

SONIA DELAUNAY – Abstract art and Orphism

A video can be found on YouTube for this lesson under the channel 'Miss Linehan Primary Art' and 'Year 6 – Sonia Delaunay – Lesson 1'.

Sonia Delaunay was born to a poor Ukrainian family in 1885; she survived two World Wars and died wealthy in Paris in 1979. In between she co-founded the French avant-garde movement Orphism with her husband - the painter Robert Delaunay and claimed the first retrospective for a living female artist at the Louvre.

Orphism was inspired by cubism and is an abstract art form. Orphism used geometric shapes and bright colours within the work. It did not seek to create realistic representations but instead put together different bright colours to suggest movement, emotions or portray music.

Delaunay says that a quilt she made for her baby son was the inspiration for orphism: 'About 1911 I had the idea of making for Charles, who had just been born, a blanket composed of bits of fabric. When it was finished, the arrangement of the pieces of material seemed to me to evoke cubist conceptions and we then tried to apply the same process to other objects and paintings.'

Sonia Delaunay deemed colour and the way they were put together the most important aspect of her work. Colour could explore so much and really excited Delaunay as an artist. Delaunay was quoted as saying: 'Colour is the skin of the world.'

retrospective – an art exhibition looking back across an artists entire career.

Orphism – an art movement created by Sonia and Robert Delaunay that uses strong geometric shapes and bright colours.

Louvre – The world's largest art museum and a historic monument in Paris, France.

avant-garde - new and experimental ideas and methods in art, music, or literature.

Questions – To be answered in full sentences.

- 1) **When was the artist born and when did they die?**
Sonia Delaunay was born...
- 2) **What art movement did Sonia Delaunay create and who was this with?**
Sonia Delaunay created the....
- 3) **What is Orphism?**
Orphism is...
- 4) **What first inspired Orphism?**
Orphism was first inspired by...
- 5) **What do you think Sonia Delaunay meant by the quote: 'Colour is the skin of the world.'?**
I think the quote 'Colour is the skin of the world' means...
- 6) **What is your opinion on the work of Sonia Delaunay and why?**
I think that Sonia Delaunay's work is...
- 7) **Choose a section of the artwork you like best to draw on a page.**

Thinking deeper:

Now you have a deeper understanding of Orphism - what do you think the meaning behind Sonia Delaunay's artwork '*Rythme Coloré*' is and why?



Sonia Delaunay -
Rythme Coloré (Colored
Rhythm), 1946.