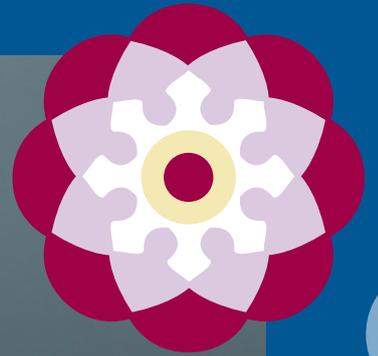


# Phuong Ngo Pattern Exchange



## About the Artist

Phuong Ngo's family came to Australia seeking asylum in 1981, after surviving a dangerous sea journey from Vietnam. He is very interested in the history of Vietnam, and the ways the country has been shaped and changed by interactions with other peoples and cultures. He is also interested in the power of language and words. For APT10 Kids, Phuong has explored these ideas, with a focus on the manufacture and use of cement tiles in Vietnam.

Did you know that in the late nineteenth century, France colonised Vietnam and introduced cement tiles to the country? By the time Vietnam declared independence from France in 1945, a whole generation of people had mastered the technique of making cement tiles. Today, cement tiles are still featured in Vietnamese architecture.

Phuong Ngo / Article 14.1 2019 / Performance, mixed media /  
Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Sydney Festival  
2019 / Originally commissioned by Next Wave, Melbourne, 2014 /  
© Phuong Ngo / Photographer: Jacquie Manning



# Phuong Ngo Pattern Exchange

## Create your own tile design

You can create your own tile pattern using a collage sheet. By taking part in this activity, you are participating in a creative exchange with the artist.

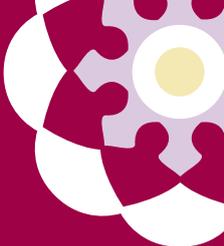
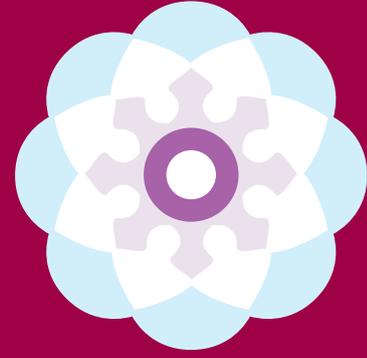
### Instructions

- 1** Print out a copy of the blue backing sheet and the collage sheet
- 2** Cut out the shapes you want to use and arrange them on the backing sheet to create your own design
- 3** When you are happy with your design, glue down your shapes

**TIP!** Vietnamese tile designs are often symmetrical – with one half mirroring the other.

You could use your collage shapes to create a symmetrical design of your own, or make something less regular.

From top: Antique tiles in the Army Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam / Image courtesy: Erik De Graaf/Dreamstime  
Decorative tiled floor in the Saigon Central Post Office, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam / Image courtesy: Stuart456/Dreamstime



# Phuong Ngo Pattern Exchange

## ***Before you start...***

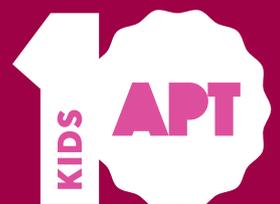
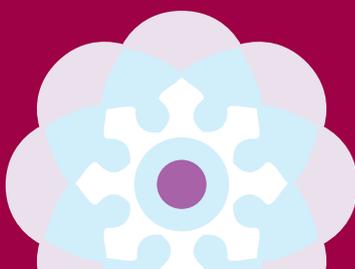
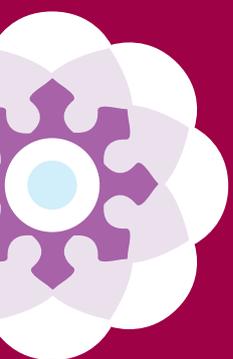
Did you know that the European word 'Oriental' has been used to label and discriminate against people from Asian backgrounds?

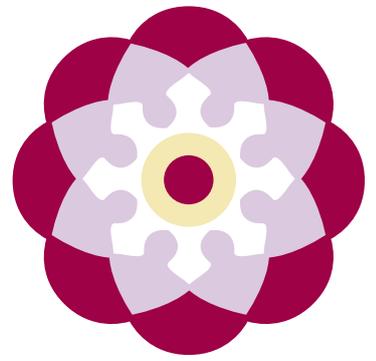
The colours used in the *Pattern Exchange* collage sheets are based on colours from a well-known paint brand that include the word 'Oriental' in their titles, for example, Oriental Princess:



Though it is unlikely they were intentionally chosen to be hurtful, these paint names could make people feel upset or angry. This is why it is very important that we understand that words can mean different things to people from different cultural backgrounds.

Phuong has chosen to use the colours to open up a conversation around these issues.





# Phuong Ngo Pattern Exchange

Print out this blue backing sheet and the tile sheets on the next page.  
You'll also need scissors and glue to complete this activity.

