

Everett Community College  
Course: ART110 Visual Foundations and Design  
Quarter: Winter 2023  
Instructor: Ayad Almissouri

### Project 3: Positive and Negative Shape Relationship Notan



For this assignment students will be responsible for researching their own photographic references for their designs (abstract or geometric shapes) to create their Notan project. When they're constructing and developing your ideas, students must consider using all four sides of your black sheet of paper (scale: 5inx5in). When researching, think about subjects from your interests, be creative and think outside the box. Students must also complete the Kirigami design cut from paper project, provided under the assignment tab, onto your black sheet of paper.

#### Instructions for Notan:

1. First start to draw the outlines of abstract shapes on the black square. Lines must start and end on the same side of the square. Use all four sides.
2. Consider negative space, scale, shape, and balance.
3. Now cut out all the shapes you drew. Be sure to keep all the pieces.
4. Next place all pieces onto the square of white paper.
5. Flip over the cut-out pieces alongside the sides of the square.
6. Include all the pieces and position all the shapes to fit onto the white paper.
7. Finally, glue all shapes onto the white background paper.

#### Instructions for Kirigami:

1. First start to print out the document attached under the handout page onto a sheet of paper or Bristol sheet.
2. Using your scissors, start cutting the solid lines. Follow the lines but do not cut into the dotted lines.
3. Finally, glue on the side of the sheet onto the black sheet of paper for the background.

#### Students will be submitting the following images under the Assignment tab:

- One or more images/photographic references
- Complete 5in x 5in cut black sheet of paper **Notan** design, onto your 10in x 10in square Bristol paper.

- Complete the provided **Kirigami** (JPG document) design cut from paper, onto your black sheet of paper.

Critique and Due Date: Thursday February 16, 2023 at 6:00pm

Key Artistic Terms:

- **Notan:** is a Japanese term that means ‘light and dark harmony/balance.’ It’s a design concept that looks at how light and dark elements of a composition interact only using black and white.
- **Yin and Yang:** In Chinese mythology, Yin and Yang originated from chaos during the creation of the universe and apparently exist harmoniously in the center of the Earth. Dealing with the principle of existence and the fact that everything in life flows and grows.
- **Origami** is the Japanese art of folding paper according to precise patterns, in order to obtain a two-dimensional or three-dimensional paper sculpture that represents people, objects, plants and animals.
- **Kirigami** is a variation of origami, the Japanese art of folding paper. In kirigami, the paper is cut as well as being folded, resulting in a three-dimensional design that stands away from the page. Kirigami typically does not use glue.
- **Space:** Refers to the emptiness or area between, around, above, below, or within objects.
- **Positive Space:** the shapes or forms of interest.
- **Negative Space:** the empty space between the shapes or forms.

Project 3 Materials:

- 14x17 Bristol Pad, cut 10in and 5in square of black paper
- 18" Stainless Steel Cork Backed Ruler
- Graphite pencil
- Scissors or X Acto cutting knife blade
- Glue stick.

Art Historical References:

- Akira Yoshizawa
- MC Escher
- Kara Walker
- Arthur Wesley Dow

Learning Objectives:

- Create three individual Notan and Kirigami designs.
- Students will explore the compositional balance using Figure/Ground or Positive/Negative Shape Relationships.
- Identify the balance in each design as Symmetrical or Asymmetrical.