

## Objectives

- Students will be able to explain positive and negative space
- Students will be able to create a Notan using positive and negative space

## Definitions

Explain to students the concept of positive and negative space

*Positive Space*- the main focus of the picture

*Negative Space*- the surrounding area.

(ie: Donut vs. the Hole in the center of the donut and surrounding area.)

## Introduction

Present the image *Fish and Sails* by Henry Neil Rasmussen. Ask students what they notice about the image. How does Rasmussen use positive and negative shapes to create an interesting painting?

Show the students the image *Uinta* by W. Royden Card.

Tell students that this image is a wood cut, which means that all the white space has been carved out and the black lines are the area that was printed. Ask the students how they think this artist would need to plan ahead of time to create the image. Ask the students how they think positive and negative space work together in this image to create an interesting picture.



W. Royden Card, *Uinta*, 1987



Henry Neil Rasmussen, *Fish and Sails*, 1988

## Materials

- Rulers
- Dark Construction paper
- Light paper
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Gluesticks

## Images from the Museum

- Henry Neil Rasmussen, *Fish and Sails*, 1988
- W. Royden Card, *Uinta*, 1987

## Utah Core Standards

### Mathematics

Strand: Measurement and Data

Standard 2.MD.1

Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.

### Visual Arts

Strand: Create

Standard 2.V.CR.2:

Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interest in a work of art or design.

### Activity

Explain to students that they will be creating a Notan image using positive and negative space.

- Have students measure a 5" x 5" square on a piece of dark colored paper (see image 1).
- Instruct students to cut the square out and around the edges (see image 2, 3).
- Draw shapes that can be cut out from along the edges (see image 4).
- Instruct students to cut these shapes out, making sure to keep them in one piece.
- Glue the positive remaining paper of the square to a white sheet of paper.
- Save all cut out pieces. (see image 5).
- After gluing the remaining paper down, have students flip their cut out shapes like a mirror and glue them opposite their corresponding negative space (see image 6).

When all cut out shapes are glued down, the image is finished.

### Assessment

Finished work includes the following criteria:

- Square measures 5"x5"
- All shapes are cut out in one piece
- All shapes are glued in a mirror image to their negative space
- There must be at least 7 shapes cut out of the square

### Variations

Different colored paper can be used for background, themes may be used (ie: Halloween, nature shapes, etc)

### Sources

Woodcut background information:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodcut>

Notan background information:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notan>



image 1

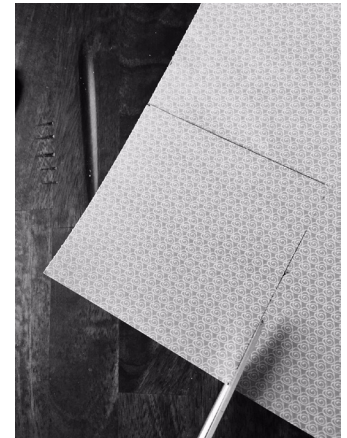


image 2

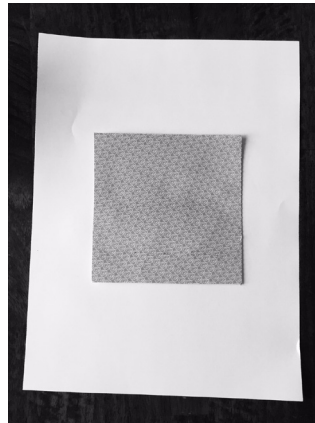


image 3

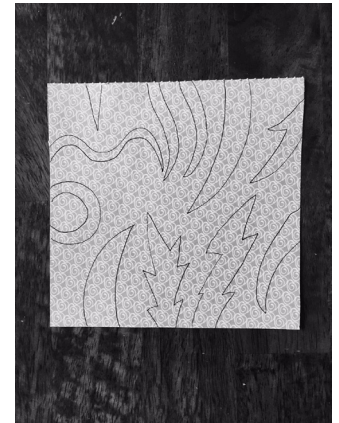


image 4

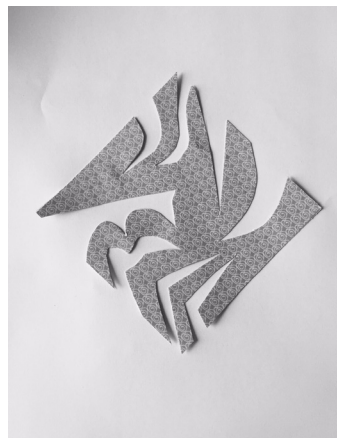


image 5

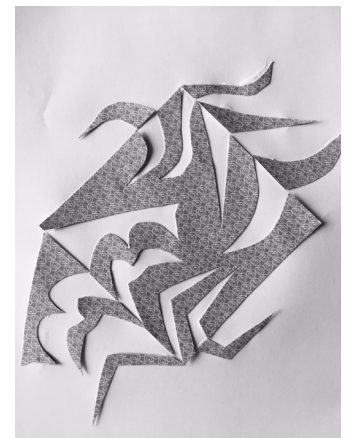


image 6



Henry Neil Rasmusen, *Fish and Sails*, 1947



W. Royden Card, *Uinta*, 1987