JAPANESE DESIGN CONCEPT: NOTAN

Learning Targets:
Demonstrate an understanding of the element of art- **shape** by exploring **negative and positive** shapes/space using the design concept of Notan to achieve balance.

Must Do: Develop an understanding of the Japanese design concept- **Notan** by learning about key concept associated with it, and apply it with the creation of a design based on the Notan concept of art. Create a cut design with positive and negative shapes.

http://susanpm.blogspot.com/2012/04/week-of-notan-day-1.html

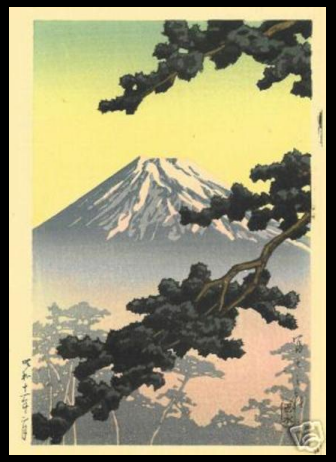
- Island Nation located in Eastern Asian located in the Pacific Ocean/East of Sea of Japan
- Often referred to as “Land of the Rising Sun”.
- Population around 120 million.

Graf
lonely planet

Cultural beliefs that guide Japanese Aesthetics

Shinto-Buddhism (philosophy/belief system)

- "…wholeness and appreciation of of nature….and its celebration of the landscape, things either evolve or fade away." Worshipping of nature, belief that spirits reside in nature.



- **Wabi-sabi**
- "….mindful approach to everyday life….. beauty is an altered state of consciousness and can be seen in the mundane and simple."

Zen Garden

- **Shibui**
- "….beauty of simple, subtle, and unobtrusive beauty."

18th-19th century tea bowl

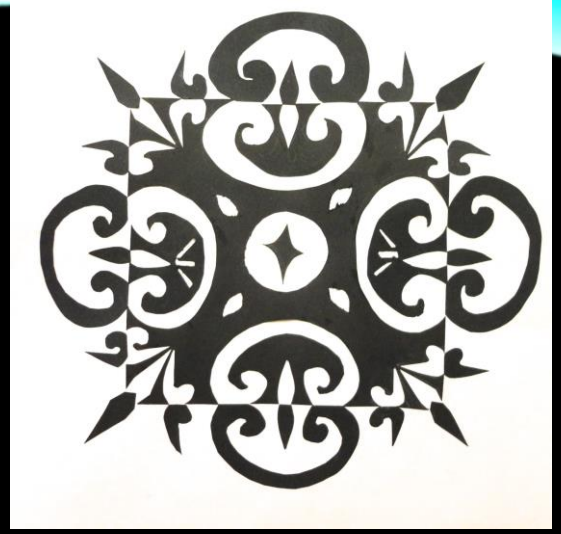
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_aesthetics

NOTAN

"Nōtan (濃淡?) is a Japanese design concept involving the play and placement of light and dark as they are placed next to the other in art and imagery."

