



Art is all around us.

We can find inspiration for art in nature
and in many other aspects of life.

What inspires you?

PART 1

What Is Art?

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PART 2

Life Influencing Art

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Art Is ...

The more we understand and appreciate art, the more interesting our lives can be. This is because art engages and stimulates our senses. What we see, hear, smell, touch and taste can be enjoyable, surprising or thought-provoking. If what we sense every day stays the same, life would be very boring.

What Art Does

Many people would think that an artwork simply offers visual enjoyment. However, an artwork can actually do many other things. It can serve an everyday function, communicate information and most interestingly, it can express feelings or even give us a new experience! Let us take a look at examples of how art does these different things.

Everyday function

Art can be found in everyday objects around us. Well-designed products provide us with visual enjoyment and efficiently meet our needs at the same time.



Hairul Amir, *Tobacco Free Youth Union*, 2008.
Laptop sticker.



Batik is traditionally used for making clothes for both men and women, especially in Southeast Asia. Today, batik designs can be found in many other things around us.

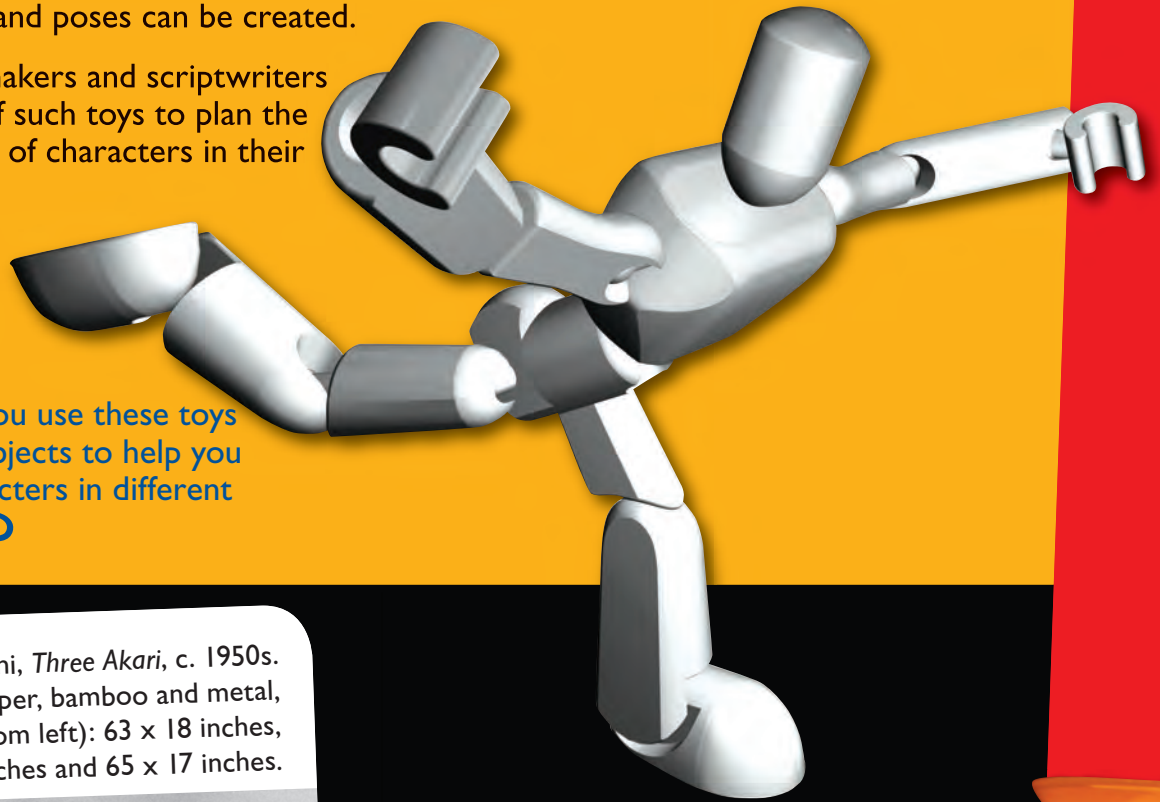
Can you name some other things with batik designs ?

