

EVERHART MUSEUM
TRADITIONS FROM HOME

SHAPES, SYMMETRY AND SYMBOLS: PA DUTCH HEX SIGN



WHAT IS A HEX SIGN?

THE ORIGIN OF HEX SIGNS BEGAN IN THE EARLY 1800'S WHEN PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH FARMER'S BEGAN PAINTING DECORATIVE WORKS DIRECTLY ONTO BARNS. HEX SIGNS ARE STILL PAINTED TODAY AND HAVE BECOME TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN SOME PARTS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

HEX SIGNS ARE COMMONLY PAINTED ON A CIRCULAR PIECE OF WOOD AND FILLED WITH GEOMETRIC PATTERNS OF DIFFERENT MEANINGFUL SYMBOLS.

I HAVE SIMPLIFIED THIS LESSON FOR FAMILIES OR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN USING SUPPLIES YOU MIGHT HAVE AT HOME.

THIS STEP-BY-STEP INTEGRATES MATH, HISTORY AND ART. I HAVE CHOSEN TO USE THE BIRD OF PARADISE AND THE TULIP. BOTH SYMBOLS CAN BE FOUND IN THE EVERHART MUSEUM COLLECTION.





YOU WILL NEED:

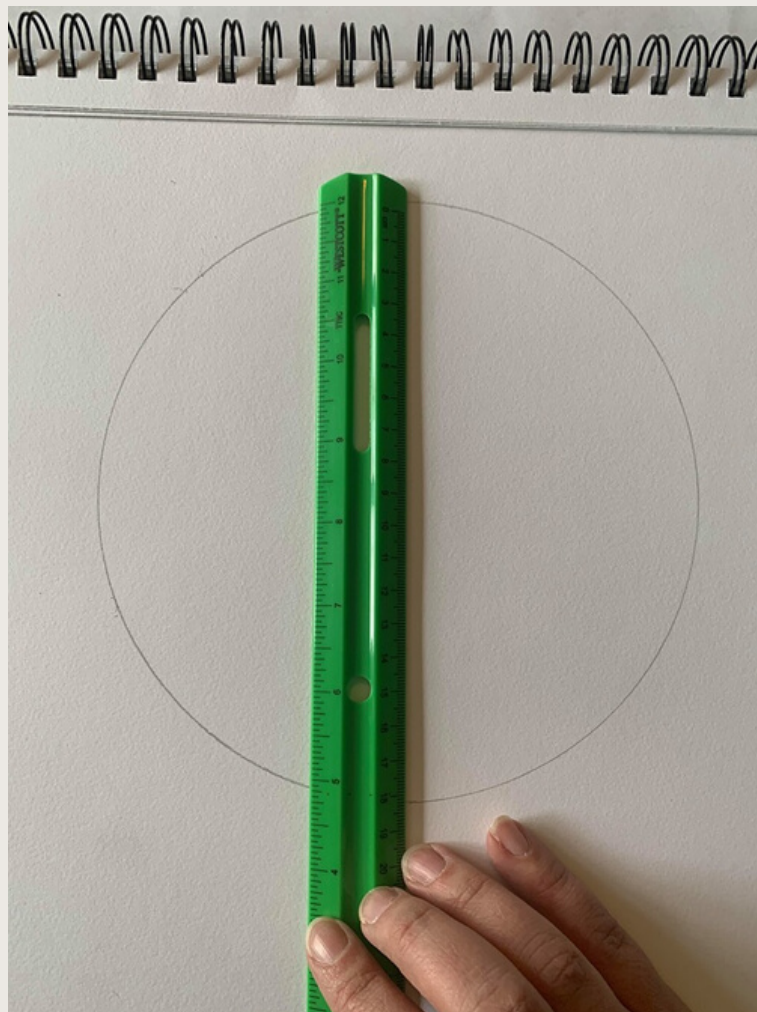
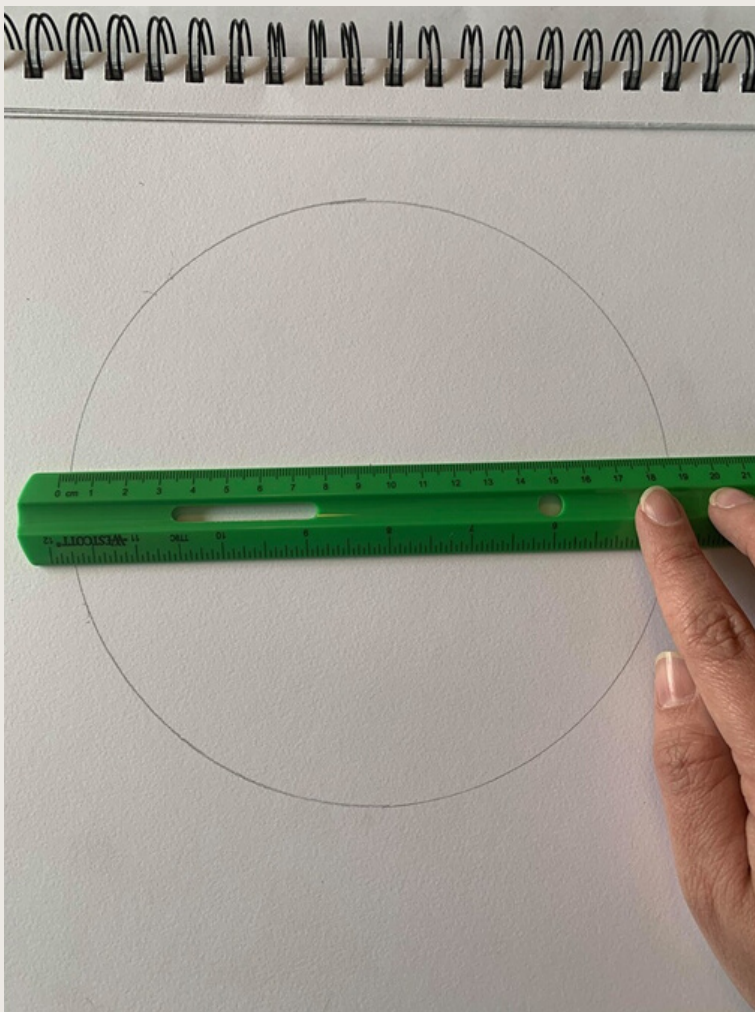
1. HEAVY-WEIGHTED PAPER, CARDSTOCK, CARDBOARD OR WOOD
(THESE MATERIALS CAN BE USED TO CREATE YOUR CIRCLE. IF CUT FROM WOOD, YOU WILL ALSO NEED WHITE PAINT & FINISHING GLAZE.)
2. A PLATE OR TRACEABLE CIRCLE
3. A RULER, PENCIL AND SCISSORS
4. MARKERS
5. EXTRA CARDBOARD FOR PRE-DRAWN, PRE-CUT STENCILS (YOU WILL CUT SHAPES OUT IN ADVANCE. DRAW YOUR OWN SYMBOLS OR SEARCH FOR SILHOUETTES YOU CAN TRACE ONTO CARDBOARD.)

