

# Shapes and figures

The artists who decorated this vase, painted lines, shapes and various designs on it. Drawing inspiration from the patterns and themes found on ancient vases, we will create our own decorative designs.

These will magically unfold from a black square and be adorned by the color of your cardboard, blending the theme of your work with its background. In this way, through the stark contrast, you will create a well-balanced composition and witness the creative interplay between a surface and its background.



## Materials

- Colored cardboard for the background (something bright for more contrast) about 30cm x 40 cm (should be at least twice the size of the black cardboard square)
- A square piece of black cardboard, about 15 x 15 cm
- Pencil – eraser
- Scissors
- Glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

### **Place the smaller black cardboard on top of the colored cardboard.**

Use a pencil to create drawings. The drawings can revolve around a theme, such as figures, geometric or organic shapes, patterns, etc. Make sure your drawings touch the edge of the black cardboard and take up space on the surface of the paper so you can cut them out. Even if you choose to draw lines, make sure they are thick enough, not a single thin line, so that you are able to cut around them later. Create simple shapes so that it's easier to cut them out.

### **When you finish drawing, cut out your designs very carefully.**

Make sure to cut precisely along the lines you drew, without cutting any other pieces or leaving any excess material beyond your intended shape. Once you have removed the shapes from the black square, set them aside carefully and glue the central piece in the middle of the colored cardboard which serves as your background. Place the pieces you cut out of the square back in their original position to find them more easily.

### **To glue the shapes you cut out, open them up like a book.**

After aligning all the inverted shapes with the outer outline of the black square, you can glue them down. Your unfolded square is ready.

### **This technique is called Notan and it comes from Japan.**

