Ross Bleckner is an American artist whose work often features vibrant colors and symbolic images. Bleckner’s paintings tell a story through these bold abstract images.

In this activity, you will create an abstract drawing using colors and shapes to represent yourself or a person you know.

Materials:
• 5 household objects of different shapes and sizes
• Sheet of white paper
• Pencil
• Colored pencils

Look:
• How does Bleckner use color to express a mood or idea?
• How is this portrait different from other portraits you have seen?
• Notice carefully within the yellow stripe of color the corner of a Star of David hidden within the rainbow flag.

Process:
• Trace the outlines of 5 household objects such as a cereal box, bowl, lid, can, or other objects on a piece of paper. Overlap the shapes as you trace them with pencil.
• Think about two to three favorite colors that could represent you or a person in your family for this abstract portrait.
• Fill in the areas of your traced shapes with colors. How do the colors change when the lines of your shapes intersect?
• Cover the entire paper with color. Blend and layer the colors to create an interesting effect.
• Consider adding a secret shape within the design like Bleckner’s star.