

Untitled I-IX by Cy Twombly

Untitled I-IX is a series of nine paintings created by American artist Cy Twombly in which he drew white lines on a blue background. He starts with straight and angular marks before creating wide loops in the lower parts of the paintings.



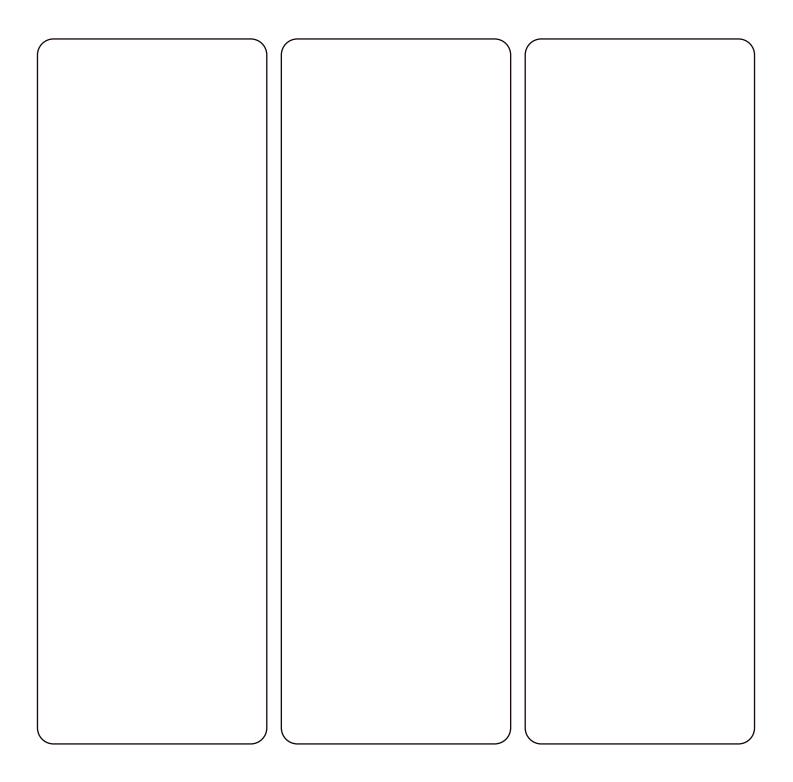
Untitled I-IX, series of 9 panels Cy Twombly, Italy 2008, acrylic on canvas, Louvre Abu Dhabi



Create Your Own Series!

Draw a line of loops in the top part of the first box while slowly widening the size of the loops as you continue to the bottom part. Repeat this exercise in the second and third boxes.

Play with lines by making some thicker, thinner or lighter. You can even draw similar marks on top of each other!





Plank Idol with Two Heads



Plank idol with two heads

Cyprus, 2300–1900 BCE, polished and incised terracotta, Louvre Abu Dhabi

This little statue is a huge mystery. We don't know its function or what it represents, but if we look closer, we can recognize two human forms! Are they family members, a couple of ancestors or maybe even siblings?

Notice how different parts of the body are represented by using only geometric shapes and lines.



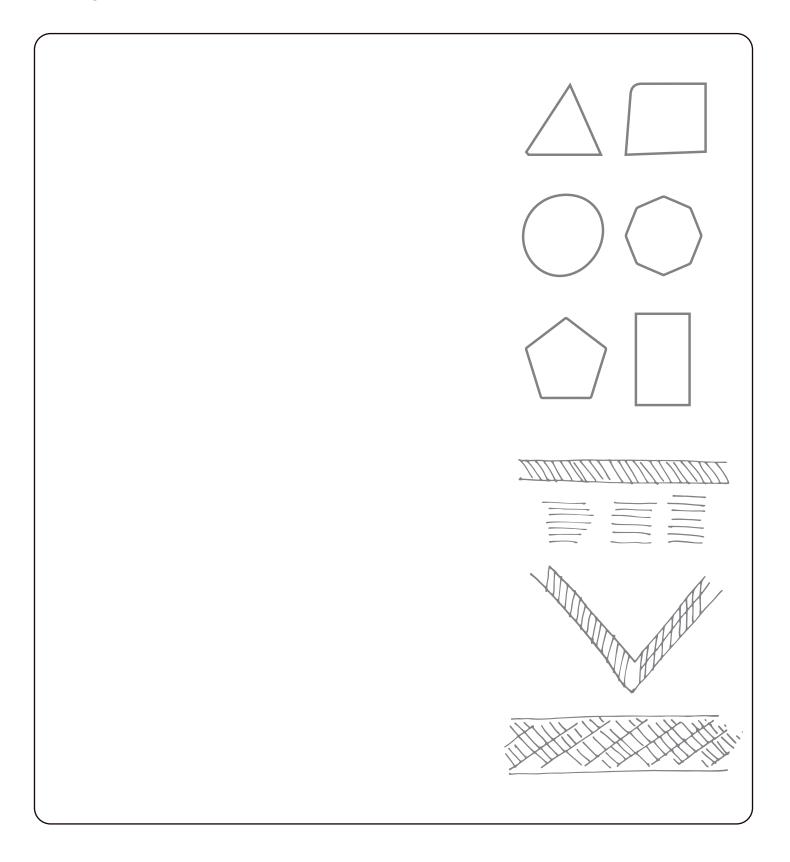
Look closer!

