Jessica Stockholder

OBJECTIVES:
1. Explore the installation by contemporary artist Jessica Stockholder by describing what you see using details from the work of art.
2. Identify and analyze different geometry concepts such as tessellations, polygons, planes, and angles.
3. Inspired by Jessica Stockholder’s installation and using different geometrical shapes, create a visual representation of a tessellation.

MATERIALS:
Anything you have available, including but not limited to paper, pencils, markers, colored pencils, rulers or straight edges, and crayons.

Notes & Creating Tessellations (sheets found below)

WARM-UP:
Begin by looking at the images above of an installation by Jessica Stockholder, and think about the following questions:
- What do you notice?
- What shapes do you see? Where?
- What colors do you see?
- What shapes repeat in the installation? Where do you see these shapes repeating?

OBSERVE:
Focus on the repeated triangles and polygons that Jessica Stockholder uses in the installation titled Save on select landscape & outdoor lighting: Song to mind uncouples. Write your ideas down on paper or use the attached note page (below).
- Jessica Stockholder chooses to repeat the triangle shape in her installation. Why might an artist use repetition? Why do you think the artist chose to repeat the triangles in her installation?
- Look at the image of the installation in daylight, then look at the image of the installation at nighttime. Are there any other triangle shapes that appear? If so, where do these triangles appear?
- A tessellation has three basic attributes: repeated patterns, no gaps or overlapping, and could continue on a plane forever. Looking at the installation, specifically at the blue and orange platform, do you think it fits the description of a tessellation? Why or why not?

CREATE AND DO:
Now that you’ve observed and identified different tessellation characteristics in Jessica Stockholder’s installation, it’s your turn to design your own. First, you’ll complete a tessellation using Stockholder’s shapes (triangles + polygon), then you’ll create your own!

First, think about shapes that you can use in your own tessellation. Jessica Stockholder used two shapes, a triangle and a polygon, for her installation. These shapes are able to repeat or tessellate easily.
- Are there shapes that can tessellate or repeat easily? What about a circle? A square? A rhombus?
- What do you notice about shapes that tessellate easily?
- Choose two (or three) different shapes that you’ll use in your tessellation.

Stockholder also plays with the size of the triangles in her installation. In thinking about your tessellation, what size will the shapes be? Big? Small? Remember, in a tessellation, there are no gaps and shapes do not overlap. Think about it as puzzle pieces fitting together perfectly.

Drawing inspiration from Stockholder’s installation, think about the colors that you would want to use. What colors will you use and why? Now it’s time to create! You can choose to draw on your own paper or use the sheet attached. For your tessellation, feel free to use any drawing materials you have around, including markers, pencils, crayons, pens, and any type of straight edge for the shapes.
Jessica Stockholder & Tessellations

Use the image & a writing utensil to answer the questions below.

1. Jessica Stockholder chooses to repeat the triangle shape in her installation. Why might an artist use repetition? Why do you think the artist chose to repeat the triangles in her installation?

2. Look at the image of the installation in daylight, then look at the image of the installation at nighttime. Are there any other triangle shapes that appear? If so, where do these triangles appear?

3. A tessellation has three basic attributes: repeated patterns, no gaps or overlapping, and could continue on a plane forever. Looking at the installation, specifically at the blue and orange platform, do you think it fits the description of a tessellation? Why or why not? Check all that apply.
   ○ Repeated pattern
   ○ No gaps or overlaps
   ○ Could continue on a plane
   ○ Is this a tessellation? Why or why not?
1. Draw the shapes that you used in your tessellation.

2. Why did you use these shapes? ____________________________________________

   ____________________________________________

   ____________________________________________

3. What do you think is the easiest part when creating tessellations? The hardest part? _________

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