

## Experimenting with symbols in design

*Materials: Completed Symbol worksheets, Paper/Sketchbook, Drawing Pencil/pen, oil pastels/ wax crayons/ colouring pencils*

Choose five of the symbols that mean the most to you. On the paper, draw your own personal symbols as simple shapes. The symbols should be **large and overlap each other**.

*These drawings are quick doodles, they don't need to be accurate.*

Look at the small shapes that have been created where the lines have overlapped.



We are going to fill these smaller shapes or 'segments' with colour. Now choose your four favourite colours. Using the **first colour**, colour a small segment. Still with the same first colour, find the next space which is not next to the first turquoise coloured segment. Carry on colouring with this colour, finding spaces which are not next to each other. If you're in doubt about what colour goes where just leave it blank.

Now colour in the **second colour** and the same rules apply, don't colour in two second colour shapes together. Carry on and just fill in the second colour shapes. Do the same for your third and fourth colours.





Once we have put in the colours, we will finish the work by creating a careful outline around everything in black with the oil pastel. Now your abstract picture using your own symbols is finished.



For further pictures you can use different colours and different symbol shapes.

*Experiment with different materials and media, such as paints. Watercolour pencils are particularly effective for these colourful abstracts.*

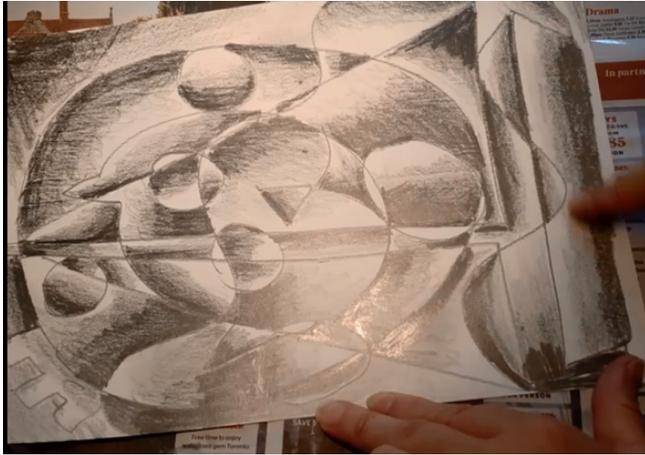
### **Monochrome designs**

Materials: Pencils/pen, charcoal/graphite sticks, paper.

As before, use the pencil to draw your large overlapping symbols onto paper or in your sketchbooks.

This time, use your pencil to shade each little segment from dark to light to create a 3d effect. To do this, press hard to fill in dark black at one side, then press more lightly to create grey in the middle and then leave the white at the end.





Try not to shade black against a black shape, or white with white, grey with grey. We are just trying to keep them separate and show the definition. You can use your finger to smudge the pencil to create a more blended effect. Draw around the original line drawing to highlight the shapes.



Once we have done our pencil drawing, you could try experimenting with charcoal. Charcoal is softer than pencil and easier to blend. It is the same technique as with the pencil, dark on one shape towards light graduation on the other try not to get two darks together. Next rub the charcoal to smooth out any gaps with your finger, rag or tissue. Draw around the lines to highlight the shapes.