

## Pattern Play

**Objective:** Students will explore the art elements of texture and pattern in designing and creating a unique drawing.

### Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

**Texture-** the feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface. Artists use texture to add depth, interest, or balance to different areas of their artwork.

**Pattern-** a repetition of specific visual elements

**Horizontal-** left to right, orientation parallel to the horizon.

**Vertical-** up to down, orientation perpendicular to the horizon.

**Materials:** 3 sheets of copy paper, pencil, ruler, colored pencils/crayons/markers. Note: this lesson can ALSO be completed as a painting activity, materials would include cups of water, watercolor paper/canvas, paint and paintbrushes.

**Opening Activity:** Ask members- “where do you see patterns in this room?” Explain that a pattern is a repeated image or shape. Often, they appear in clothing or textiles- shirts, socks, shoes, backpacks. Show students this video: “Pattern in Art,” by Sharon Bernard- <https://youtu.be/8EJ56AeHC5A>

**Core Activity:** Distribute paper and pencils to students and have them trace their non-dominant hand. For older students craving greater complexity in the activity, the hand shape itself can be the FIRST pattern, and they can trace their hand multiple times, in different orientations around the paper. In this complex design, the hands can OVERLAP or not.

Then, students will draw straight or curved lines to divide up the shape of the hand or hands. When complete, the hand will look like it has been cracked into several different sections. Distribute crayons/colored pencils/markers, and instruct students to start with one color in one section and FILL that section with a colored pattern, creating a shape in a single color and then repeating that shape or line until the section is full of that pattern. Then, they should choose a different color and shape or line pattern to fill the adjacent segment, and continue switching up the pattern and color combination until all sections of the hand are full of pattern. When complete, students should use black to retrace the section boundaries to reinforce the image and pattern segmentation.

**Reflection:** While students help clean up the room, ask them “Do the patterns change the sense of texture in your art? Does the hand appear SMOOTH or ROUGH in the drawing?” You can also remind students that pattern is an element of art AND an element of life- sounds repeat and become a beat, dance steps repeat and become a full dance, behavior repeats and becomes a pattern.