STEP 1

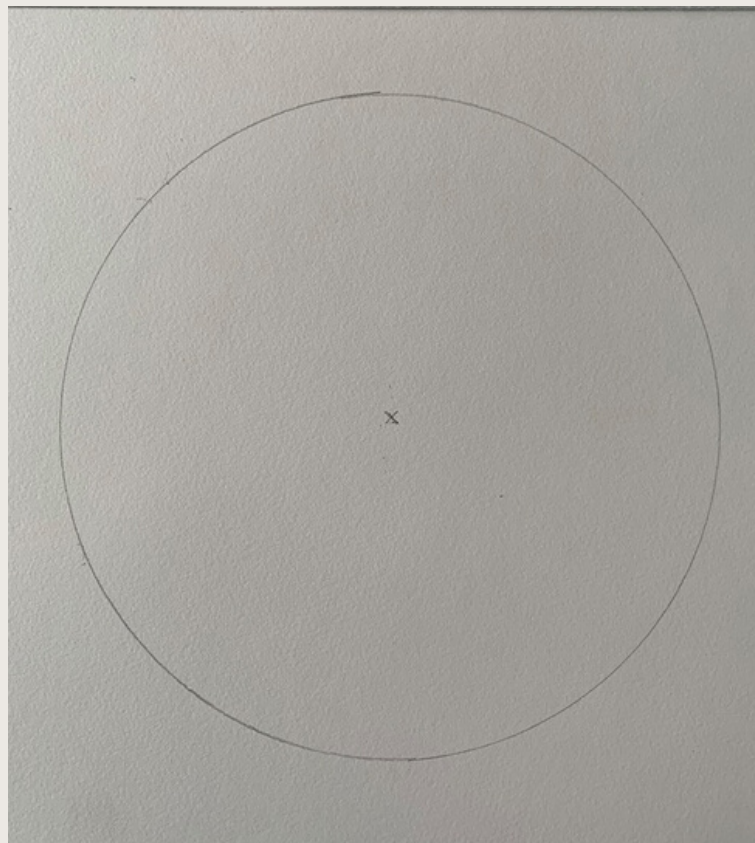


TRACE CIRCLE ONTO PAPER,
CARDBOARD, OR WOOD
SURFACE.

