

Mirroring

Explore the design principles of symmetry, contrast, balance, repetition, rhythm, pattern, and white space.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Two sheets of different colored paper.
- Scissors, or if you're older, an Exacto knife (be careful!)
- Pencil
- Glue (can be glue stick or liquid glue)

STEPS

1. Cut the paper so one sheet is half the width of the other. For instance, if you have letter size paper, make one sheet 8-1/2" x 11" and the other 5-1/2" x 8-1/2". The two pages can be any proportions as long as the one sheet is half the size of the other.
2. Lightly draw your design on the smaller sheet of paper. Think of the design as shapes that are interacting with one another. Be aware of the space between the shapes and consider how they will look when it's mirrored.
3. Carefully cut out the shapes. It's important to handle the shapes you cut out with care. Do not throw anything away!
4. Flip the cut out shapes over onto the other side and place them so they mirror the cut side. Your pieces should be symmetrical about the center line.
5. Step back and look at your design. You might decide to make some adjustments by adding new shapes. Lightly erase any visible pencil marks.
6. Once you have a design that you're happy with, glue all cut pieces to the paper. Start by gluing what remains of the original rectangle first.

Note: if you only have a pencil and paper you can also generate a Notan by drawing the mirrored shape and filling in the dark areas where the shape was removed.

