

FAMILY DAY

JUNE 2020

Exploring abstraction with BFA Laikin Barney

Today we will be making letter patterns inspired by tessellations!

Tessellations are a mathematical art process where repeated patterns are created by tracing a cut out shape on a piece of paper. Inspired by the graphic design and printmaking work of Laikin Barney in our BFA exhibition, our tessellations will be created with letters.

Laikins Letters

Materials Needed:

- White paper
- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Any art supplies you have! (crayons, colored pencils, markers, paint, etc.)

Tessellations are a mathematical process where repeated patterns are created by tracing a cut out shape on a piece of paper. Like, Laikin we want to transform letters into a new work of art. To make your pattern you can add designs/shapes or take away from your letter in order to abstract it. The letter will begin to disappear into your artwork as you pick fun colors and add them to each shape.

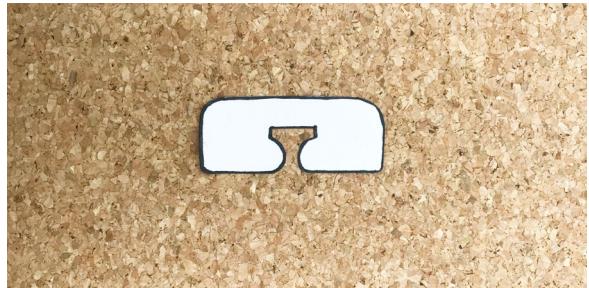


Like Laikin, our goal is to keep elements of the letter we choose, but we also will add enough design and abstraction to our letter until it's less obvious to tell what it is. Hiding the letter in your artwork will happen as you pick fun colors to color the different shapes it makes.

Instructions

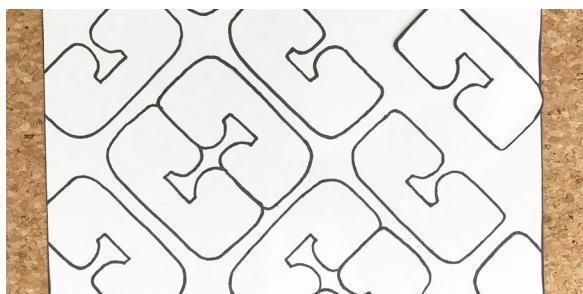
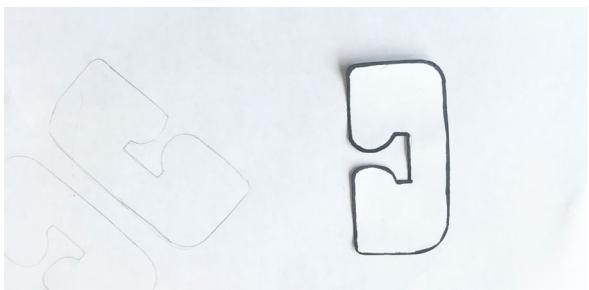
Step 1:

To start, you will write a letter on a small piece of scrap paper. This could be the first letter of your name, your last name, or your favorite letter. Next, trace around the letter you wrote. You can turn your letter into a bubble letter, block letter, or even a letter covered with spikes or other fun designs. In our example, we elongated the letter by adding an arrow design. Like Laikin's artwork, we want to make the letter look less recognizable.



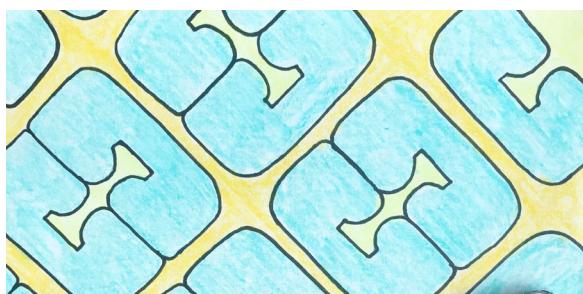
Step 2:

When you are happy with your design, cut out your letter. Place the letter on top of another piece of paper. Start tracing the letter in pencil on the top right corner of the paper. After that, find where your letter could fit upside down or next to the line above to create the line underneath. It may be helpful for you to draw a horizontal line that acts as a "reflection line," so you will know where to rotate your letter.



Step 3:

Continue tracing until you fill the whole page. It's okay if half of your letter goes off the page. Remember you are creating an abstracted pattern of your letter. After you have finished tracing, use a marker or crayon and make outlines around every shape you see. You will see the design of your letter but you'll also see new shapes made in between the letters. Outline those too!



Step 4:

Once everything is outlined, pick how many colors you want to have on your tessellation. Start coloring in the shapes you've outlined.

Step 5:

Use as many colors as you can for a colorful tessellation and make as many as you want with different letters!

SHARE!

Now that you have created a tessellation, share a photo of your masterpiece with SUMA so we can share it with the community. Tag us on Instagram @suma_museum, use #SUMAatHome or email us your photo at experiencesuma@suu.edu.