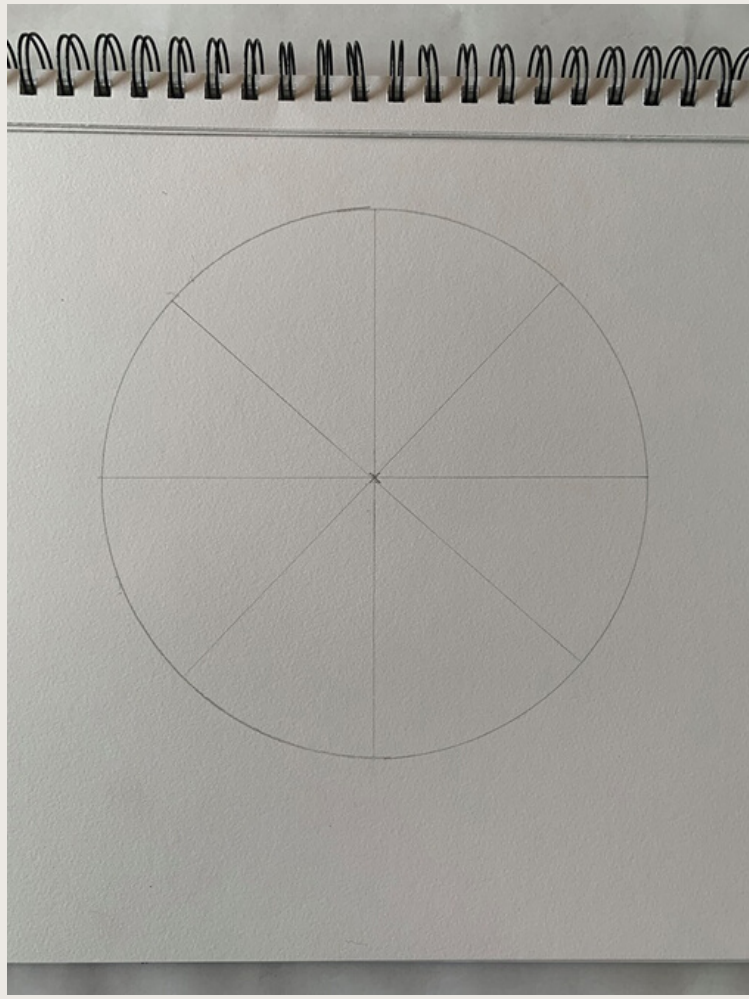
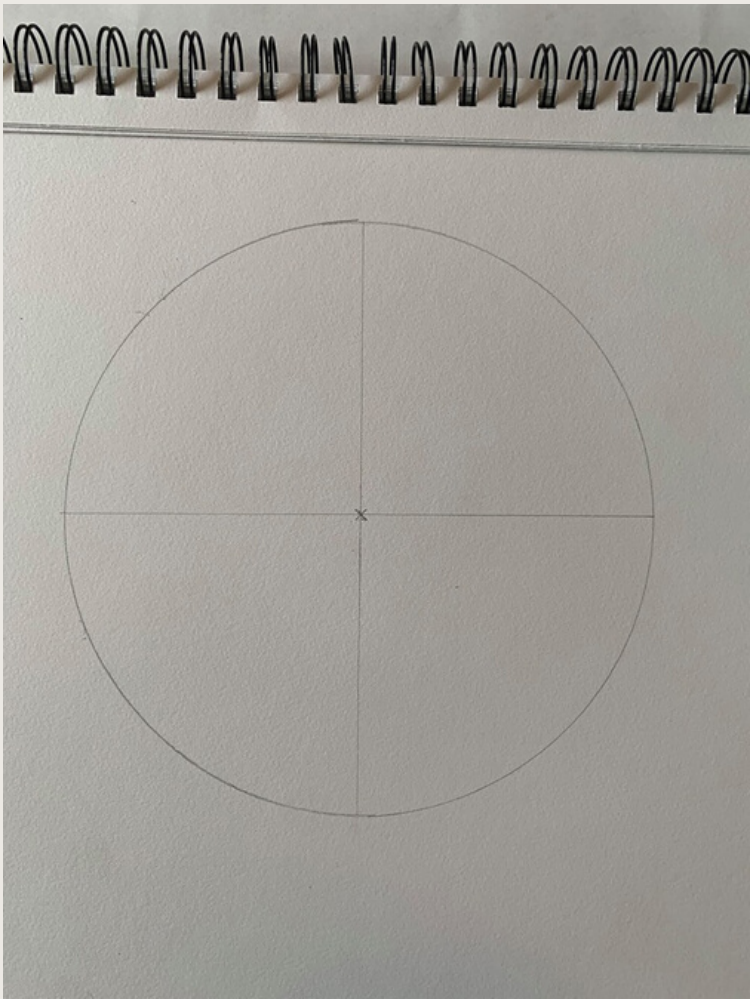
STEP 2



