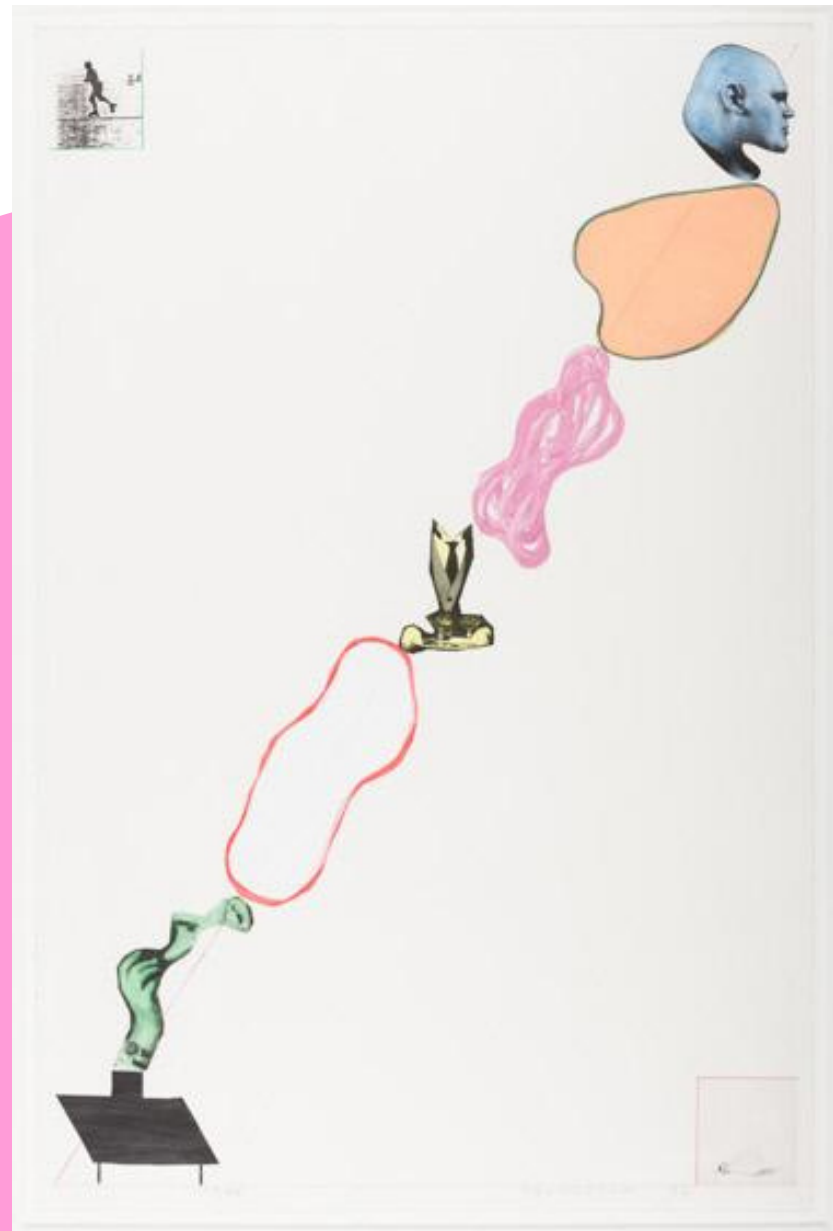


Color, Shape, and Line



JOHN BALDESSARI'S
*Domestic Smoke: Desire,
Power, Colored Intervals, and
Genie. 1992*

Sometimes when artists draw, they work to balance out their drawing with a variety of colors, shapes, and lines. In John Baldessari's print, we can see how he uses pictures to inspire his hand-drawn shapes. In this activity, we will use collage and colored pencils or crayons to create our own balance.

LET'S GET INSPIRED

First think about how Baldessari lines up shapes on the page. Do they balance each other out? How could you create a different line with shapes?

Now look closely at the images that Baldessari chose to glue on his paper. Try to think about the shapes they make rather than what they are a picture of. What kind of shapes do you like?

Now, think about the variety of colors he uses. Notice how they balance each other out because they are all different.

1. Shape

Take a close look at the images on a black and white newspaper.

- What shapes do you like from the images? Do two "things" come together to make an interesting shape?
- Cut out the shapes that speak to you!

2. Line

Now, let's create our own version of Baldessari's print.

