

Make art
with the Art Gallery of New South Wales



Do you love to draw, paint and make things?

Artists love to create.

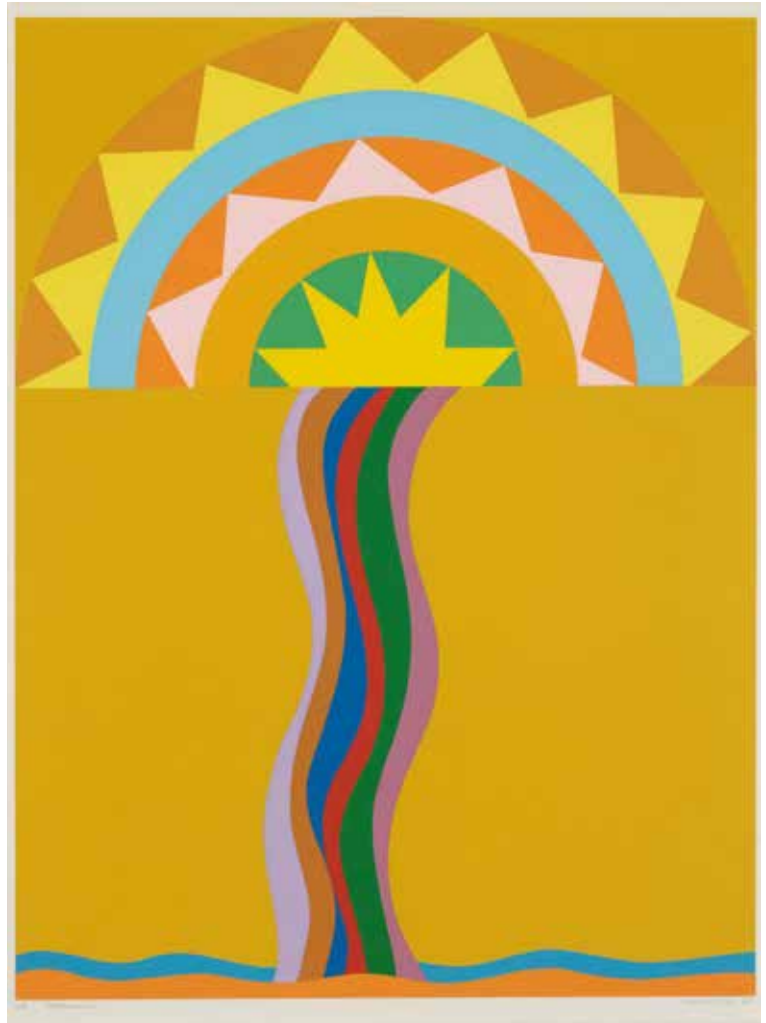
They make drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and other things for us to look at. Some artists like to use symmetry in their art. Something is symmetrical when it is the same on both sides.

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



Symmetrical shapes and forms

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.



Get creative

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.

left:
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

above from left:
Unknown artist
Surya, the sun god early 11th century
phyllite
Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Mr S Matsuno 1995

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

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

You will need:

- Scissors
- Hole puncher
- Glue
- Pencil
- Selection of card and paper
- Card for the background
- Your imagination!



What to do



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.



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.