MEASURE $\frac{1}{2}$
THE DIAMETER
VERTICALLY
AND
HORIZONTALLY
TO FIND THE
CENTER. DRAW
AN "X"



STEP 3



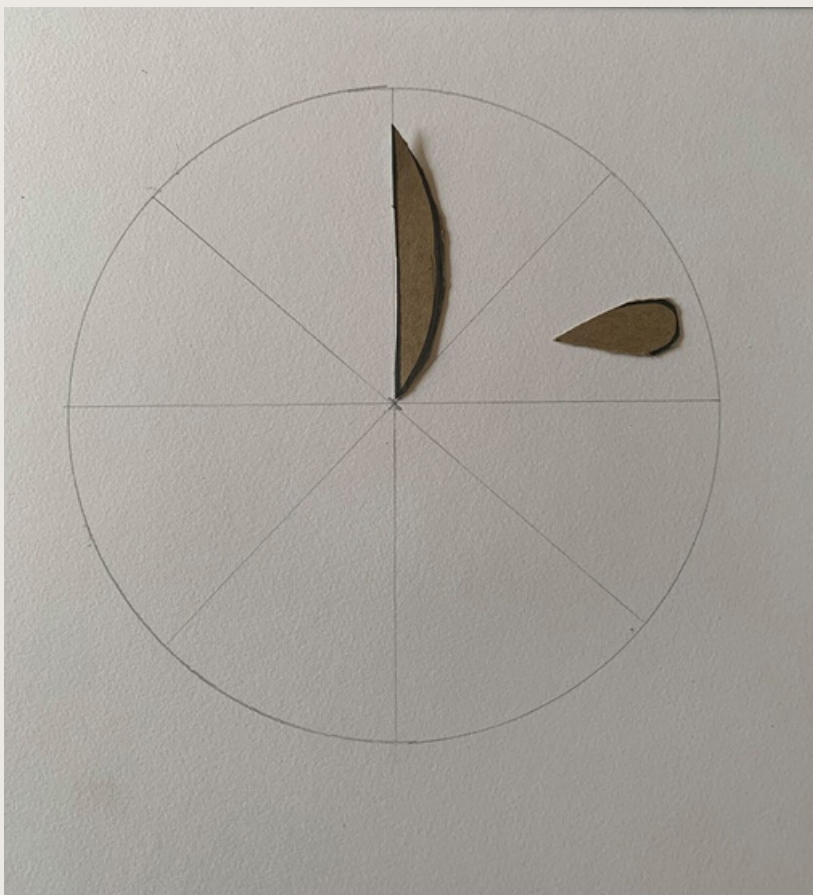
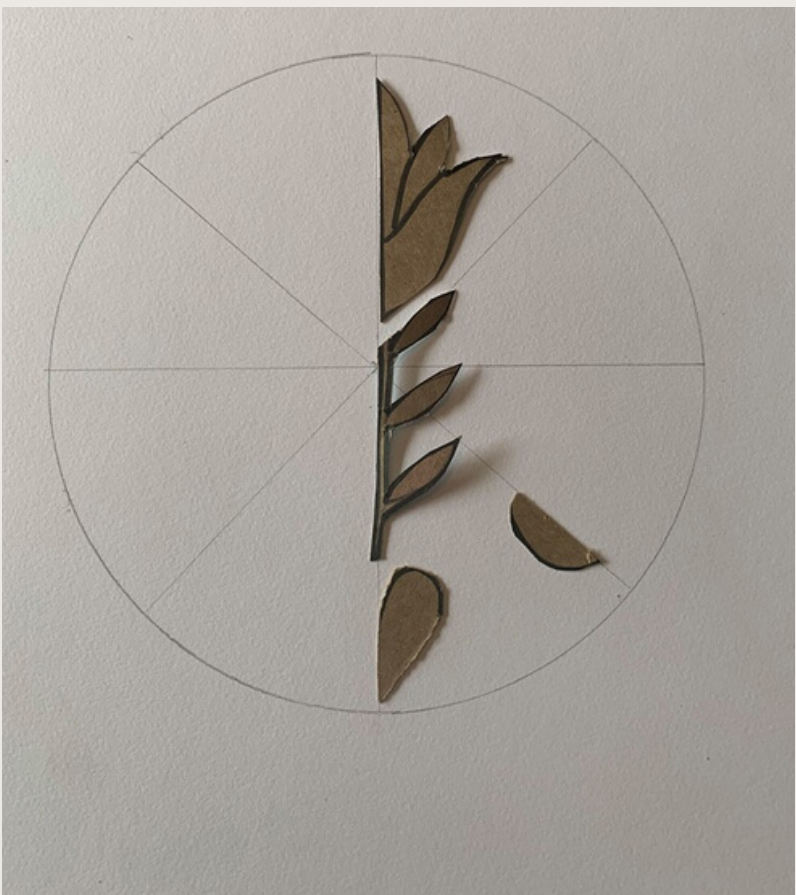
DRAW A VERTICAL LINE,
SPLITTING THE CIRCLE IN HALF.
DRAW A HORIZONTAL LINE,
SPLITTING THE CIRCLE INTO
QUARTERS. DRAW TWO
DIAGONAL LINES, SPLITTING
THE CIRCLE INTO EIGHTHS.

