

Learn with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

1. What do you notice about the colors and patterns of the clothes?
2. Where might you wear this kind of outfit?

Step 2 Learn more

Sonia Delaunay-Terk's lifelong fascination with color and fashion emerged during her childhood in the Ukrainian village of Gradizhsk, where she was born in 1885. In a memoir she writes of "memories of the peasant weddings of my country, where the red and green dresses, ornamented with many ribbons, flew about in dancing."

She and her husband, Robert Delaunay, developed a mode of art that did not center on representation of real-world figures, objects, or scenes but rather on exploring the visual properties of contrasting colors—colors opposite one another on the color wheel. The pairing of two such colors, they realized, heightened the optical intensity, making both colors appear more vivid than they would on their own. Delaunay-Terk applied the same principles of color and geometry to the quilts, curtains, and lampshades she made for her home as she did to [dresses](#) that she herself wore around Paris.

This drawing is called *Pajamas for Tristan Tzara*. Tristan Tzara was an artist who was a friend and collaborator of Delaunay-Terk's.

Step 3 Activity: Design an outfit with color and pattern

Materials: paper, pencils, colored pencils or markers

1. Draw the outline of an outfit (shirt and pants, dress, etc.).
2. Within the outline, divide the outfit into geometric forms and shapes.
3. Use colors to fill in the resulting shapes, considering how colors look next to each other. You can test color combinations on a separate sheet of scrap paper to find combinations you like.
 - a. What does it look like to put complementary colors next to each other?
 - b. How do different shades of one color look next to each other?
4. Continue adding color until you have filled in the entire outfit.

Step 4 Share!

Share your design with a friend and ask where they might wear this outfit, or you can email a photo to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Sonia Delaunay-Terk. *Pajamas for Tristan Tzara*. 1923. Watercolor and pencil on paper. The Joan and Lester Avnet Collection