Manifestos & Mandalas

Mandala: graphic depictions of the Buddhist universe and its myriad realms and deities

Manifesto: Statement of beliefs
Manifesto

- *Communist Manifesto* (1848) by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels describing the history of class struggle. It advocates for the dispersal of wealth, the collectivisation of labor, and the egalitarian dispersal of the results of that labor: ideas that terrify the financial elite. For this reason manifestos in western European culture are regarded as fairly leftist, progressive, radical.

- The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.
Manifesto: Realist

- We proclaim: For us, space and time are born today. Space and time: the only forms where life is built, the only forms, therefore, where art should be erected.

- States, political and economic systems, die under the push of the centuries: ideas crumble, but life is robust; it grows and cannot be ripped up, and time is continuous in life's true duration. Who will show us more efficient forms? Which great human will give us more solid foundations? Which genius will conceive for us a legend more elating than the prosaic story that is called life?

- The fulfillment of our perception of the world under the aspects of space and time: that is the only goal of our plastic creation.

- Antoine Pevsner and Naum Gabo

Naum Gabo Construction in Space, 1925
Manifesto Futurist

“We declare that the splendor of the world has been enriched by a new beauty: the beauty of speed. A racing automobile with its bonnet adorned with great tubes like serpents with explosive breath ... a roaring motor car which seems to run on machine-gun fire, is more beautiful than the Victory of Samothrace.”

FT Marinetti 1909

Alberto Bragaglia Futurist Salon in Roma

See Also, The Art of Noises, Luigi Russolo
Pattern and Repetition
Repetition with Variety
Quote, Simplify, Focus our attention

- Andre the Giant by Shepard Fairey
Repeat, play with scale, placement, location
Repeat, play with color, context
Gather/ Generate stock characters, deploy

Barry McGee
Run an image through the xerox machine, emphasize the blacks

- Squeeze the levels in Photoshop or by using the darken, shrink and enlarge commands on a copy machine
- Inverse the color, work with the negative
- Strip out all colors; add color
- Reverse
- Rotate
- Mirror
- Crop

Warhol’s *Double Elvis*; what does doubling this Image do for the image?
Original at left; right with greys stripped, repeat, mirror, look for patterns
The central six-armed goddess (devi), Jnanadakini, is surrounded by eight emanations—representations of the devi that correspond to the colors of the mandala's four directional quadrants. Four additional protective goddesses sit within the gateways. Bracketing the gateways and taking the form of vajras are foliate arches that emerge from the mouths of sea monsters (makaras). This mandalic structure is surrounded by concentric circles that respectively contain lotus petals, vajras, flames, and the eight great burial grounds. Additional dakinis and lamas occupy roundels in the four corners.
We are making a circular pattern based on the organization of a mandala that is symmetrical when you fold it at least 2 ways. This pattern (typically a circle) is a historically significant shape that crosses many cultures.
Symmetrical patterns

American Quilt, unidentified, Smithsonian

Acoma Pueblo, ceramic, 1880
Symmetrical patterns

Star Tile from Iran, 13th century

Mushenge
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Panel, Possibly mid-20th century
Symmetrical patterns

Mosaic floor panel
Period: Imperial Date: 2nd century A.D. Culture: Roman

Leaf from a Beatus Manuscript: the Opening of the Fifth Seal
Date: ca. 1180 Culture: Spanish
Gather for Tuesday

- Magazines, recycled texts and Images
- Leaves, pressed flowers, other nature fragments
- Fabric & paper samples, wrapping paper (cheap at Jo-anne’s or Michaels)
- Small drawings of your own; texture rubbings
- Colored markers or pencils or crayons
- Scissors and glue sticks
- We have no printer in the studio, so bring stuff already on paper.