Can you spot the eyes, nose and hair of each figure? Now try to find elements of clothing and jewellery. There is a belt and a necklace!



Geometry

Draw a human figure using only geometric shapes and lines inspired by the artwork. Have fun drawing yourself, a friend or a family member.





Dish with Four Flowers



Dish with four flowers Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Iznik, Circa 1575, painted ceramic underglaze, Louvre Abu Dhabi

This dish is named after the town of Iznik in Turkey where it was produced. It is decorated with nature-themed patterns and flowers. The colours are quite unique.

The Ottomans were fascinated by the shades of blue and white used in Chinese porcelain, so they started using them in their ceramics. Overtime, they added more colours to their palettes such as the red and green you see in this dish.



Look closer!

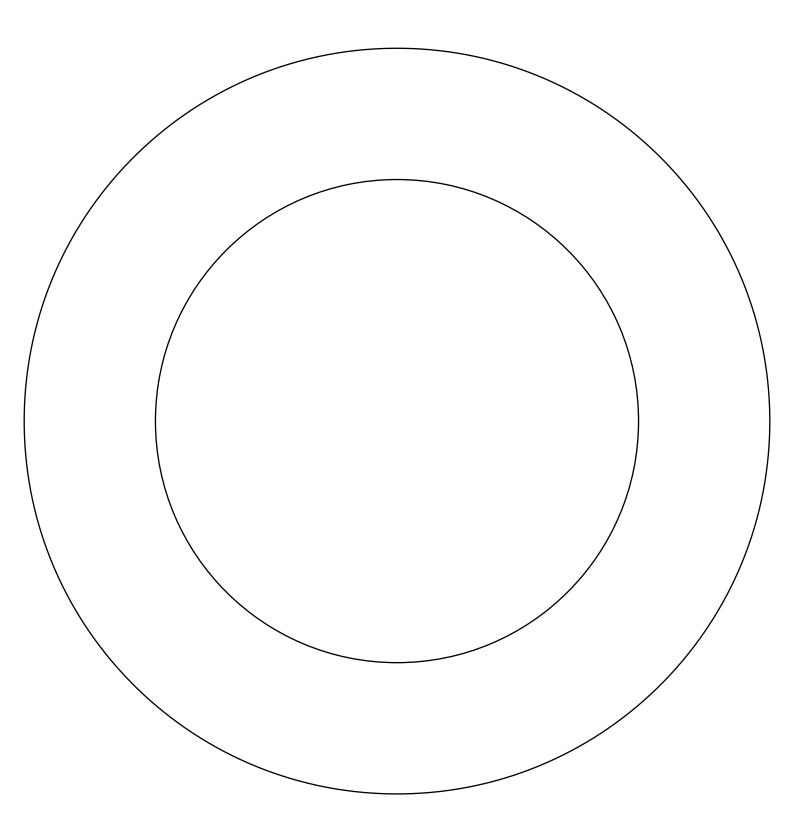
How many types of different flowers can you recognize on this dish?



Create!

Decorate your own dish with unique patterns. They could be floral, geometric, figurative, etc.

Don't forget to add colors to your design!





Embarkation of the Emperor of China

A tapestry is a heavy fabric woven with rich, colorful designs or scenes, usually hung on walls for decoration. This tapestry from France shows a Chinese emperor seated on a boat decorated with dragons and garlands before the eyes of an empress. A tapestry like this tells a story.



