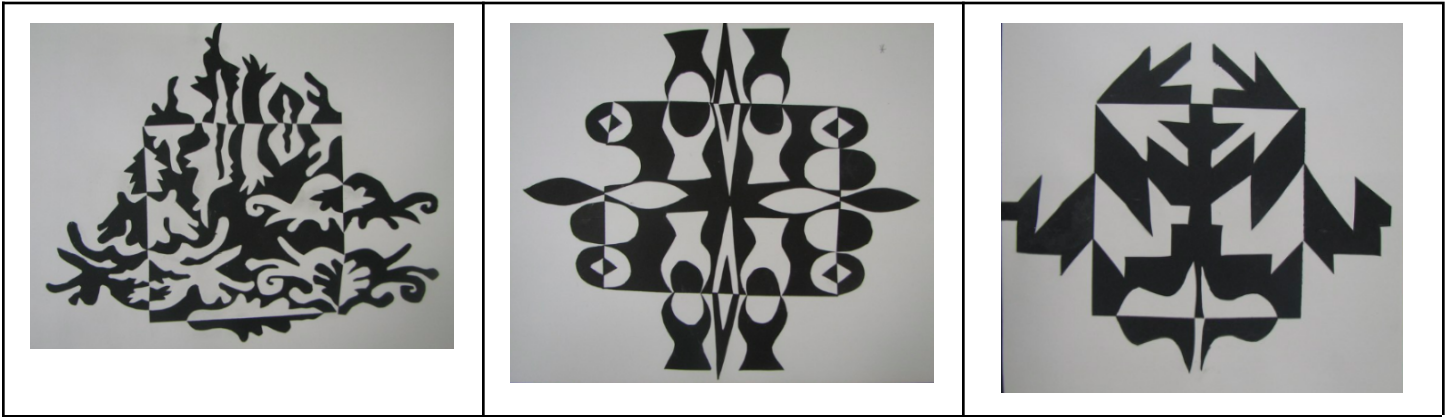


Notan Designs



Purpose:

- Use positive and negative space in an interesting way.
- Understand and use elements of art: shape & space (positive and negative).
- Understand and use principles of art: contrast & balance (symmetry and asymmetry).

Culture/Concept Studied: Japanese concept of Notan

Resource: [Notan](#)

(See: [Elements and Principles](#) for clarity)

You are going to make two collages which will express the concept of Notan, balancing positive and negative, black and white. Give yourself time to figure out the cutting and gluing and figure out how to arrange shapes so they don't go off the page. Consider using only ORGANIC shapes or only primarily GEOMETRIC shapes. Could you make a very interesting design using a combination of both? REALLY think about the shapes you make, how they connect, and where they are placed.



For each collage you will use one square sheet of black paper and glue the design neatly into your sketchbook.

- Use 4.5 x 4.5 squares of black paper and all the negative cuttings to create two Notan Designs.

- You **must make at least 5 cuts** and there should be ***at least one* cut out of each of the four sides**
- You might consider using a colored pencil to draw your idea lines on the black paper. If you do this, be sure to cut *outside* the colored lines, so the pencil gets flipped and glued down instead of being visible on the inside positive shapes.
- **You must use all your paper**, the positive and the negative cuttings (you might want to avoid teeny shapes).
- Cut **only** non-objective, unrecognizable shapes.
- Consider repeating similar types of shapes to help give **movement and unity** to your piece.
- **Keep your work flat and unwrinkled.** You may use scissors or an x-acto knife for this assignment. Glue should not be visible, yet all papers should be well-glued. Do NOT glue on top of the cutting boards (use a piece of scrap paper under the work you are gluing).
- **Use facing pages in your sketchbook** so that you can see both designs at the same time.

[Student Examples](#)