

M

IS FOR MOTIF

COMMUNITY IDENTITY HISTORIES CHANGE

A motif is something that repeats – a dominant and recurring idea, something that forms a pattern or continuous theme. We find motifs in art and design; they are embedded in the things we make and in the lives we live. Motifs can be distinctive or subtle, symbolic or decorative.

YEMI AWOSILE

1. Fold along this dotted line

Note: This activity offers making as a strategy and entry point to tell one's stories, create connections and identify patterns that are present in art and in life. This resource celebrates the act of collective making – how a pattern or motif is composed of a series of individual elements coming together to create something new.


ACTIVITY DEvised BY
ARTIST YEMI AWOSILE
in collaboration with Schools and
Teachers Tate London Learning

BRING ART INTO YOUR CLASSROOM
You can also access the collection
artworks from tate.org.uk

TATE


2. Fold in these corners

MAKE

Fold the paper to
create this shape  following steps 1, 2 and 3

Find a space in the gallery, take a moment to look around you. Seek out anything that repeats, recurs, represents, returns. Remember to keep checking your shapes to see what to do next.

COMBINE

Come together with others and arrange this shape  to create patterns on the gallery floor.

Find a rhythm, a flow and repeat.

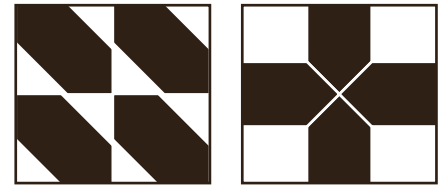
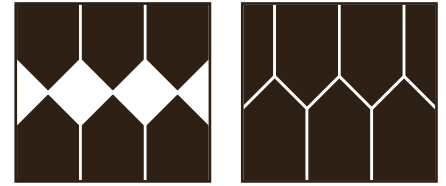
Allow the colours and shapes to guide you, creating interconnecting arrangements.

Disrupt, create a new pattern or arrangement, break again.

PICK UP AND LOOK AROUND

Now on your own look at the artworks in the room.

Search for ideas and patterns which flow and repeat. These could be sounds, images, words, materials, emotions. Draw, write or describe them here.



REMAKE

Come together as a group and share your findings. Do your motifs create a narrative or a mood for the space you are in? Can you make links or find repetitions? Do we always need to use words to communicate with each other? Arrange your shapes to create a new pattern from your connections.

3. Fold in these corners



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