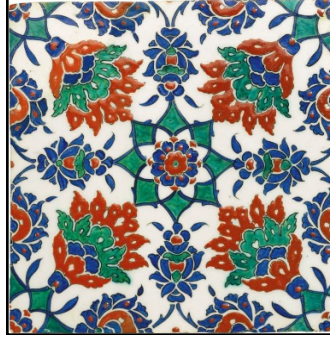


Reflection Symmetry Pattern



Essential Question: How do artists use reflection symmetry?

Duration:

2-4 20-minute sessions

Materials:

Bristol board or drawing paper

Pencil

Ruler

Colored pencils

Markers

Art History/Inspiration:

Islamic Tile Patterns

Lesson:

Using the Islamic tiles as inspiration, make a simple design using reflection symmetry as your pattern rule. Notice that each quadrant of a tile design is a mirror image of the one adjacent to it. By “flipping” the imagery of each quadrant as he or she fills in each square, the artist can achieve eye-dazzling designs.

1. Take a 9 x 9” piece of Bristol board and use a pencil and ruler to divide the square into four equal quadrants with light pencil lines.
2. Begin by drawing a shape in light pencil somewhere in the upper-left quadrant.
3. Next, draw its mirror image in the upper-right quadrant, followed by the same for the lower-right and left quadrants. (It may be easier to start in the middle of the page with a simple triangle, where all four corners meet, as in the first example above.)
4. Continue this process trying to make your design as symmetrical as possible as you introduce new shapes and lines to your quadrants.
5. Sketch your entire design in pencil before thinking about any color scheme. Your design can be as graphic or ornate as you desire.
6. Once you are finished with your pencil design, you can add color to the composition. Be sure the colors you choose follow the same pattern of reflection symmetry.