

MANDALAS

The word MANDALA means "circle" in Sanskrit (an ancient sacred language of Hinduism.) The mandala, a design form which radiates out from a center, is ancient and universal - appearing in the art, architecture, and dance of cultures everywhere.

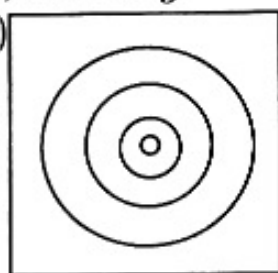
RADIAL SYMMETRY is a form of symmetrical balance in which the elements of a composition radiate from a central axis in a regular, repeating pattern which would be symmetrical (equal) if folded in half.

After viewing examples of Mandalas from various cultures on the Internet, do the following assignment:

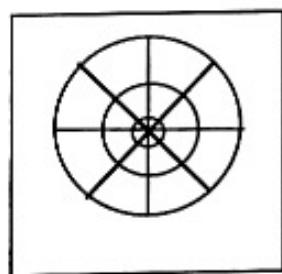
Part I: Design it!

1. Using a compass, create a 12 inch circle on heavy paper, with 10-15 concentric circles inside, spaced various widths apart: (1)

2. Place the center of a protractor over the center dot of your circles. Mark off every 45 degrees with a little dot. Use a see-through ruler to LIGHTLY draw lines dividing circle into 8 equal triangles by drawing through the protractor line and the center of the circle: (see 2)



Example 1



Example 2

3. Now the fun begins! The basic premise is that whatever you do on one side of the circle, you must balance the same thing on the opposite side (SYMMETRY!!) to create your radial balance - or RADIAL SYMMETRY. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ALL NEW LINES THAT YOU

ADD TO DEVELOP YOUR DESIGNS MUST BEGIN AND END AT THE INTERSECTION OF A PROTRACTOR LINE AND A COMPASS LINE INTERSECTION. (if you're saying HUH? see me...)

4. Continue to develop your design by repeating whatever you draw on one side of the circles to the other side and watch your design grow in complexity. You will use various points, arcs and parallel lines.
5. Fill in areas of pattern as needed and wanted. Not all areas need it, but you must have some.

Part 2: Color it!

Inspiration for color and balance in artwork is ALL around you. With this project, you will be using the expertise of "some graphic artist somewhere" who got paid a lot of money to design the balance and choice of colors in the food packaging of a certain product.

FOR EXAMPLE: When I look at a box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese (the cheesiest!) I can see a ratio of approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ medium and dark blue, $\frac{1}{3}$ yellow and orange, a dash of red and a tiny bit of white. If I use these amounts as a basic guide to help me develop a successful color combination for my artwork, I am amazed at how limiting my palette in this way and using the ratios helps me better understand the use of color!

For this assignment:

1. Bring in a cardboard food package to use as color inspiration for your mandala.
2. I will give you a small piece of paper to figure out the colors involved and the ratios by which they are used. (Don't get hung up on the ratio part - its an estimation - make sure the use of colors is NOT equal.) You will turn this in, along with the mandala and the food packaging.
3. Use these colors to color your mandala in colored pencil, remembering to deal with the patterns and not just color over them.