

# MAKE AN ABSTRACT COMPOSITION



Born in Baltimore in 1879, artist Charles H. Walther was best known for his paintings and stained-glass creations. He worked in various styles, but after encountering more experimental ideas while living in Paris, he took on a more abstract approach in his work. Many people considered Walther to be ahead of his time. He was a professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where he taught his students to paint in an abstract style instead of a realistic style. He lost his job as a result! However, this did not stop him and he went on to become a pioneer in the abstract art movement. In this activity, we will take inspiration from Walther and create an artwork using tissue paper and abstract shapes similar to those in *Reversible Composition*.

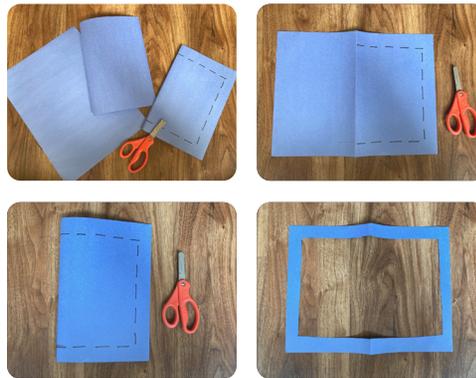
Charles H. Walther. *Reversible Composition*. c. 1937. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Bequest of the Artist, BMA 1938.717

## MATERIALS

tissue paper, construction paper, wax or parchment paper, scissors, glue or tape, writing utensil

## INSTRUCTIONS

1



Fold the construction paper in half and draw a line along the edge of the paper—about an inch in—to outline your frame. Cut along this line. When you unfold the paper, you will create a frame for your artwork.

2



Cut two pieces of wax paper the same size as the frame to create your background.

3



Cut various shapes out of the tissue paper. Feel free to take inspiration from the abstract style of Charles Walther. Glue your tissue paper shapes onto the first sheet of wax paper.

4



Place the second sheet of wax paper on top of your tissue paper composition and use tape or glue on the edges to secure it in place.

5



Use tape or glue to attach your frame on top of your work.

Attach your abstract artwork to a window and let the light shine through!



We'd love to see your work! Snap a picture of your final creation and share with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the hashtag #ArtBMAFromHome for a chance to be featured.

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Generous support for Free Family Sundays at Home is provided by Art Bridges and Wilmington Trust.

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