



# Mandalas

## OVERVIEW

Students will create mandalas inspired by Willie Cole's *Pressed Iron Blossom #2*. Students will use found objects and a protractor to create a symmetrical design.

## STANDARDS

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are Mandalas?

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will Learn:

- To use art vocabulary while creating art.
- To explore different media while creating art.
- Use a protractor to measure angles in whole-number degrees and sketch angles of specified measurements.

## STANDARDS

### Mathematics

25. Use a protractor to measure angles in whole-number degrees and sketch angles of specified measure.

### Art Education

1. Individually brainstorm multiple approaches to an art problem.
3. Generate ideas and employ a variety of strategies and techniques to create a work of art/design

4. When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others.

10. Compare responses to a work of art before and after working in similar media.

## ART DISCUSSION

### DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Who is Willie Cole?
- Asian cultures and andalas
- Discuss Will Cole's *Pressed Iron Blossom #2*
- What is a protractor?
- Discuss acute, right, and straight angles

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



Willie Cole is a contemporary sculptor and printmaker. A conceptual artist, Cole references African American culture and imagery in his work. The steamed iron is recurring image in his work, a reference to his mother who was a domestic worker.

His work has been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1998), Bronx Museum of the Arts (2001), Miami Art Museum (2001), Tampa Art Museum (2004), University of Wyoming Art Museum (2006), Montclair Art Museum (2006), College of Wooster Art Museum (2013-14).

Willie Cole lives and works in New Jersey

## CURRICULUM CONTENT

### LEARN ABOUT PRESSED IRON BLOSSOM #2 AND MANDALAS

Pressed Iron Blossom #2 is a lithograph. Lithography is a planographic printmaking process in which a design is drawn onto a flat stone (or prepared metal plate, usually zinc or aluminum) and affixed by means of a chemical reaction.

Pressed Iron Blossom #2 has inspired our STEAM activity with the use of symmetrical techniques using irons. This piece reminds us of mandalas. A mandala is a spiritual and ritual symbol in Asian cultures. It can be understood in two different ways: externally as a visual representation of the universe or internally as a guide for several practices that take place in many Asian traditions, including meditation. By the 4th century, Painters of the spiritual craft were often pious laymen, who were commissioned by a patron. They worked seated on the floor with a painting propped in their laps or in front of their crossed legs.

There are three types of mandalas. Teaching, healing, and sand mandalas. Teaching mandalas are symbolic, and each shape, line, and color represents a different aspect of a philosophical or religious system. Healing mandalas are more intuitive than teaching mandalas, and they are made for the purpose of meditation. Sand mandalas use a variety of symbols made from colored sand that represent the impermanence of human life.



# Mandalas

## ART INSTRUCTION

### MATERIALS

Found objects, Paper, Paint, Paint brushes, Water cups, Pencil, Protractor

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using a protractor, create a circle and identify two 180 degree angles. Then four 45 degree angles.
2. Lightly erase dark pencil markings
3. Grab 4 found objects to use as stamps
4. After applying paint onto one stamp, place the stamp in the center of the circle
5. Grabbing another stamp (or using the same), choose one line in the circle and press the painted stamp on opposite sides of the line creating a symmetrical design
6. Do the previous step for all of the lines created in the circle.
7. Once finished, allow paint to dry.



## TERMS

**MANDALAS** - circular structure with radial symmetry, meaning that the design radiates out symmetrically from the center.

**SYMMETRY** balanced and proportionate similarity that is found in two halves of an object

**PROTRACTOR** is a clear plastic device to measure angles from 0 to 180 degrees.

**ANGLE** the space between two intersecting lines where they join at a point. The size of the angle is measured in degrees.

**RIGHT ANGLE** L shape that measures 90 degrees

**STRAIGHT ANGLE** straight line that measures 180 degrees

**ACUTE ANGLE** V shape that measure less than 90 degrees

## EXPAND

### USE QR CODE FOR GUIDE ACTIVITY VIDEOS

Follow our youtube at [wiregrassmuseumofart7239](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7239)

