

Week 1

Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979) Russia

“colour brings me joy”



This painting by **Sonia Delaunay** is called **Electric Prisms**. It was painted in **1924** and was inspired by a busy street corner, full of people and cafes, in **Paris**. Sonia has used the light and colours from the scene to create this abstract painting full of movement. If you look carefully you can make out a hint of 2 figures in lower centre of the painting.

This week you will need.....

From your Art Bag	From Home	For the extra project
Sketchbook Pencil Colouring Pencils, wax crayons and felt tips 3 colours of paint NOT black or white Paper plate palette Round lids	Plastic bag or newspaper to protect work-surface. Spoon or knife to put paint onto palette. Lids or other round objects eg: yogurt pots, cups, toilet roll middle, pen lid, tin can, saucer etc Kitchen roll or tissue to clean paint off	You will also need.... Scissors Berol pen

About the artist.....

Sonia was born in the part of Russia that is now The Ukraine.

As a child she moved from her village in the county to live with her rich uncle in St. Petersburg where she had a privileged upbringing.

She spent most of her working life in Paris where she met and married the French painter Robert Delaunay.

She is an abstract artist who uses geometric shapes and bright colours, she was inspired by the pure colour and bright costumes of Ukrainian peasant weddings which she remembered from her childhood.

She also designed fashion, furniture, fabrics and wall coverings.

Activity 1 – Print

The first activity is a messy one so cover your table and your clothes then open your sketchbook at the middle page for a double page Delaunay style print-making spectacular!

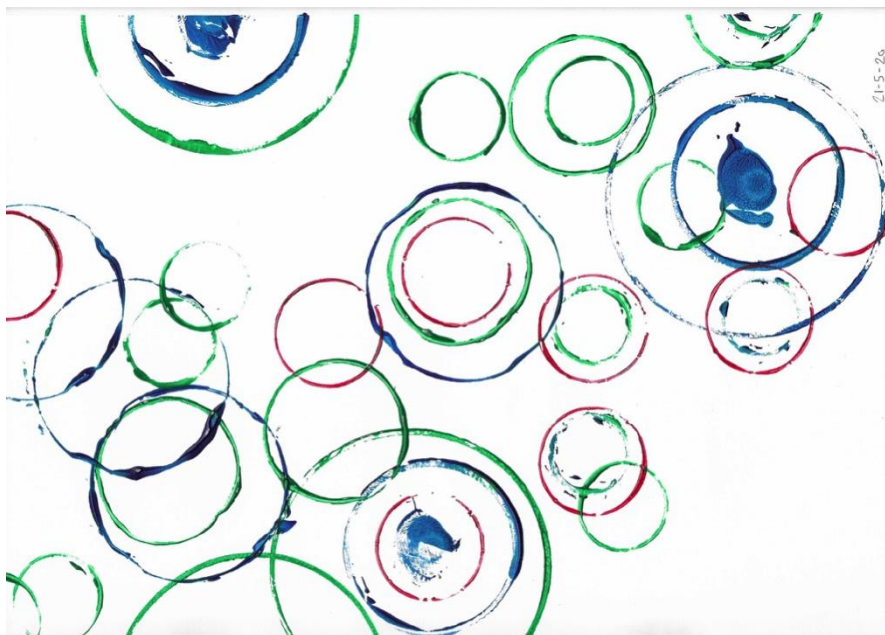
Put a small amount of bright coloured paint onto your paper plate palette and spread it around next take one of your circular objects and dip it into the paint then print it onto your sketchbook page, print a few more dipping into the paint again when needed.

Continue printing different size circles and when your paint is used up add a different colour and print more circles. Print with both side of the lids to create outlines and solid circles.

Overlap your circles, print circles inside circles, make some fall off the edge of the page.

Take your design all over both pages, it can be ordered and lined up or travel across the pages like bubbles blowing in the wind.

When you are happy with your page of printed circles, if you have any paint left on your palette scrape it back into your pot and make sure all the lids are securely fixed on your paints. Leave your sketchbook open to dry, leave your palette out to dry, wipe the paint off your lids and fingers and wash your hands. Sit back and admire your work!