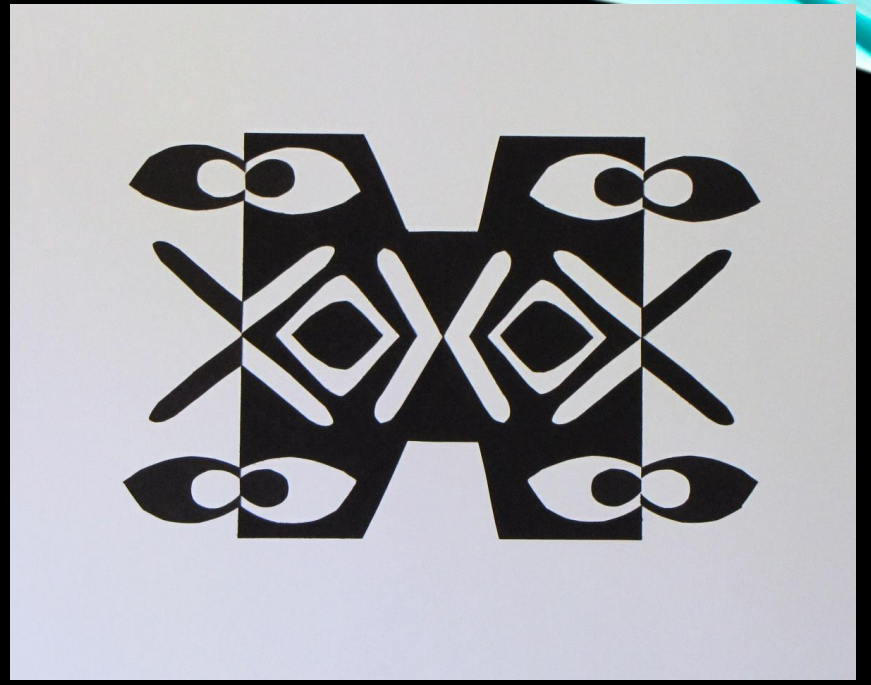
- Use of Japanese design concept implies that beauty and harmony will be achieved.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notan



Lightness and Darkness

"As a guiding principle of Eastern art and design, Notan (a Japanese word meaning dark-light) focuses on the interaction between positive and negative shapes/space. In composition, it recognizes the separate but equally important identity of both a shape and its background."

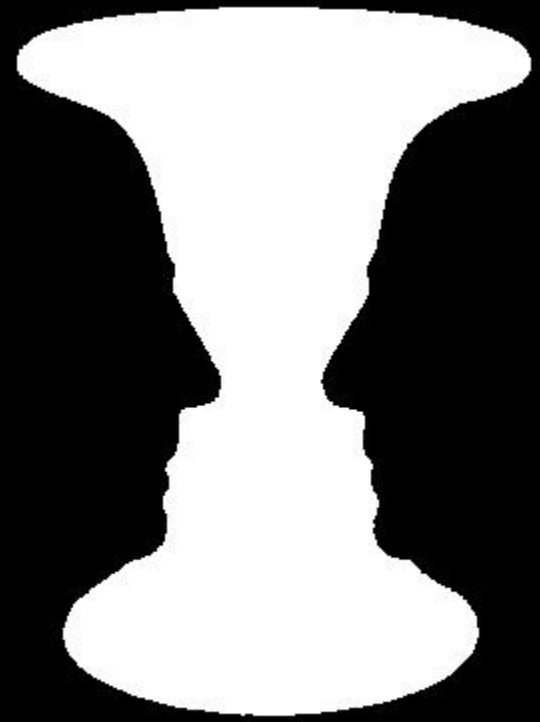


http://www.3villagecsd.k12.ny.us/artsgelinas/new_page_16.htm

Key Concepts

Negative Space (Shape)- space around and between the subject(s) of an image

Positive Space (Shape)- space that fills or gives an object shape



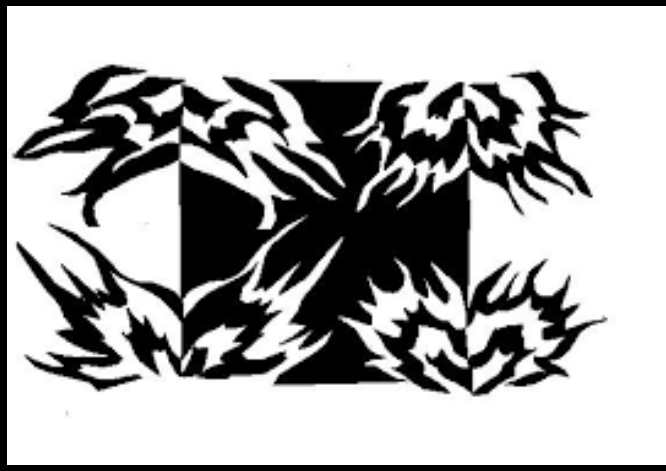
Rubin's Vase

www.Wikipedia.com

What is Notan Used for?

