

Designing Nature



People across the world celebrate the beauty of nature through art. Discover floral and plant-based designs and embellishments in art.

GALLERY 111 FIND *Spout and Bridge Vessel in the Form of a Male Figure*, Nasca, c. 100-300

LOOK closely at the figure depicted on this vessel. What do you notice?

The figure shown on this **vessel** represents the Harvester, an ancient Andean **deity** associated with farming. The brown and red spots on the figure's face imitate paint worn during harvest rituals. The Harvester is typically shown holding various vegetables. This figure holds what appear to be jicama and cassava plants. **IMAGINE** the setting for this Harvester based on your observations. What might their surroundings look like? **DRAW** their environment in the box provided below.

Vessel: A hollow container, especially one used to hold liquid.

Deity: A god, goddess, or one who is divine in nature.



GALLERY 120 FIND *Mosaic Tile Panel with Design of Flowers and Interlocking Vines*, Persian, 1480-81

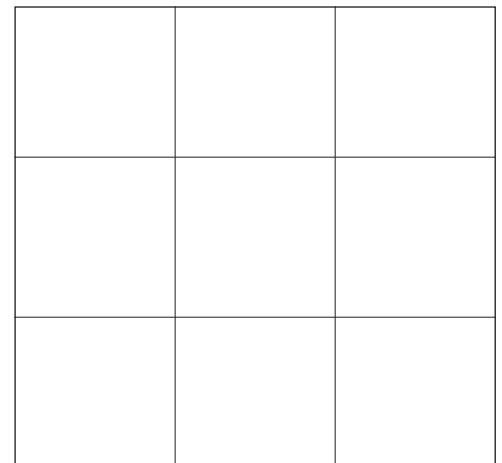
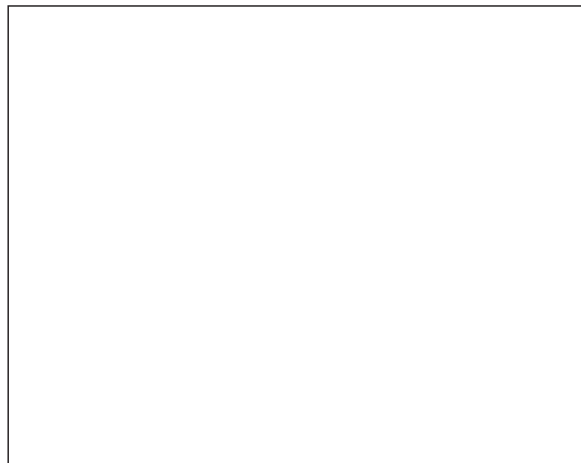
This tile panel comes from the tomb of a holy man in Isfahan in central Iran.

LOOK closely at the details in the design. What do you notice about the materials?

To create this design of flowers and vines, an artist used a mosaic technique which can be expensive and time consuming. Mosaics are produced by arranging together small pieces of material such as stone, tile, or glass. **CREATE** your own mosaic-style design in the grid provided.

Spout and Bridge Vessel in the Form of a Male Figure (detail), c.100-300; Nasca, Peru, Early Intermediate period; ceramic with pigment; 8 x 4 3/4 x 5 1/2 inches; Saint Louis Art Museum, Gift of Morton D. May 155:1979

Mosaic Tile Panel with Design of Flowers and Interlocking Vines (detail), 1480-81; Persian, Iran, Timurid period; glazed fritware; 44 1/2 x 30 1/4 inches; Saint Louis Art Museum, Museum Purchase 87:1923



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GALLERY 131 FIND *Night Blossom Chandelier*, Tord Boontje, 2003

This is a chandelier, which is a decorative hanging light with branches for several light bulbs or candles. What words come to mind when you look at this chandelier?

WRITE your words on the lines provided.

The artist was inspired by 17th- and 18th-century designs when creating this work of art. Petal-shaped crystals and tiny blue LED lights cover steel branch-like forms to create this hanging light called *Night Blossom Chandelier*. Use your descriptive words to write a poem, song lyric, or caption inspired by this work of art:

GALLERY 230 FIND *Dish with Foliated Rim and Design of Floral Scrolls*, Chinese, early 15th century

LOOK at the designs on this work of art. What do you see?
What designs from nature do you observe?

This is a dish made at the imperial **kilns** of Jingdezhen, China in the early 15th century. A lotus flower can be found in the center surrounded by five seasonal blooms: mallow, dianthus, camellia, lotus, and chrysanthemum. Additional sprays of flowers and waves complete the interior design.

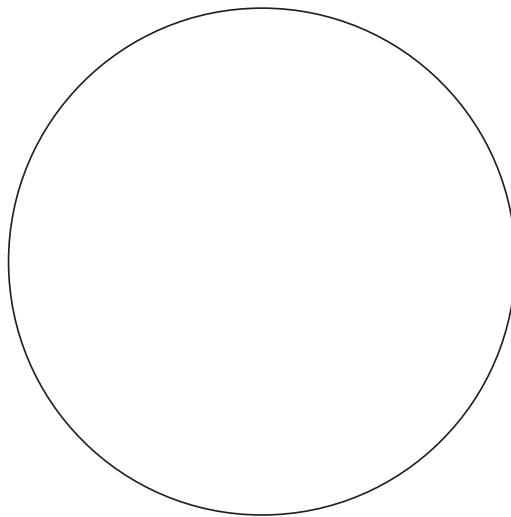
DESIGN your own dish with seasonal items from nature in the space provided. What grows or blooms during this time of year where you live?

Kiln: a furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying, especially one for firing pottery.



Tord Boontje, Dutch, born 1968; made by Swarovski, Tyrol, Austria, founded 1892; *Night Blossom Chandelier* (detail), 2003; glass, LED lights, and lacquered steel; 40 1/2 x 57 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches; Saint Louis Art Museum, Funds given by Emily Rauh Pulitzer in honor of Cara McCarty 1:2006; © Tord Boontje, Design for Swarovski

Dish with Foliated Rim and Design of Floral Scrolls (detail), early 15th century; Chinese, Ming dynasty, Yongle period; Jingdezhen ware; porcelain with underglaze cobalt blue decoration; 2 3/8 x 13 5/16 inches; Saint Louis Art Museum, Bequest of Samuel C. Davis, by exchange 13:2008



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