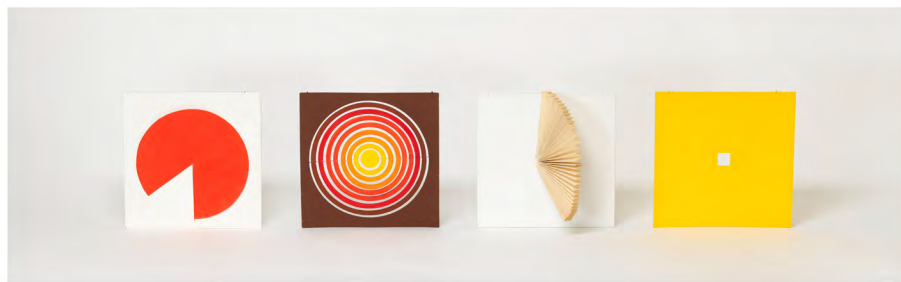
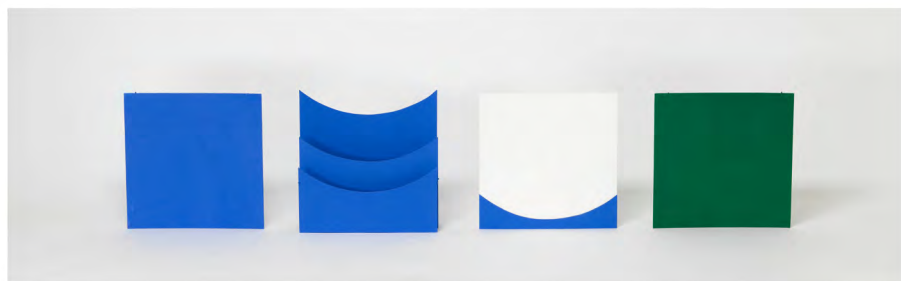


Make Art with MoMA Lygia Pape. *Book of Creation.* 1959–60.



Step 1

Look closely

Discussion Ideas

- 👁️ **Observe** Look closely at the shapes and colors.
- 🗉 **Describe** Describe what you see.
- 🗉 **Interpret** Look for areas of the artwork that have color and areas that are blank. When you focus on the color do you see a different shape? When you focus on the part that's blank do you see a different shape?
- 🔗 **Connect** This artwork tells a story. Think about your day so far. What was your favorite part? If you had to pick a geometric shape to represent it, what would it be? Why?

Step 2

Learn more

Lygia Pape was a Brazilian artist who made paintings, sculptures, and installations. Pape began to make much of her work in the early 1950s in Brazil and was influenced by modern art in Latin America and Europe.

She often used her art as a way to create experiences. She felt that having people be able to move or shape the artwork, or their experience of the artwork, was part of the artwork itself.

Livro da Criacao (Book of Creation) is a book of pop-up pieces made by cutting and folding paper. It also tells the story of the beginning of the world. Originally, people were meant to be able to touch and unfold the work's pages in different ways so that each person's experience of the story could be unique. Each reading of the work might be different based on the individual's experiences.

For Pape, art was about discovering the world around her. She said, "Because, to me, art is a way of knowing the world...to see how the world is...of getting to know the world."

See more of Lygia Pape's work here: [Lygia Pape | MoMA](#).

Step 3

Activity Idea: Geometric shapes and positive and negative space

Materials: Cardstock, scissors, glue, tape, and circle stickers.

1. Use a piece of construction paper or cardstock as your base.
2. Think about a geometric shape that you like. Maybe it represents something, but it could also just be your favorite shape!
3. How will you place that shape on your base? Will it be big enough to fill the entire space? Or will it be small enough that you can repeat it and create a pattern?
4. You can cut that shape(s) out of another piece of paper or you can try to create it with other materials from around your classroom.
5. Arrange your shape(s) on your base and notice how the negative space (or the space around your shape) changes as you move it! When you like the arrangement, affix the shape onto the page with glue or tape.
6. If you've cut shapes out of paper, you can also play with positive and negative space by placing the cutout onto a new piece of paper to allow the bottom piece of paper to shine through. It's also fun to play with positive and negative space by darkening the room and then shining a flashlight through the cutout!