This Singapore-designed STIKFAS toy has special ball-socket joints. You can interchange parts of the toy easily. This way, a variety of characters and poses can be created.

STIKFAS Pte. Ltd., *Alpha Male White*, 2001.
Plastic, 8 cm (height).

Some filmmakers and scriptwriters make use of such toys to plan the movements of characters in their movies.

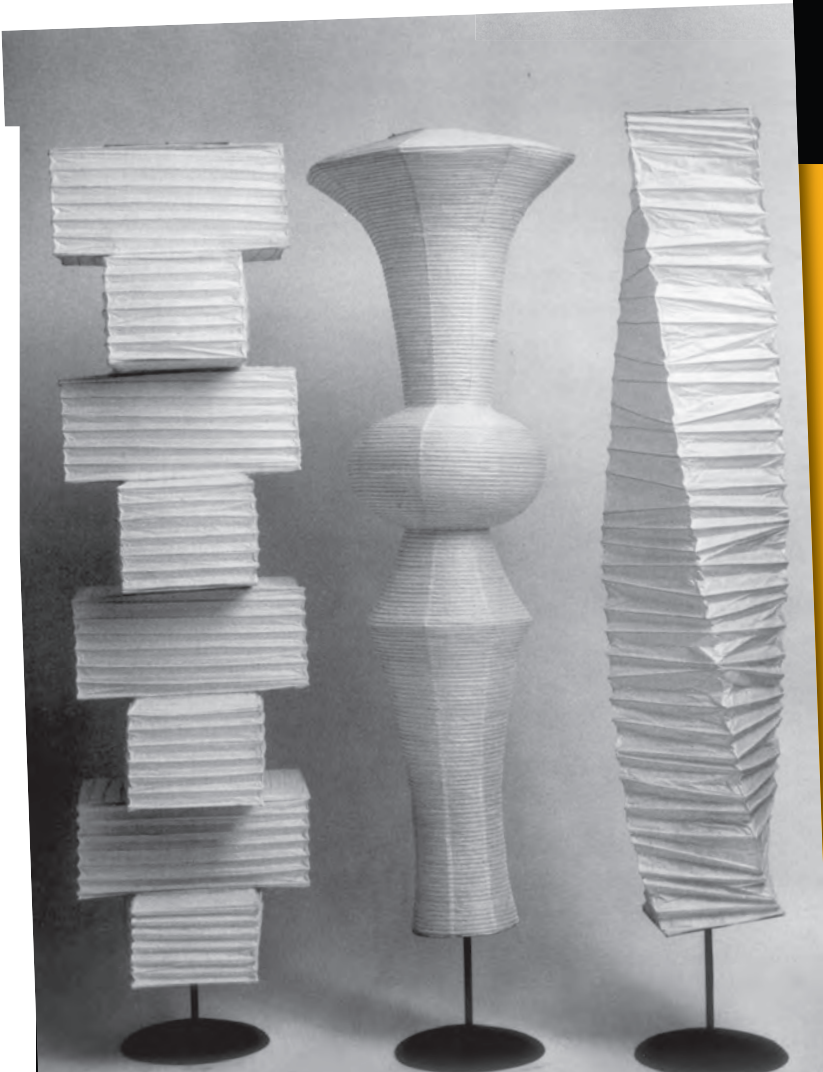
How can you use these toys or other objects to help you draw characters in different positions ?



Isamu Noguchi, *Three Akari*, c. 1950s.
Paper, bamboo and metal,
(from left): 63 x 18 inches,
70 x 23 inches and 65 x 17 inches.

Isamu Noguchi used natural materials in his works. He produced many useful and beautiful objects to be placed in homes and offices, including the lamps shown in the photograph on the left.

