

# the Davis.

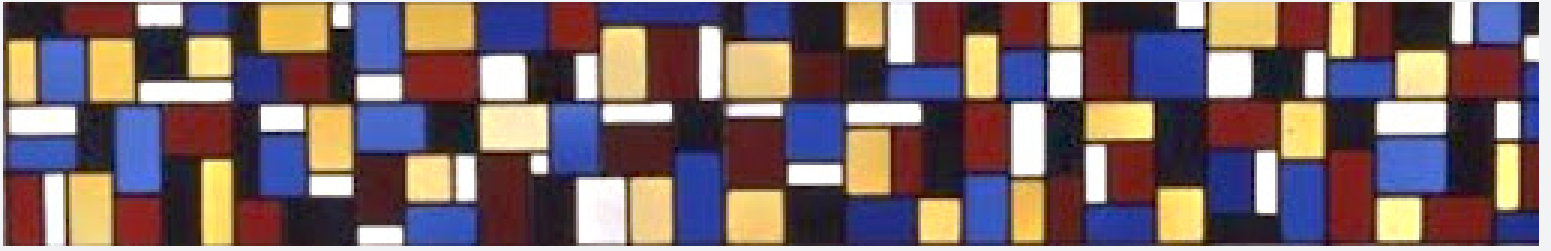
DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE



## De Stijl Faux Stained Glass

Family Activity Booklet

# Activity Inspiration



Theo van Doesburg, *Over-Door* (from the School of Agriculture, Drachten, Netherlands), 1920, Stained glass, Gift of Judith Rothschild (Class of 1943) in memory of her parents, Herbert and Nannette Rothschild, 1981.3

In 1917, architect, artist, and writer Theo van Doesburg founded the magazine *De Stijl*, which also became the name of this abstract art movement in Holland. *De Stijl* translates to “the style” in Dutch and is characterized by geometric lines, angles, squares, and rectangles in bold colors.

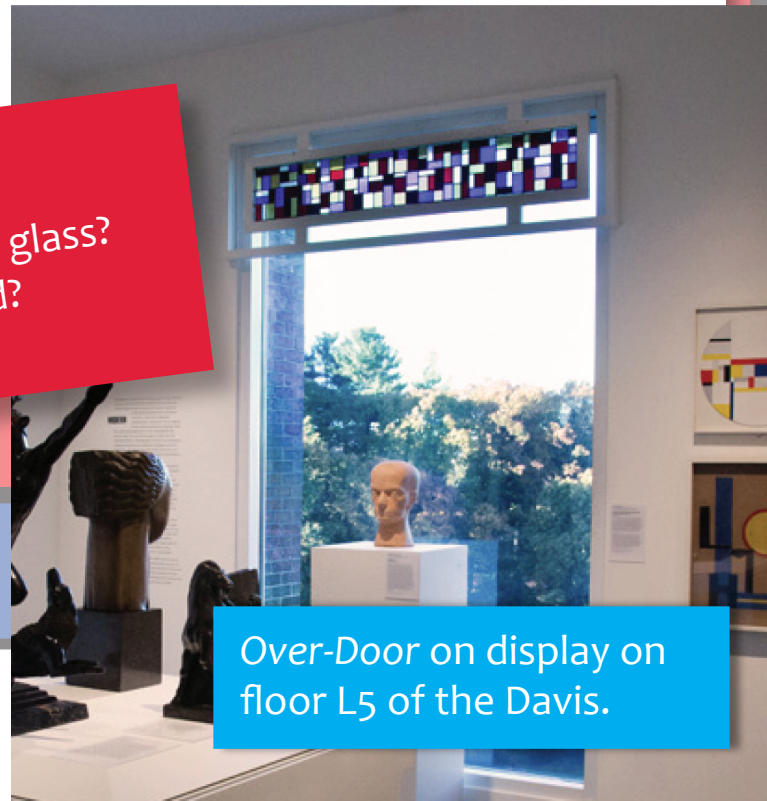
One of van Doesburg’s panels intended to be installed over a door can be found on the fifth level of the Davis. Stained glass is colorful, transparent glass used for making decorative objects through which light passes. This stained glass of solid colors was originally part of the

design of a Dutch school building.

