

# Pattern

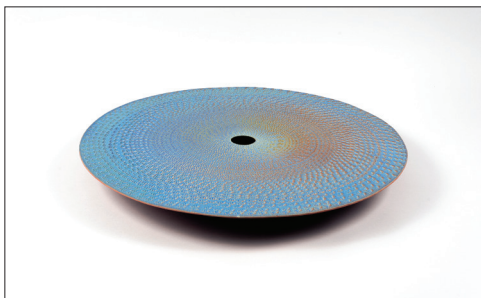
Patterns are designs in which lines, shapes, and/or colors are repeated in a predictable way. They are an important tool that can help us organize what we see and make predictions about what we are looking at. Patterns are everywhere and they are important in art, science, math, and other subjects. Repetition and predictability help us recognize patterns.

Look at the pattern below. It can be described by element as wavy lines-shape-shape, wavy lines-shape-shape, etc. Determining what comes next is easy because the pattern repeats. The pattern can also be described by color as red-yellow-blue-green-orange-purple, red-yellow-blue-green-orange-purple. Again, predicting the next color is easy because the pattern repeats.

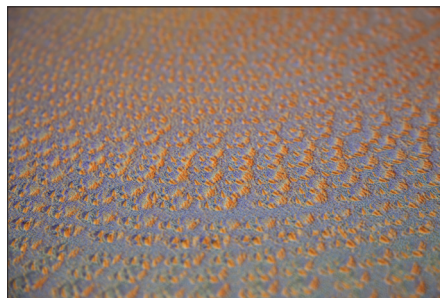


Chinese, **Large vessel**, 2300-2000 BCE. Gift of Dr. Gerald Shepps, 1999.37

Artists have created patterns since ancient times. The large vessel at the left was made in China during the Neolithic period (2300-2000 BCE). It has a rounded form that tapers downward, a flared rim, and two small handles that suggest this may be a ceremonial vessel rather than one used in daily life. The upper half of the vessel is decorated with red and black circles surrounding a checkerboard design. Crisscrossed lines make a diamond pattern on the neck.



(Above) Guy Adamec, **Balance**. 2019. Museum purchase with funds from the Collection Endowment, 2020.50 (Right) detail of rim.



**Balance** consists of two pieces: a small round pot and a large disk that serves as the pot's rim. The vessel is perfectly balanced. When touched or spun, it always returns to a balanced position. The large rim helps focus attention on the opening in the center.

*Art is pattern informed by sensibility.*

Herbert Read



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# How Many Patterns Can You Find?

## Materials

Pencil

Colored pencils or markers

## Instructions

Visit the Flint Institute of Arts and look for patterns in the artworks. Draw the patterns you find below.



Select one of the patterns and describe it using the different methods below:

**Color:** Use colored pencils or markers to show the different colors in the pattern.



**Group:** Break the pattern into its different parts. Group similar parts together.



**Poem:** Use a rhyme to describe your pattern with words.