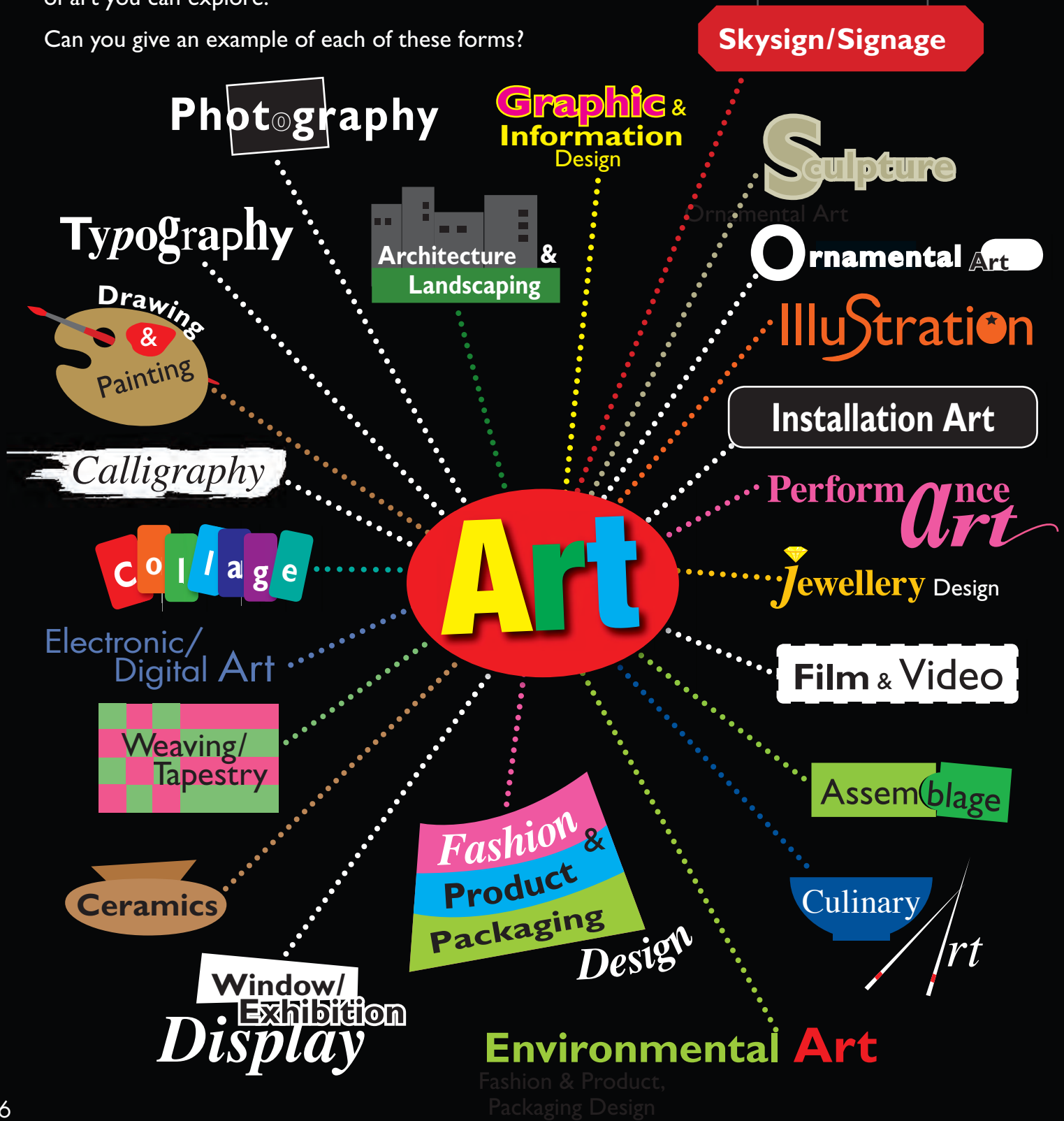
In what ways are the designs of these lamps different from those you see today ?