Your sketchbook page should look something like this

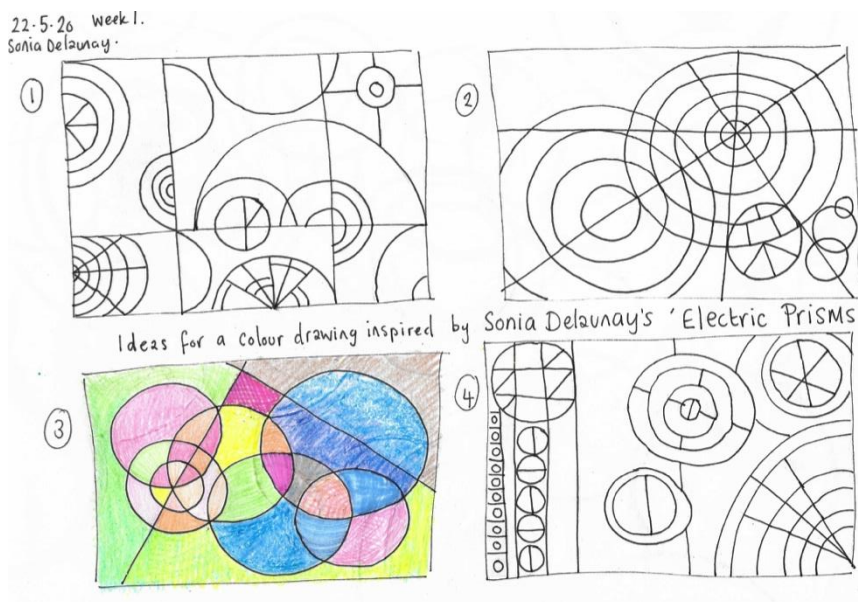
Activity 2 – Draw & Colour

Now we are going to draw and colour to create our own version of Sonia Delaunay's painting 'Electric Prisms'.

You will need to wait until your printing is dry then go to next page in your sketchbook and using your pencil or Berol pen sketch out a few designs using circles inside circles, then split the circles up using straight lines.

You can do this freehand like I have done or use your printing circles to draw round.

Your sketchbook page will look something like this



You can colour these in if you like, but you don't need to.

Choose the design you like best, or bits from each one and draw it out on a full page.

Then colour it in, you can use coloured pencils, wax crayons and felt pens. I've mixed all three together to create different shades and tones of colour.

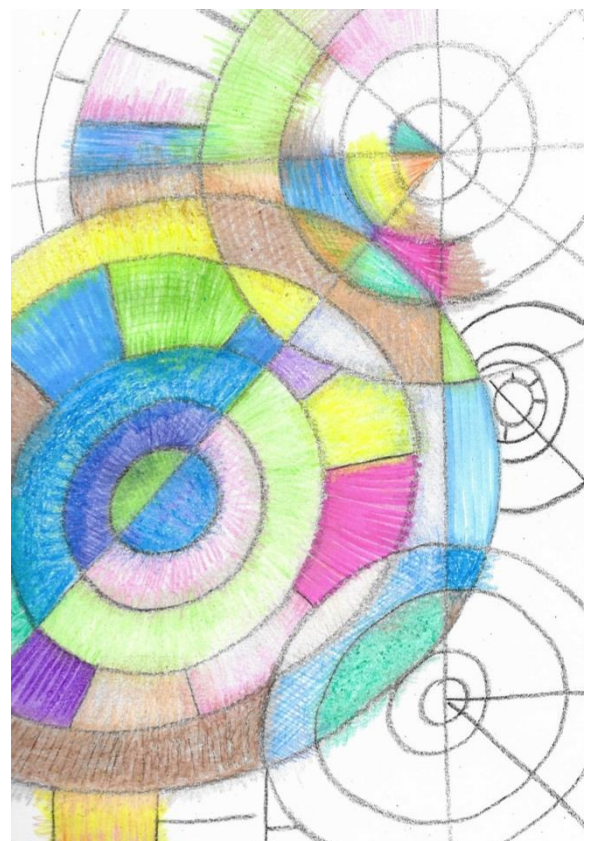
In this example you can see how I have blended the colours together and also blended them into each other by going lightly over the lines of the drawing.