STEP 4



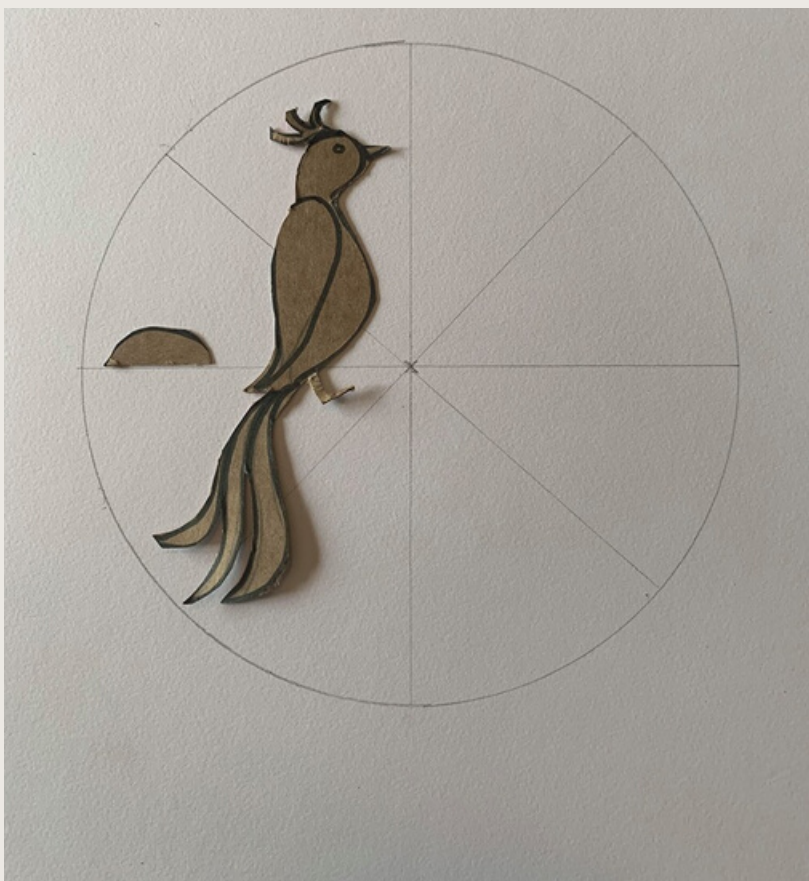
IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PRE-DRAW AND PRE-CUT STENCILS. COMMONLY USED SYMBOLS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE. FOR SYMMETRICAL SYMBOLS, CREATE HALF A SILHOUETTE TO DEMONSTRATE SYMMETRY OF SHAPES AND SYMMETRY IN ART.

STEP 5



LAYOUT YOUR
DESIGN BEFORE
YOU BEGIN TO
TRACE.

CREATE BALANCE
BY KEEPING A
SYMMETRICAL
PATTERN USING
GUIDELINES.





