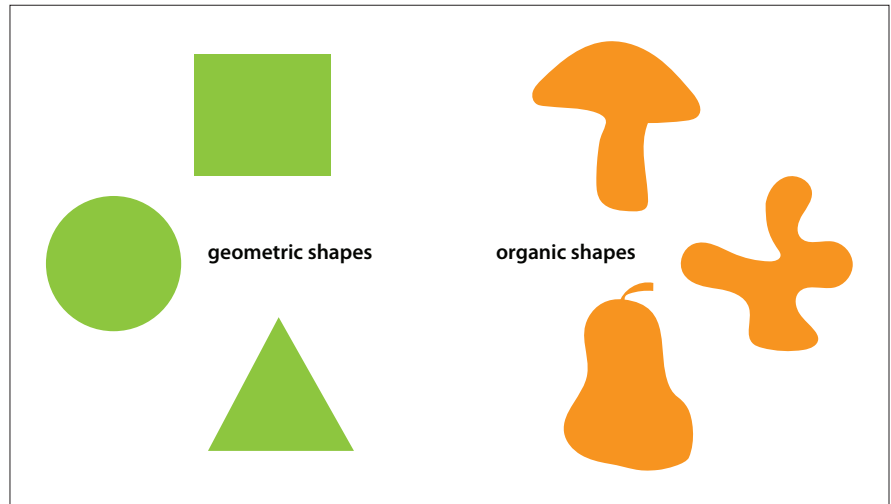


# Shape

When a line moves around and connects with where it started, a shape is made. There are many kinds of shapes. They are two-dimensional, having height and width, but no depth. Some of them have special names, like circle, square, or triangle. These are known as **geometric shapes**. Others don't have specific names. Instead, they are free-formed and curved. Often found in nature, we call them **organic shapes**.



Alexander Calder, **Pyramid et Spirals (Pyramid and Spirals)**, 1975. Anonymous gift, 1987.50

Artist Alexander Calder was one of the most innovative artists of the 20th century. He invented the mobile, a type of sculpture that moves, when he wanted to make drawings in the air. He was fascinated by shapes and frequently used circles, pyramids, and spirals in his paintings and drawings.

Look closely at the artwork at the left. How many shapes do you see? Can you name them? Are they geometric or organic?

*I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way ... things I had no words for.*

Georgia O'Keeffe



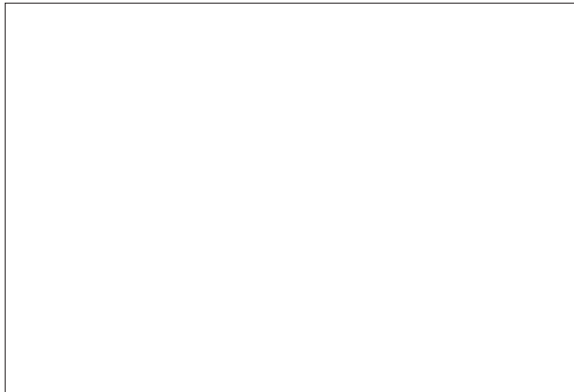
**Flint Institute of Arts**  
MUSEUM + ART SCHOOL

Flint Institute of Arts  
Education Department  
1120 E Kearsley Street, Flint MI 48503  
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# Geometric or Organic Shapes?

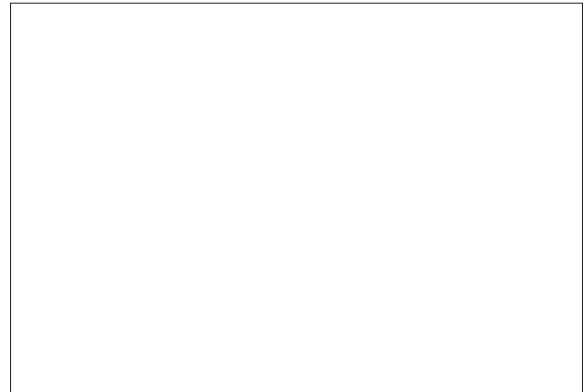
## Instructions

Visit the Flint Institute of Arts and look at artworks with geometric and/or organic shapes. In the space below, make sketches of paintings with geometric shapes, paintings with organic shapes, and/or paintings that use both geometric and organic shapes. Which is your favorite? Check the correct type of shape for each painting and color in the star to indicate your favorite painting.



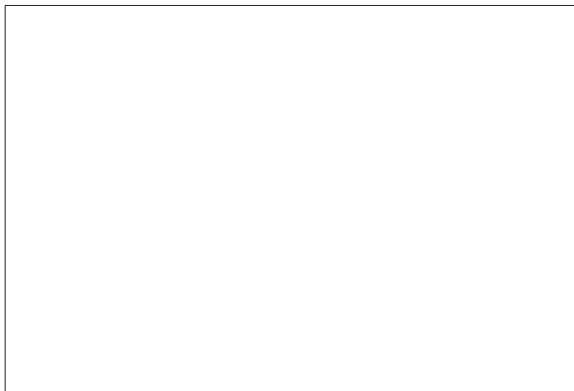
- geometric shapes
- organic shapes
- geometric & organic shapes

★ favorite



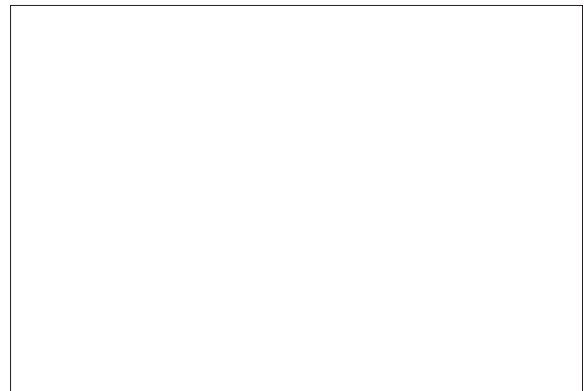
- geometric shapes
- organic shapes
- geometric & organic shapes

★ favorite



- geometric shapes
- organic shapes
- geometric & organic shapes

★ favorite



- geometric shapes
- organic shapes
- geometric & organic shapes

★ favorite