Philippe Béhagle, France, Manufacture royale de Beauvais, Circa 1700, tapestry of wool and silk, Louvre Abu Dhabi

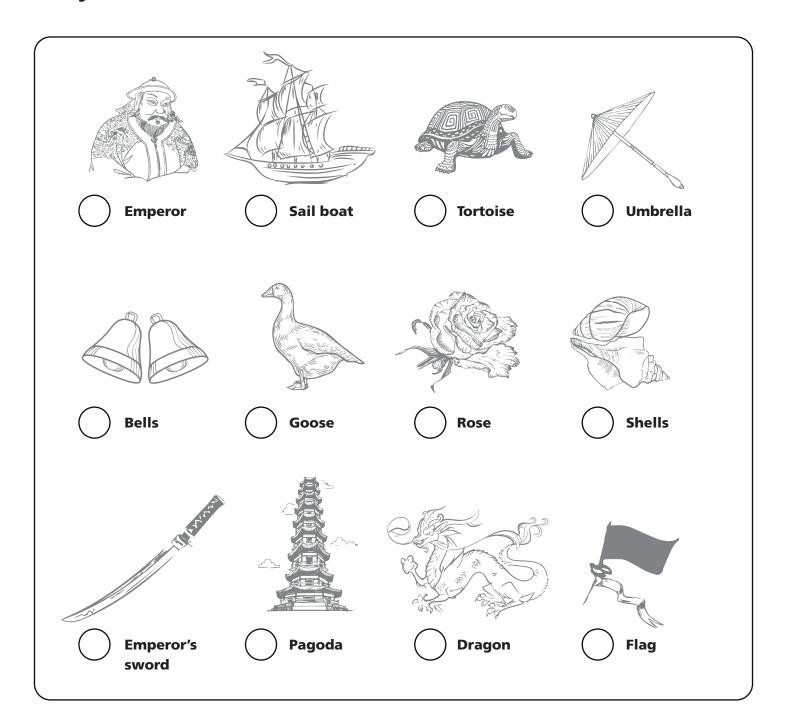




Try and imagine the conversation taking place. What do you think the emperor is saying?

Find the Details!

Take a closer look at this tapestry. Which of these elements can you find?





Food for Thought – Al Muallaqat



Food for Thought – Al Muallaqat Maha Malluh, Saudi Arabia, Riyadh 2013, eleven burned cooking pots, Louvre Abu Dhabi



Look at all these pots! Why do you think Maha Malluh used them in her artwork?

In many of her works, Maha Malluh recycles and reuses things around her. The objects she chooses often tell stories about the people who used them. These cooking pots were used to prepare special meals in Saudi Arabia. When people cook and eat together, they share many exciting stories and tales. The pots in this artwork recall and celebrate Arab traditions.



Stories of Objects

Now it's your turn!

Use this space to tell a story about a memorable meal you had with special people, family or friends.

Write about the experience, the memories you made, the smells and colours and most importantly how it made you feel.



The Gemellion with a Lion



Armorial gemellion France, Limoges, 13th century, enameled and gilt copper, Louvre Abu Dhabi

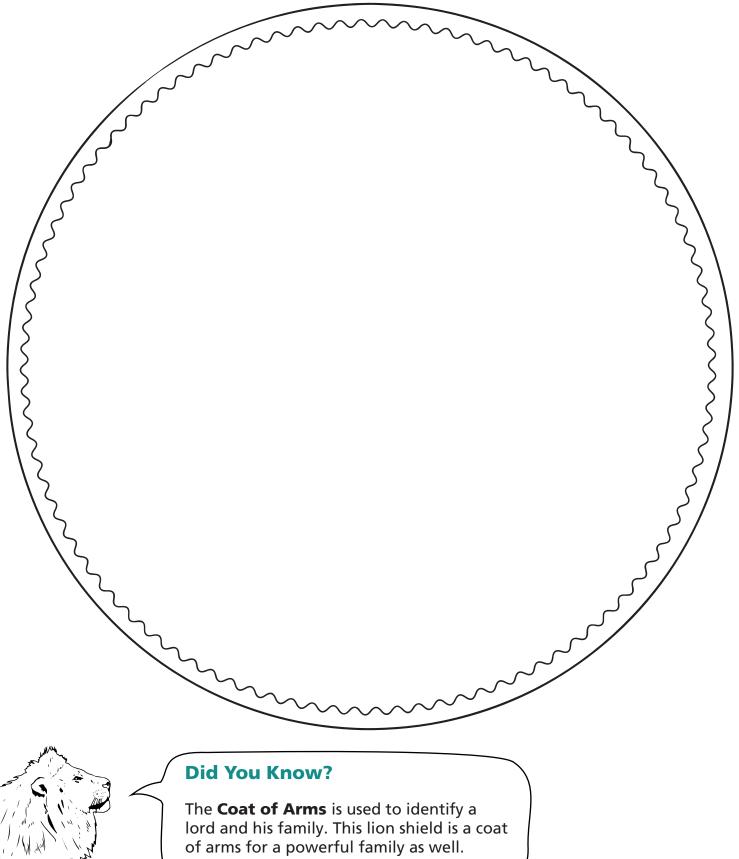
Gemellion comes from the Latin word *gemellus*, meaning twin. They are pairs of basins that were used for washing hands. Look closely at the centre of the gemellion; it is decorated with a coat of arms: a red lion on a white shield. The lion appears standing on its back leg.

