In this exhibition, we look at the similarities between Leon Polk Smith’s abstract artworks and industrial design objects from our George Kravis Collection. **Shape** and **Contour** are two of the elements that help to demonstrate the relationship between Smith’s abstract art and the design objects on display. Let’s take a moment to explore how shapes are made.

**Let’s Learn!**

In this activity, we’ll make two types of shapes: **Organic** and **Rectilinear**. Firstly, we must understand the difference between **Organic Shapes** and **Rectilinear Shapes**.

**Organic Shapes in Art**

Have you ever looked at clouds in the sky and thought they looked like animals or other things? These kinds of shapes are called "organic shapes" in art.

**Rectilinear Shapes in Art**

When you think of shapes like squares, rectangles, and triangles, what do they all have in common? Straight lines, right? These shapes with straight lines and angles are called "rectilinear shapes" in art.

“Rectilinear” might sound like a big word, but if we break it down, “recti-” means “straight” and “-linear” means “lines.” So, **rectilinear** shapes are shapes made up of straight lines and sharp corners.
Let's Look!

Now that we know what Organic and Rectilinear Shapes look like let's try to spot some examples. Below are three objects featured in this exhibition. Using a pencil, draw a circle around all the Organic Shapes you can find. Then draw a square around all the Rectilinear Shapes you can find. How many Organic Shapes can you circle? How many Rectilinear Shapes can you square?

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

George R. Kravis II Collection

Like Leon Polk Smith, many of the designers featured in this exhibition used their imaginations, coupled with inspiration from nature and popular culture, to rethink and reinvision everyday objects. From tables and chairs to lamps and typewriters, these designers challenged themselves to think differently about the relationship between form and function.

Instructions

In this activity, we'll challenge ourselves to think differently and creatively about how we can reimagine an everyday object or invent something completely new.

Using the space provided, pick an object, like a chair or a phone, and challenge yourself to see it differently. Ask yourself why this object looks like this and how this object functions. Is there another way to envision this object?

After you've drafted your design, use the lines below to craft a sentence describing what it does and why you made your design choices.

ORGANIC

Instructions

Using the above dots, start at the top left dot and draw a curved line that connects with at least one dot in the middle and two dots at the bottom. Then, without lifting your pencil, continue your curved line back to the starting dot at the top left. You've just made an Organic Shape!

RECTILINEAR

Instructions

Using the above dots, start at the top left dot and draw a straight line that connects with at least one dot in the middle and two dots at the bottom. Then, without lifting your pencil continue your line back to the starting dot at the top left. You've just made a Rectilinear Shape!

WHAT DOES IT DO?