

MIRRORED MEMORIES

Reflection (Curated by Teen Art Group)

The paintings, sculptures, drawings, photographs, mixed-media works, and video in this exhibition each explore the idea of reflection in a unique way. Some works suggest the act of looking forward or backward, inward or outward, while others address the mirroring of imagery through duplication or reflective surfaces.

This activity explores reflection through the balance between light and dark or **positive** and **negative space**. **Positive space** refers to the main subject matter (people, places, or things) represented in an artwork, while **negative space** refers to the area(s) surrounding the subject matter. Artists often play with perception of **positive** and **negative space** by reversing light and dark areas within or around subject matter. A yin and yang symbol is an example of this interplay.

After viewing the [exhibition](#), use the instructions below to create your own reflection-inspired artwork.

Step 1: Consider a personal memory or an historical event to focus on for your artwork.

- Sketch a variety of symbols to represent people, places, and things related to your chosen memory or event. Choose four different symbols or variations of the same symbol to use in your artwork.
- Select one 4 x 6-inch and one 8 x 12-inch piece of construction paper, each a different color. The larger piece of paper will be your background color. Consider how the two colors relate to your chosen memory or event.

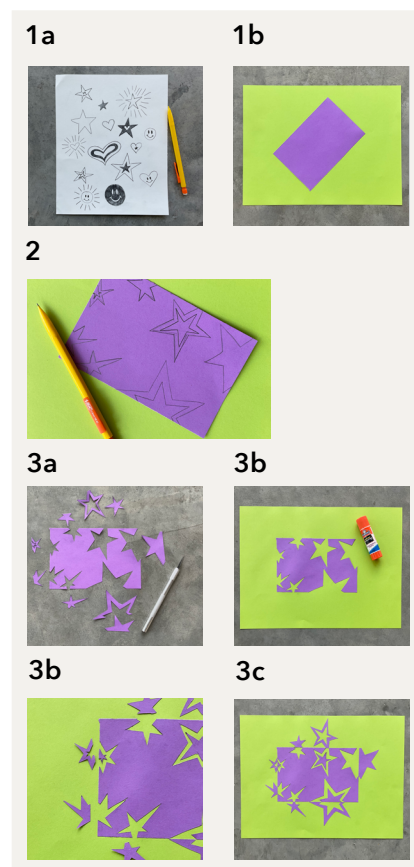
Step 2: Draw your chosen symbol(s) along each of the four sides of your 4 x 6-inch piece of construction paper.

- Tips:**
- Avoid making your drawings too small or too complex.
 - Make sure your drawings touch the outer edges of the paper.
 - Try to create a balance between your **positive** and **negative spaces**.
 - Leave space between the symbols so they do not touch or overlap.
 - Press lightly with the pencil so your lines are easy to erase.

Step 3: Cut and glue your design.

- Use scissors or an Exacto knife to carefully cut each symbol from your construction paper. Optional: Remove details from within your symbols. Keep track of these pieces as you will use them later.
- Glue the remains of your 4 x 6-inch piece of paper in the center of your 8 x 12-inch piece of paper.
 - Arrange each of your cut-out symbols along the corresponding sides of your design. Flip the symbols so that they are mirrored.
 - If you removed details from within your symbols, arrange the pieces in the negative space (where the symbols were) in the central design.
- Starting from center and moving outward, glue each shape down to the paper.

Step 4: Photograph your work and share it with us on Instagram by tagging us at [#universitygalleriesisu](#).



Selections from the press release:

University Galleries' Teen Art Group, composed of students from Bloomington High School, developed the concept, theme, checklist, and layout of the *Reflection* exhibition. The Group invited regional artists to submit artworks that interpret the theme of reflection.

[University Galleries](#), a unit in the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, is located at 11 Uptown Circle, Suite 103, at the corner of Beaufort and Broadway streets. Parking is available in the Uptown Station parking deck located directly above University Galleries—the first hour is free, as well as any time after 5:01 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public.