- Does it look real? Unreal? Maybe frightening?
- What attributes does the lion represent to you?



Decorate your Family's Gemellion!

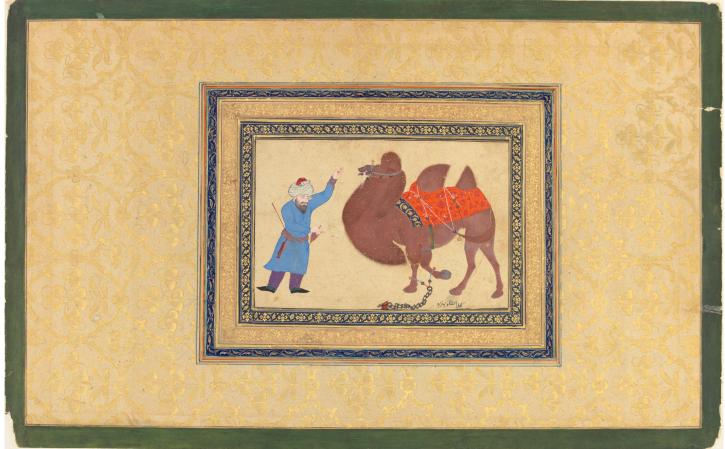
Decorate this gemellion with your family's coat of arms.



Why do you think they used a lion?



The Miniature with a Camel



Bactrian camel and keeper

Muhammad Husayn-al-Katib, Iran, around 1560-1570, watercolour with gold on paper, Louvre Abu Dhabi

The Bactrian camel is the largest type of camels with two humps on its backs. In this miniature painting, a Bactrian camel is chained to show that it has been tamed by a caravan driver. Domestication of the camel was a very important step for mankind to start transporting people and goods across the desert.

- Why do you think camels were used for travel and transport?
- How is this camel different from the camels you have seen before?



Illuminate your Miniature!

Miniatures are very colourful works. This one needs more colour, don't you think?

Use your bright and beautiful colours to complete this miniature.





Bactrian camels have thick fleece compared to other camels. Why do you think that is?



The Rooster from the Kingdom Of Benin



Rooster Nigeria, 18th century, Bronze, Louvre Abu Dhabi

In the Kingdom of Benin (**Nigeria** today) which was ruled by the **Oba**, roosters had a great cultural importance.

Bronze roosters like this one were used to pay tribute to the King's mother, the **Iyoba**, who is also known as Queen Mother of Benin.

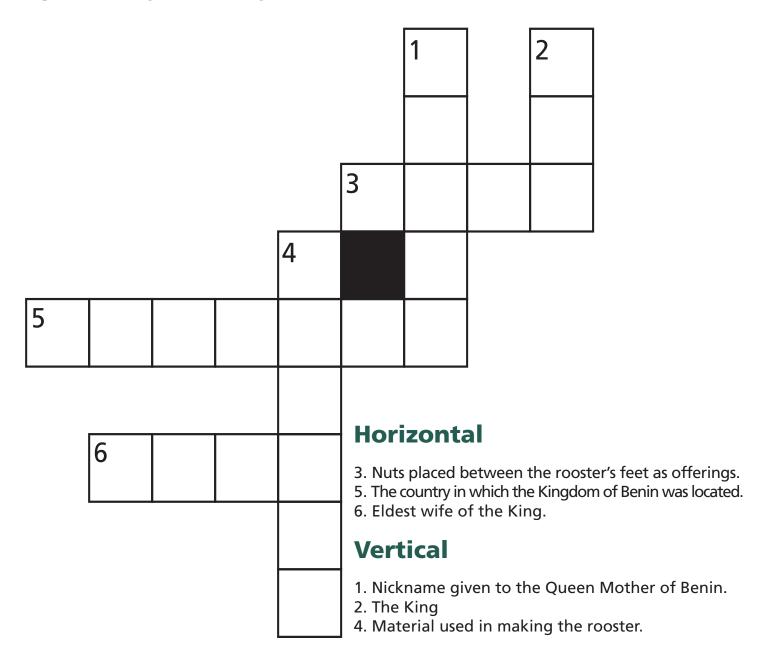
A hole between the bird's feet was used to pay offerings like **kola** nuts by placing it on alters of the ancestors as well.

