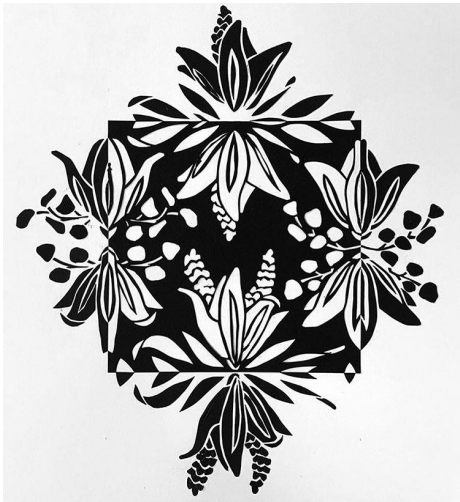


**Notan Color Design**  
**2D Design / Murphy**



**Notan Design** is a Japanese design concept which translates to “light & dark harmony”, it involves the placement of high contrast elements to create symmetry with a balance of light and dark areas in a composition. The goal is to disguise the square with your design. One of the most familiar symbols illustrating this concept is the yin and yang form.

**Assignment:**

This is a two part assignment, you will make 2 Notan designs, one Black & White and the other with complementary colors that you select from your grid painting. You may use the same design pattern for both.

Using black paper, cut out a design. It can be geometric, organic, abstract or representational. Test out your symmetry and see how much of the square dissolves into pattern. Mount your black and white Notan Design on paper.

Next select 2 complementary colors that create simultaneous contrast, they should charge each other and optically vibrate. Background color choice should be different from the Notan color.



**Tools:**

Black paper cut to 6" square, White mounting paper  
Pencil, x-acto knife, glue  
Paint two 6" squares with complementary colors.

**Concept / Grading**

Use of Simultaneous Contrast & Complementary Colors  
Dynamic use of Positive and Negative Shape  
Ability to dissolve the square  
Craftsmanship of painting two pieces of paper  
Design and craftsmanship of Notan, clean cuts and no glue showing.

**Resources:**

Tutorial

<https://shellielewis.wordpress.com/2014/09/17/practice-design-with-japanese-notan-art/>



**Artist:** Matisse & Warhol