De Stijl artists aimed for visual harmony and balance in society through creative expression. Notice the balance in this piece achieved through the use of repeating shapes and primary colors (red, blue, and yellow), along with black and white. Van Doesburg arranged these colors and shapes within narrow black lines created with lead framing, as used in traditional stained glass production.

## Discuss!

What do you notice about this stained glass?  
What shapes and colors are used?  
What patterns repeat?

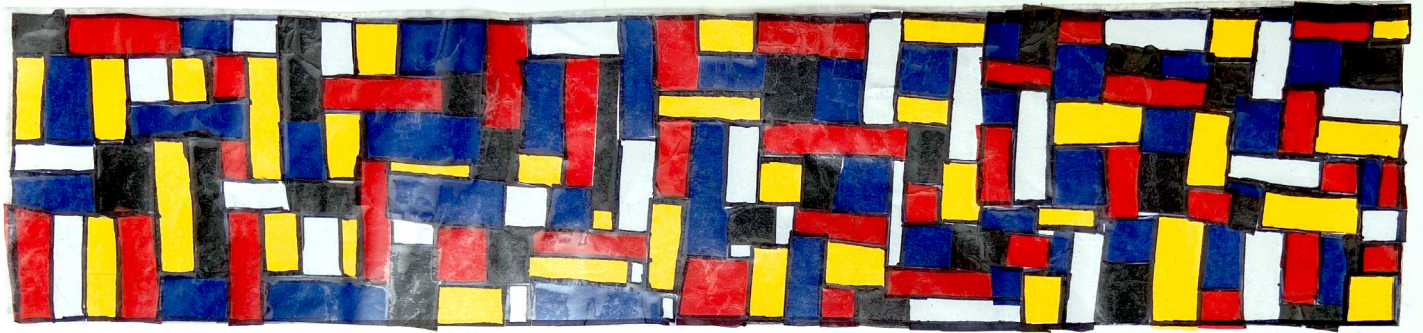


Over-Door on display on floor L5 of the Davis.



Let's create our own

# STAINED GLASS



The transparency of the stained glass allows for a luminous display of colors, which you can recreate at home. For this activity, you will need:

## Materials:

Contact paper

Scissors

Black marker

Tissue paper (any color paper can be substituted)

*Optional: clear tape*

*Adaptation for children with fine motor challenges:*

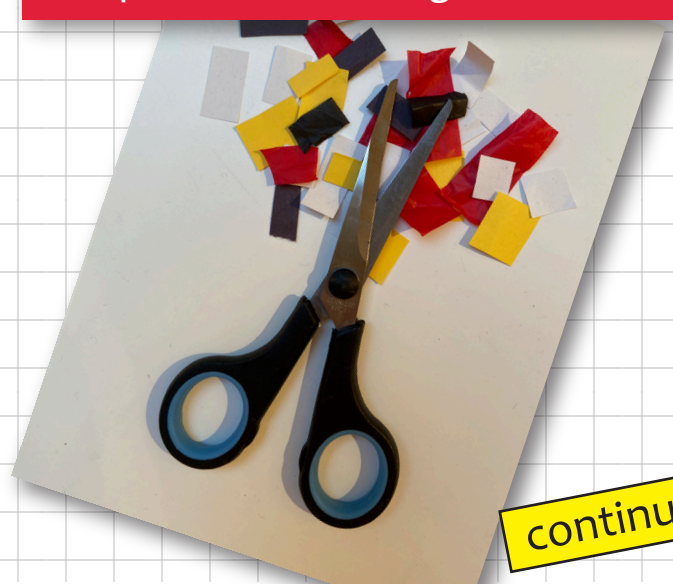
*Tear tissue paper into desired shape and place onto the contact paper.*

## Instructions:

With scissors, cut two identical rectangle shapes from the contact paper.



Cut tissue paper into an assortment of squares and rectangles.



continued>>



Take one piece of contact paper and carefully remove the backing. Keep the sticky side facing up.



Place pieces of tissue paper onto the sticky side of the contact paper to create your own design. Experiment with alternating shapes and colors.



Use a black marker to outline the shapes to mimic the black lead framing found in stained glass.



Take your second piece of contact paper and slowly remove the backing as you carefully place it face down over your artwork to seal it.



Using a small piece of clear tape on either end, tape your stained glass on a window, or place your piece directly on the windowsill, and watch the light shine through!

