

# THAT'S A RELIEF!

## Composition and Colour in Abstract Painting

### Part 1: Collage Composition

- With your teacher study the two slideshows: Composition and Abstract Painting.
- Using coloured paper create four compositions that address asymmetrical visual balance through manipulation of size, shape, colour, value. Employ repetition of the above elements as well as overlapping to create repetition and unity as well as to increase visual interest.
- Use a maximum of 10 shapes.
- Take a picture of each composition as you finish it.
- Recreate and glue down your favourite composition.
- Hand in as per teacher's instructions.

### Part 2: Abstract Relief Painting

- Attain a square painting surface from your teacher and prime it.
- Also collect a selection of cardboard of various thicknesses.
- Referring to your final composition from step 1, cut up the cardboard into the individual shapes that you constructed your composition from.
- You may want to cut out the same shape multiple times from various thicknesses of cardboard. This will give you options later on.
- Remember that the size of your shapes will change slightly from your original collages relative to the size of your painting surface.
- Paint each shape with the pure paint colour (right from the bottle or tube) that is closest to the original colour.
- NOW: start mixing colour (using your paint mixing skills – both self-taught and teacher-taught) that REALLY matches the original colours of your collage. Test your colours out on your square painting surface.
- Start painting over your shapes with your more accurate colour.
- We are definitely looking for a layered and textured effect so try dry brushing and maybe don't worry too much about covering the entire surface area. Also-don't be afraid to repaint shapes more than once. Let's give our painting some CHARACTER!
- Once you have recreated the colours to your satisfaction repaint your painting surface white (again – we are looking for a layered effect)
- Using collage technique reconstruct your reference collage with the cardboard. You will need to layer and overlap which might mean cutting shapes up and being inventive.

Your new painting can be slightly different than the original collage. In fact it WILL be different. Don't be afraid to make changes and alterations IF it improves your final work.