straws into pieces about two inches long. You will probably need around 25 pieces.
 2. Bundle your pieces together and wrap a rubber band around one end to secure them.
 3. Hold the straw bundle up to your eye (not too close or it won't work; it should be about an inch away from your eye) and look through. Look around the room, then at an image (i.e., postcard, poster, drawing). Try rotating the bundle. The straws break up your vision, so it's almost like having lots of little lenses instead of just one.



Activity Card # 5

Familiar Symbols, Unfamiliar Views

Devorah Sperber uses advanced computer technology to pixilate famous works of art so that she can recreate them in order for us to see them in a different way. Explore how familiar images (i.e., symbols, icons, logos) can be understood in different ways.

Materials: Power Point presentation (on CD-ROM in main office), computer, journals

1. Think about images that you are very familiar with such as logos, cartoon characters, commercial characters, and other images from popular culture. List them in your journal. How could you alter some of these images so that it might be harder for you to understand? For instance, could you recognize a symbol when most of the image is taken away?
2. Look at the altered images on the Power Point presentation. Try to guess what well-known symbol each picture might be. These images have been pixilated, cropped, or blurred to make it trickier to understand what you are seeing. Write your guesses in your journal.
3. At the end of the Power Point presentation, you will find the actual images. Were you correct in your guesses? These images have become such a huge part of our everyday lives that we may not be conscious of how often we see them, even though our brains are processing the information.

