



# Make art

with the  
Art Gallery  
of New  
South Wales  
Symmetrical  
shapes and  
forms

Art  
Gallery  
NSW





left: Sydney Ball **Transoxiana** from the **Persian series** 1967, colour screenprint on white paper, Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of the artist 2011 © Sydney Ball. Courtesy The Estate of Sydney Ball and Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney. Photo: © AGNSW

below: Unknown artist **Surya, the sun god** early 11th century, phyllite, Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Mr S Matsuno 1995; right: John Coburn **Maquette for tapestry 'Tree of life'** 1986, synthetic polymer paint, gouache on paper, Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of the Christensen Fund 1995 © John Coburn/ Copyright Agency, 2020. cover: Ben Quilty **Fairy Bower Rorschach** 2012 (detail), oil on linen, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased with funds provided by the Patrick White Bequest Fund, 2012 © Ben Quilty. Photos: © AGNSW

# Do you love to draw, paint and make things?

**Artists love to create.** They make drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and other things for us to look at. Some artists like to use symmetry in their art. Something is symmetrical when it is the same on both sides.

Look at these artworks that use symmetry from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, become an artist and construct your own design.



We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the Country on which the Art Gallery of New South Wales stands.

If you look closely at these different artworks you will notice that some parts of their designs are symmetrical. Symmetry can help connect forms, shapes and patterns together into a unified whole. Symmetry often appears in nature and all these artworks have forms that are inspired by organic shapes.

**You will need:**  
Scissors  
Hole puncher  
Glue  
Pencil  
Selection of card  
and paper  
Card for the background  
Your imagination!

# Symmetrical shapes and forms

Follow the instructions so you can learn some tips and tricks for making your own symmetrical artwork.

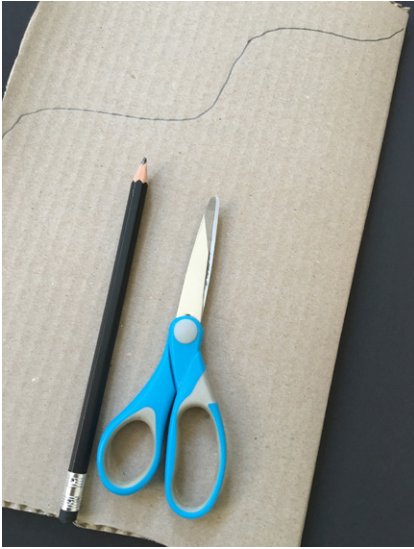
Remember, you are the artist so you can decide the design, the patterns and how many symmetrical shapes you will include.





1

Choose a piece of paper or card for your background and a piece of card for your design. Fold the card in half then draw a shape starting at the folded edge and ending at the open edge. Cut along the line. background.



2

Open out the shape and lay it on your background. Look at the leftover piece of card, perhaps you can use it too. Fold another piece of paper and use the same technique to create a new symmetrical shape.



3

Tip: if you keep the shape folded, you could use a hole puncher to create a symmetrical pattern along the edge.



4

Keep adding different shapes and different types of paper and card to build up your design. Remember that the leftover pieces when you cut out your shape can also be useful.



5

Add in some smaller shapes and decorative patterns and think about where to place them. Perhaps you could use shapes inspired by nature, or invent your own.



6

Tip: fold a piece of paper several times before cutting a shape so you get several identical symmetrical shapes. When you are happy with your composition, stick everything to your background card.