The eldest wife of the king was also called the **Eson**, meaning the rooster who sings the loudest! She was responsible for the king's other wives and settling their arguments.



Test your Vocabulary!

Fill in this crossword using the words you learned during your trip to the Kingdom of Benin. Don't forget to read all the information again with your family.





Bronze objects like this sculpture were the most excellent works of art in the Oba's court. **Can you think of other valuable materials?**



The Hippopotamus of Egypt



Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Thierry Ollivier

Hippopotamus Egypt, around 1850 BCE, Faïence, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Hippopotamuses used to live in the Nile river in Egypt. This blue one was made in the times of the pharaohs.

They are one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. They can be very destructive, turn over boats and eat crops in the fields.

This bright blue hippopotamus is covered with black motifs as if it were covered with river plants. According to Egyptian myths, the lotus flower painted on its back was the origin of life on Earth.

• Take a closer look at the motifs used to decorate its body. Can you spot the plants?



An Animal and its Natural Environment

Draw your favourite animal and decorate it with elements from its natural environment. Here is an example: a tiger lives in the forest. You may draw it in green, covered with vegetation!

Did You Know?

Models of hippopotamuses were placed in the tombs of important people in Ancient Egypt to ensure their rebirth in the afterlife.

These animals also represented rebirth.



The Plate with Chimeras



Plate with two chimeras William De Morgan, England, around 1890-1900, clay ceramic, Louvre Abu Dhabi

The word "chimera" means an imaginary hybrid animal.

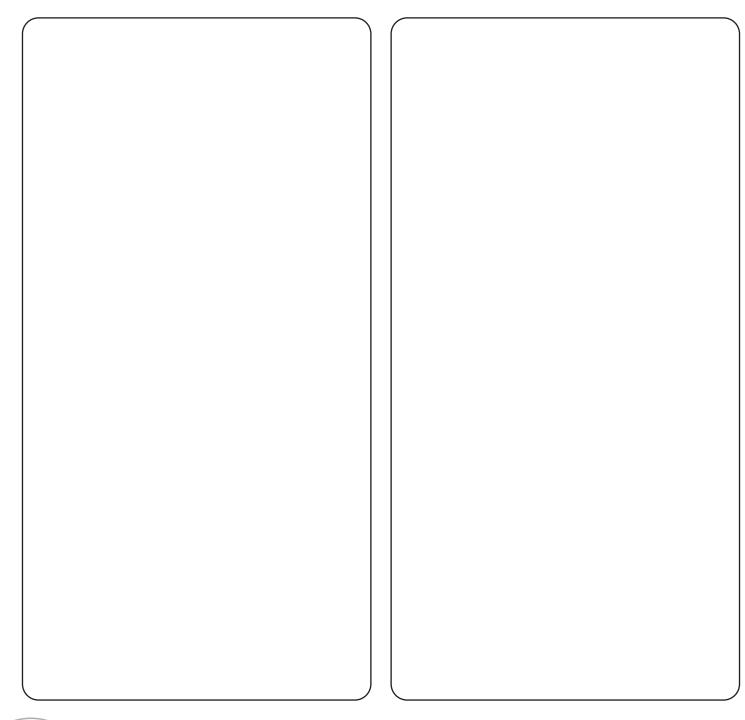
The imaginary animal shown on this plate is called a griffin: part lion and part eagle. In old Greek myths, griffins used to guard gold mines on the other side of the earth.

- Take a look at the imaginary animals on this plate. What are these griffins doing?
- What covers their bodies?
- Knowing the special powers of lions and eagles, can you think of other powers the griffin may have?



Who's Who?

Look back at the chimera and the different animals in it. Draw these animals separately!





Did You Know?

In Greek mythology, the chimera was usually formed by the body of a lion and a goat and the tail of a snake! **Picture that!**