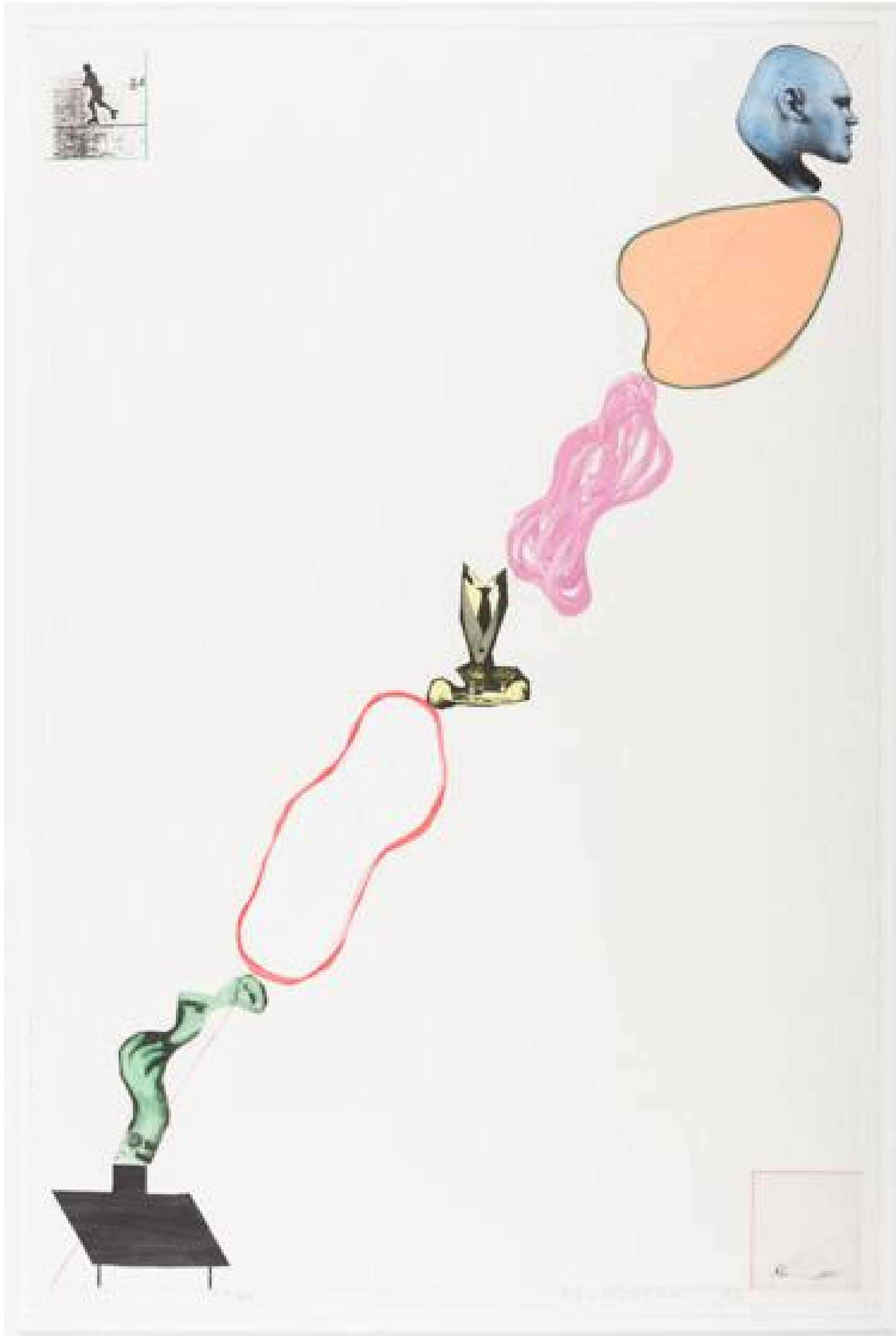
- Get a blank piece of paper and a pencil. Close your eyes, and draw any type of line that you want. Go with your gut.
 - It can be straight, wavy, or even have some curly-cues in it!
- Next, glue your shapes on the line.

3. Color

Colors provide balance in our artwork.

- Take a moment to look at the color wheel. The colors across from each other on the wheel, like dark green and red, are opposites. Name a few pairs of opposites!
- Now, pick out three pairs of opposites from your group of crayons or colored pencils.
 - Use these to color in the black and white shapes you glued onto the line.
- Finally, draw your own shapes to connect the paper shapes. They can be wiggly or sharp, but try to keep in mind how the opposite colors weigh on each side of the paper.





John Baldessari. Domestic Smoke: Desire, Power, Colored Intervals, and Genie. 1992.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Kord, in honor of Emily Kord, class of 1999.

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