The Different Forms of Art

The artworks discussed in the last few pages show that art can take on different forms such as photography, painting, sculpture and designed products. They can also be grouped according to three main types of media — **two-dimensional (2-D)**, **three-dimensional (3-D)** and **time-based media**. The visual map below shows the various forms of art you can explore.

Can you give an example of each of these forms?



HANDS-ON

My Visual Journal

You can use a sketchbook of any size you like as your visual journal. As you have learnt, there are several functions of a visual journal. Let us explore two of its functions.

I. Collect what you see

Refer to the visual map on page 6 and consider the various forms of art.

Which art forms would you like to find out more about?



Look for old magazines, newspapers, brochures and flyers. Browse for photographs or artworks showing the art forms you are interested in.

Where can you find images of the art forms you are looking for?

Cut out images that look attractive or interesting. Paste them in your visual journal to create a visual map.



Do any of the images you found belong to more than one art form? Some may even belong to an art form not mentioned in this book. How would you categorise them?

Technique Tips

Visual maps are useful for recording or exploring an idea. This technique can also be used to organise thoughts as you make decisions on how to create your artwork.

- Place a keyword at the centre and arrange other details such as steps, tasks or concepts around it to form a diagram.
- You can even add colours and drawings to make your map memorable!

2. Sketch what you see or imagine

As the visual journal records your learning journey, you should sketch your observations and ideas in it. Here are examples of what some artists have sketched during their creative process.

Ng Eng Teng, *Studies of 'Child in a Sphere'*, 1978.
Ink on tracing paper, 31.5 x 51 cm.
Collection of the National University of Singapore Museum.

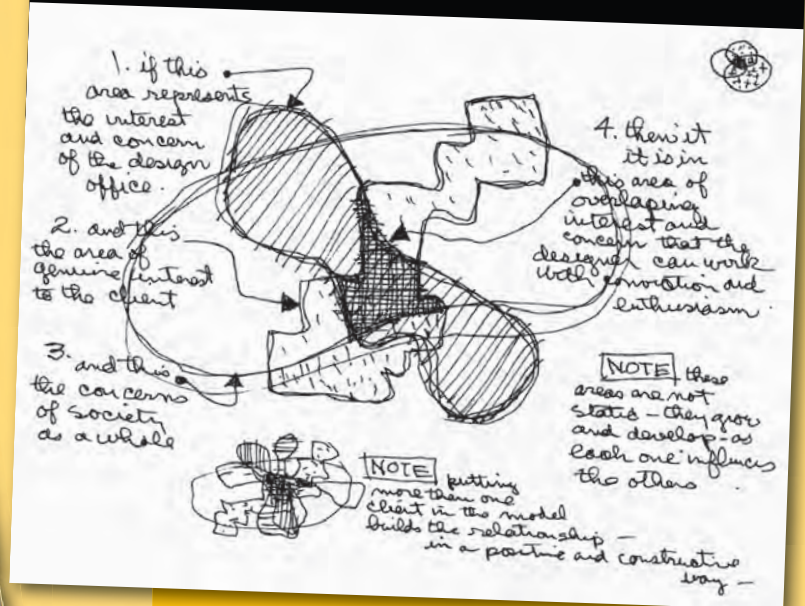


Above are sketches made by one of Singapore's pioneer artists, Ng Eng Teng. They contain ideas that he used in the making of his sculptures, such as the one shown on the right.



Ng Eng Teng, *Fear II*, 1978.
Ciment-fondu, 50 x 56 x 51 cm.
Collection of the National University of Singapore Museum.

Charles Eames, *Statement of the Eames Design Process for the Louvre Show, 'What is Design'*, 1969.
Ink on paper.



These are notes made by the famous architect and designer, Charles Eames. Here, he outlined his thoughts during the design process of a product or artwork.

Look around you for scenes or objects that interest you. How can these images inspire you to make an interesting artwork?

Reflection

What have you understood? Reflect upon these questions:

- What visually interesting objects can you see around you?
- Are there art forms that you have not come across before? Which ones do you think could be unusual or exciting?