STEP 6

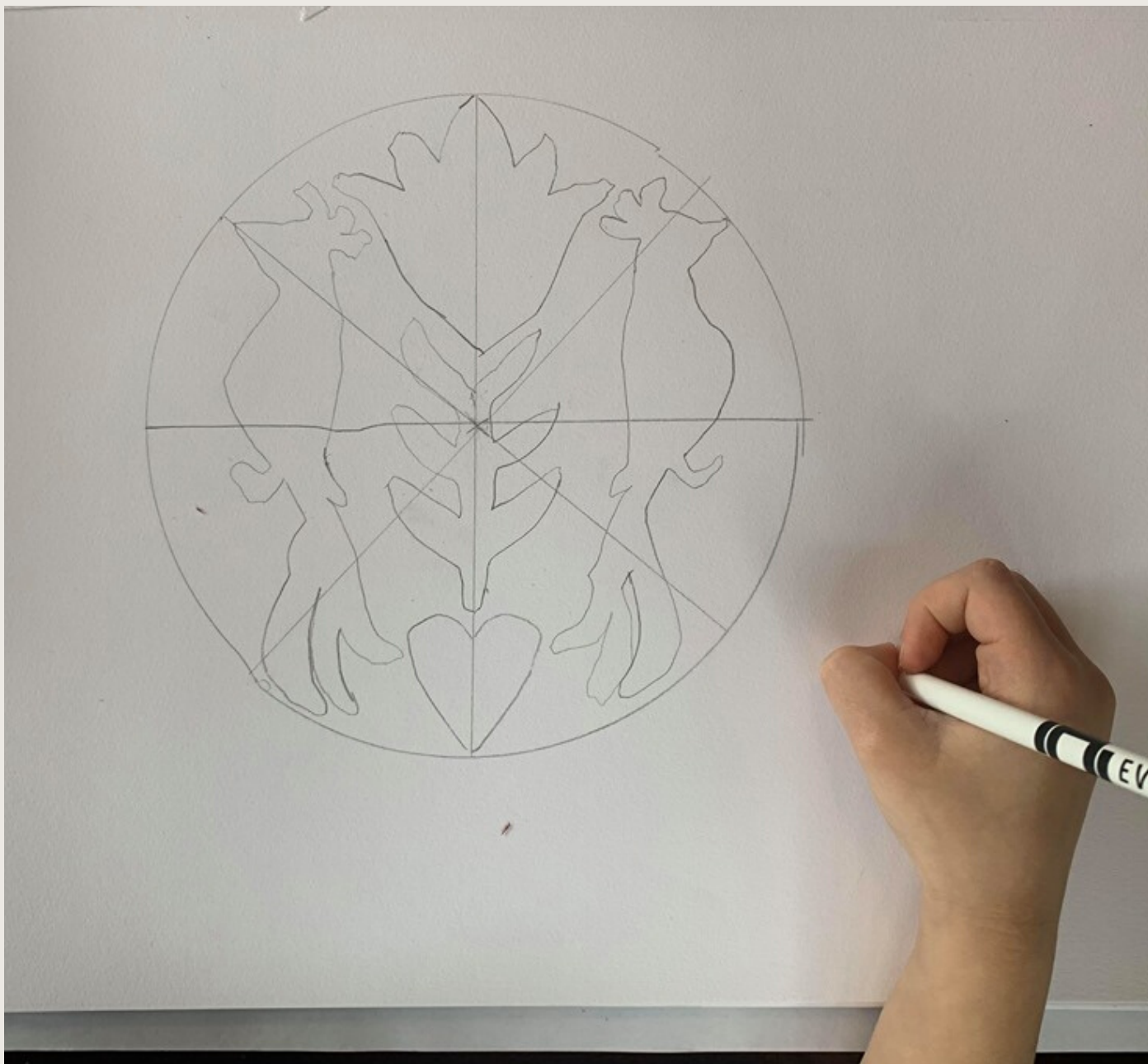


TRACE THE PATTERN OF SYMBOLS.

BIRD OF PARADISE- BEAUTY
TULIP- FAITH AND HOPE
HEART- LOVE



STEP 7



COMPLETE THE PATTERN AND
BEGIN TO ERASE THE
REMAINING GUIDELINES.

STEP 8



ADD COLOR.

STEP 9



CUT AND COMPLETE!

CREATE AND SHARE!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM
YOU! SHARE YOUR FINISHED
PRODUCT WITH US BY EMAILING
PROGRAMS@EVERHART-
MUSEUM.ORG

OR BY USING THE HASHTAG
#EVERHARTTRADITIONSATHOME