Always begin by colouring very lightly.

The coloured pencils will blend together really nicely, you can build up darker colours by adding more layers on top of each other and you can make more colours by layering different colours on top of each other.

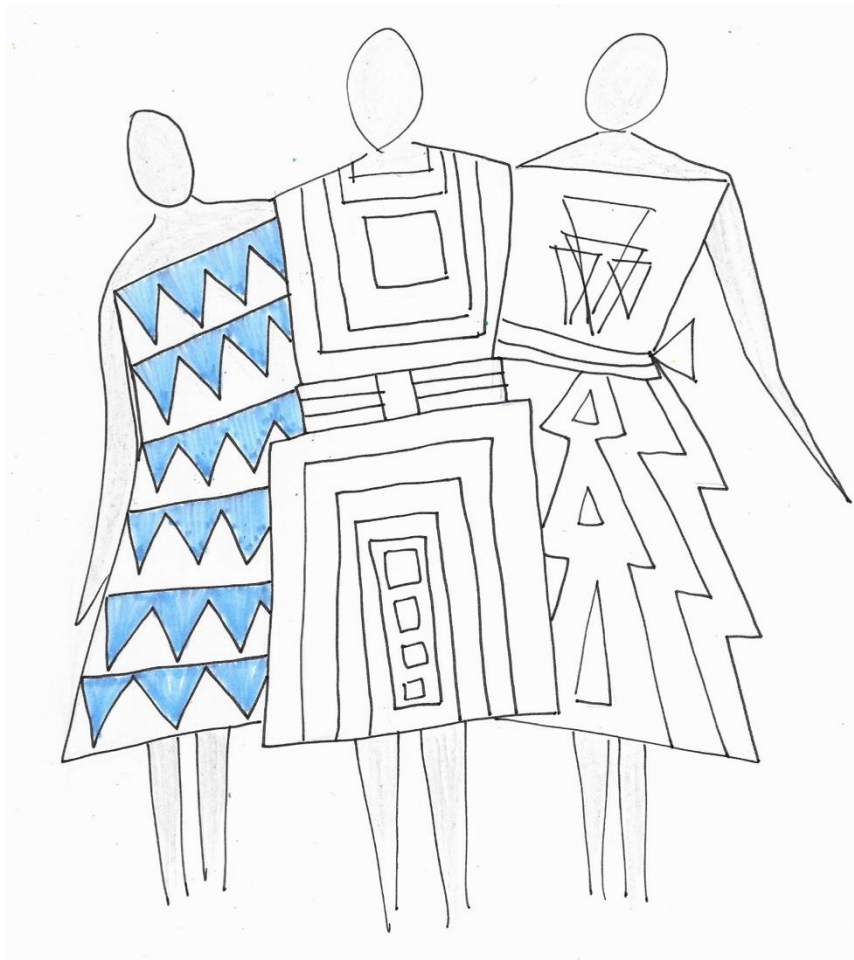
You can also layer and blend the wax crayons and mix them with the pencils.

The felt tips give strong bright colours with just one layer if you want to add another layer or mix then with pencils or crayons make sure the first layer is dry first or your paper might tear. They work really well on top of wax crayon.



If you are enjoying Sonia Delaunay then you can try this **extra activity**:

Sonia was also a fashion designer she designed clothes for men and women and also costumes for theatre. Her clothes were full of geometric shapes like her paintings.



I've made this drawing from a Delaunay painting of three fashion models in Paris.

Try designing some clothes or costumes of your own.

Work in your sketch book and use pencils, pens and crayons.

Happy designing!

I hope you enjoyed Sonia Delaunay, next week it's German artist Paul Klee.