



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

## O-original Art Activities: Abstract Symmetrical Painting Inspired by Minnie Evans



Minnie Evans, *Untitled*, c. 1970, Mixed media on paper

**Minnie Evans** was an artist who spent most of her life in Wilmington, North Carolina. She served as a gatekeeper at the famous Arlie Gardens for several years and much of her work is inspired by the beautiful scenery she encountered there. Evans is known for her colorful abstract works that use nature to express religious themes.

**Create your own symmetrical abstract painting!**

**SEE MINNIE EVANS' *UNTITLED* IN THE *WHAT MUSIC IS WITHIN: BLACK ABSTRACTION FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION* AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART. CHECK OUT [OGDEN MUSEUM ONLINE](#) FOR MORE RESOURCES!**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG).**

### Supplies

Paper, Paint, Black Sharpie (Optional)

### Instructions

**Step 1:** Make sure your paper is oriented so that the longer sides are on the top and bottom and the shorter sides are on the left and right (landscape orientation). Fold your piece of paper in half from left to right to form a crease down the middle of the page. Unfold your paper.

**Step 2:** Using the crease as a border, create a colorful design on one half of the page by carefully squeezing your paint directly onto your paper. Be sure not to put too much paint on the paper. Express how you're feeling through the colors and designs that you choose. Follow your instincts - maybe blue dots mean that you're sad today, or red lines mean that you're excited.

**Step 3:** While the paint is still wet, fold the blank side of your paper over the crease so that it covers the painted side of your paper. Gently press down on your folded piece of paper so that the painted side makes an imprint on the blank side.

**Step 4:** Unfold your paper. Now you have an awesome symmetrical abstract design!

**Step 5 (Optional):** While the paint dries, think about what you see in your painting. What sorts of things do the shapes and colors remind you of? Do you see any patterns that you want to highlight? Are there designs you want to add?

**Step 6 (Optional):** Once your painting is completely dry, use your black sharpie to bring these details to life! Trace the shapes that you see, or turn them into something new. Add some petals to make flowers, or eyes to make an animal. Make sure to try to keep your drawings symmetrical!

### Vocabulary

**Symmetry** - when two identical parts of an image face each other

**Abstraction** - representing something by focusing on shapes and colors rather than realistic accuracy

**Mandala** - a diagram that exists in several Eastern religions and uses shapes and patterns to connect to the divine; Minnie Evans' work is sometimes compared to these spiritual designs