"This use of light and dark translates shape and form into flat shapes on a two-dimensional surface. Nōtan is traditionally presented in paint, ink, or cut paper, but it is relevant to a host of modern day image-making techniques, such as lithography in printmaking……"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notan



Why is the concept of Notan important in art?

It helps in creating a dynamic **composition** through balance.

Composition "….is the placement or arrangement of visual elements or ingredients in a work of art, the …….organization of the elements of art according to the principles of art."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composition_(visual_arts)

http://www.mitchalbala.com/notan/

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT: EXPLORING NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE SPACE WITH NOTAN DESIGN

Explore the Elements of art:

Positive/Negative space & shape

Principles of Art:

Balance

Symmetry- perfectly even on both sides and balanced.

Asymmetry- dissimilar elements but still appears balanced

Contrast

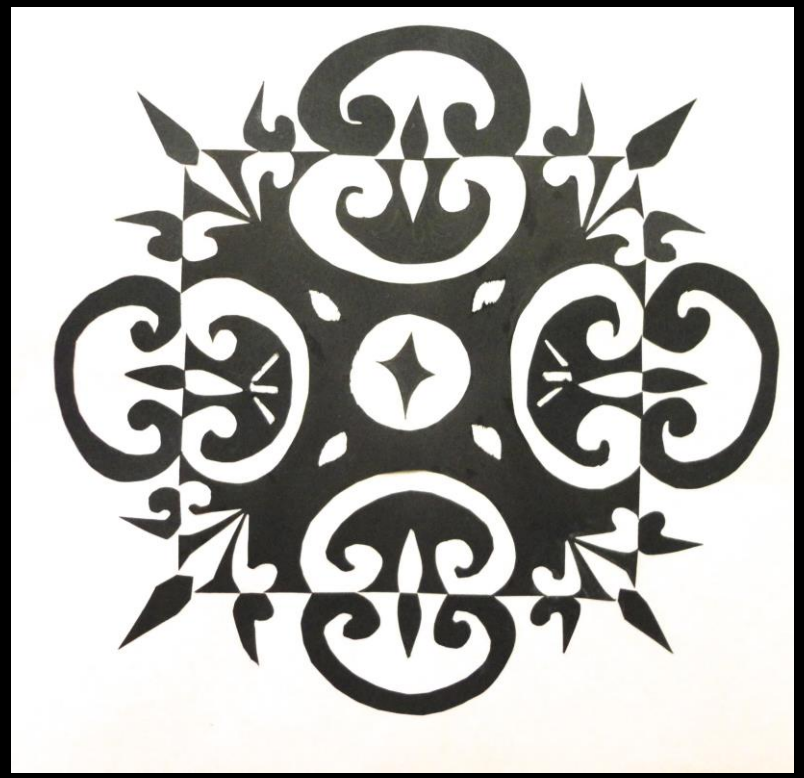
MUST DO:

Create a work of art based on the Notan design concept with a focus on creating balance and harmony with the use of negative and positive space.

Step 1: Using a 4x4 in. piece of black paper, draw **3 shapes on each side** (organic or geometric) that all start and end on the outer edges of each side.

Step 2: Cut out all your pieces (keep all of them). Put all of your pieces back in the exact shapes where you cut them out. Now flip your shapes directly out to create your design.

Formative Assessment- Sketchbook Page Exploring Negative and Positive Shape/Space



Create your Notan design. Then somewhere on your page label the following information:

1) Label Page: Japanese Design Concept- Notan

2) Description/Definition of Notan

3) What the primary element of art that this design explores or shows?

4) What does the concept of Notan help you achieve in a work of art?

5) What type of balance is your design?

6) 1 interesting fact you learned about Japan.

http://www.k6art.com/2013/02/20/notan-for-fifth-and-sixth-grades/