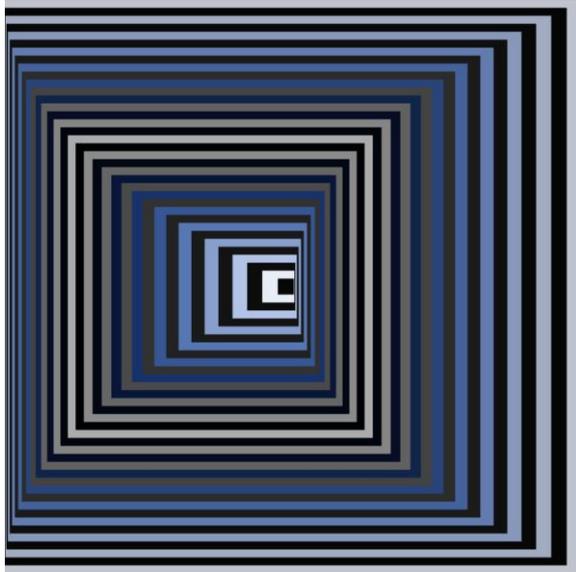


Cunningham Creek Elementary
Meet the Artist

Vasarely, Victor - Vonal KSZ



ARTIST: VASARELY, VICTOR

PRINT:

Date: 1968

Size: 60 x 60 cm. (23.6 x 23.6 in.)

Medium: Colored silkscreen

ARTIST - Victor Vasarely was a Hungarian-French artist credited with having created the Op Art movement, which Bridget Riley and Yaacov Agam would come to follow. Vasarely's paintings and sculpture utilized geometrical shapes and colorful graphics to create illusions of spatial depth on two-dimensional surfaces. This abstract method of painting, also known as Kineticism, borrowed from a diverse range of influences, including Bauhaus principles, Wassily Kandinsky's abstraction, and the Constructivist movement, which had a particularly significant impact on Vasarely's practice.

Born Vászárhelyi Gyozo on April 9, 1906 in Pécs, Hungary, the artist originally studied medicine, but switched to painting after two years. Vasarely enrolled in the Hungarian branch of the Bauhaus (Muhely) in Budapest in the late 1920s. After settling in Paris in 1930, Vasarely worked as a graphic artist and developed his signature abstract aesthetic. He lived and worked in the city until his death at the age of 90 on March 15, 1997.

PRINT- The word "vonal" means line in Vasarely's native Hungary. The artist's "vonal" period lasted from 1966 to 1976. In addition to the use of line, the works from this period incorporate the element of tonal values. Vonal KSZ makes use of these elements to achieve its effect of a tunnel of concentric squares receding into deep perspective. The color tonality is dichromatic; shades of grey and blue recede, seemingly endlessly, light against dark, into the distance.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the subject of this painting?
2. How has the artist used color?
3. What shapes can you see?
4. How do you feel looking at the painting?
5. Does the paintings look/feel different if you stand close or stand far away?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Look at other optical illusions with the children.
2. Cut out shapes or use pre-cut shapes to make an abstract collage.
3. Draw/paint an abstract piece using straight lines, allow the pencil to move across the paper. Color in the shapes that are made.
4. Create a piece by drawing a square, and then drawing another square around it. Continue to add more squares.

