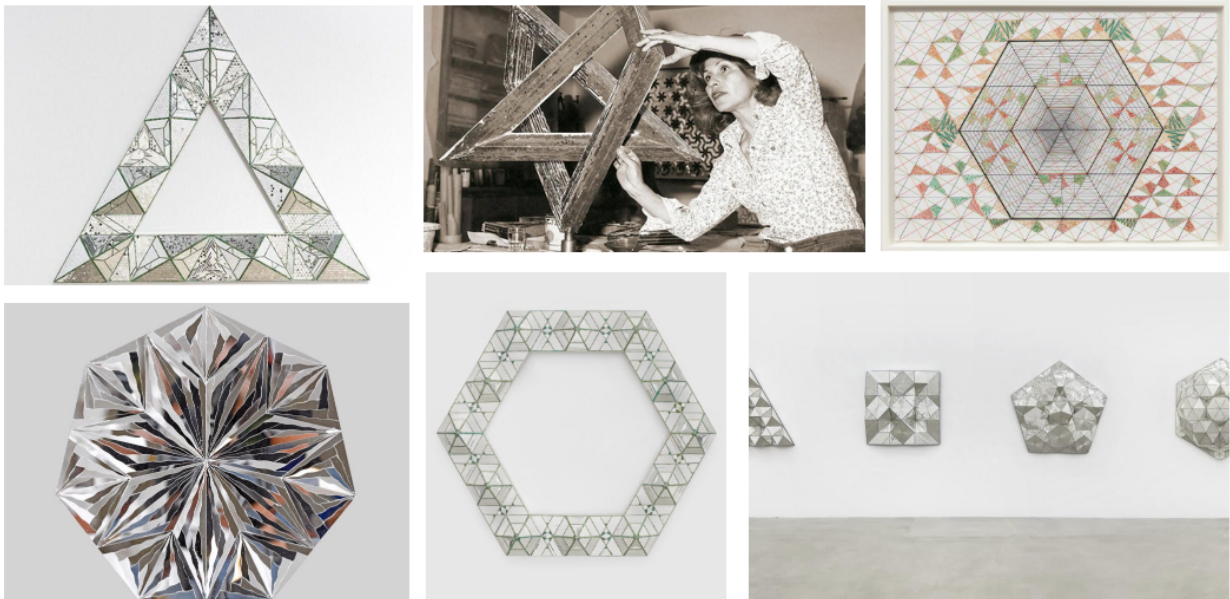


WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian

ARTIST INTRO:

Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian (b. 1922 – 2019) منیر شاهرودی فرمانفرومائیان was an important contemporary Iranian artist known for her kaleidoscopic mirror artworks and drawings as well as paintings, textile designs, and monotypes. Farmanfarmaian lived through two exiles from Iran. Landing in New York City. The first (self-imposed) in her early 20s during World War II where she studied art Cornell University and fashion illustration at the New School: Parsons. While in NYC she took part in the avant-garde art scene and was friends with artists like Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Joan Mitchell, and DeKooning. She moved back to Iran in 1957 and found inspiration in Persian architecture and Islamic geometric patterns by connecting past traditions with modern art to make her iconic mirrored mosaics or sculptures. Her second exile to NYC was at the beginning of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and she eventually made her way back to Iran in 1992 where she continued to create until her death. Today she has a museum in Tehran dedicated to her art and you can find her artworks in major international museums and collections.

ARTWORK:



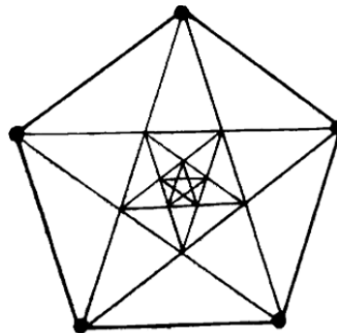
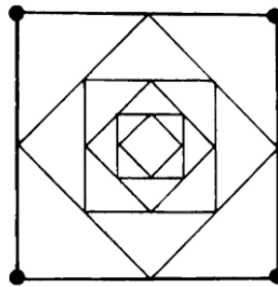
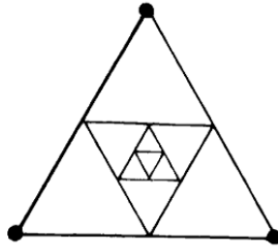
WORKSHOP:

Let's take create folded artworks inspired by Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian!

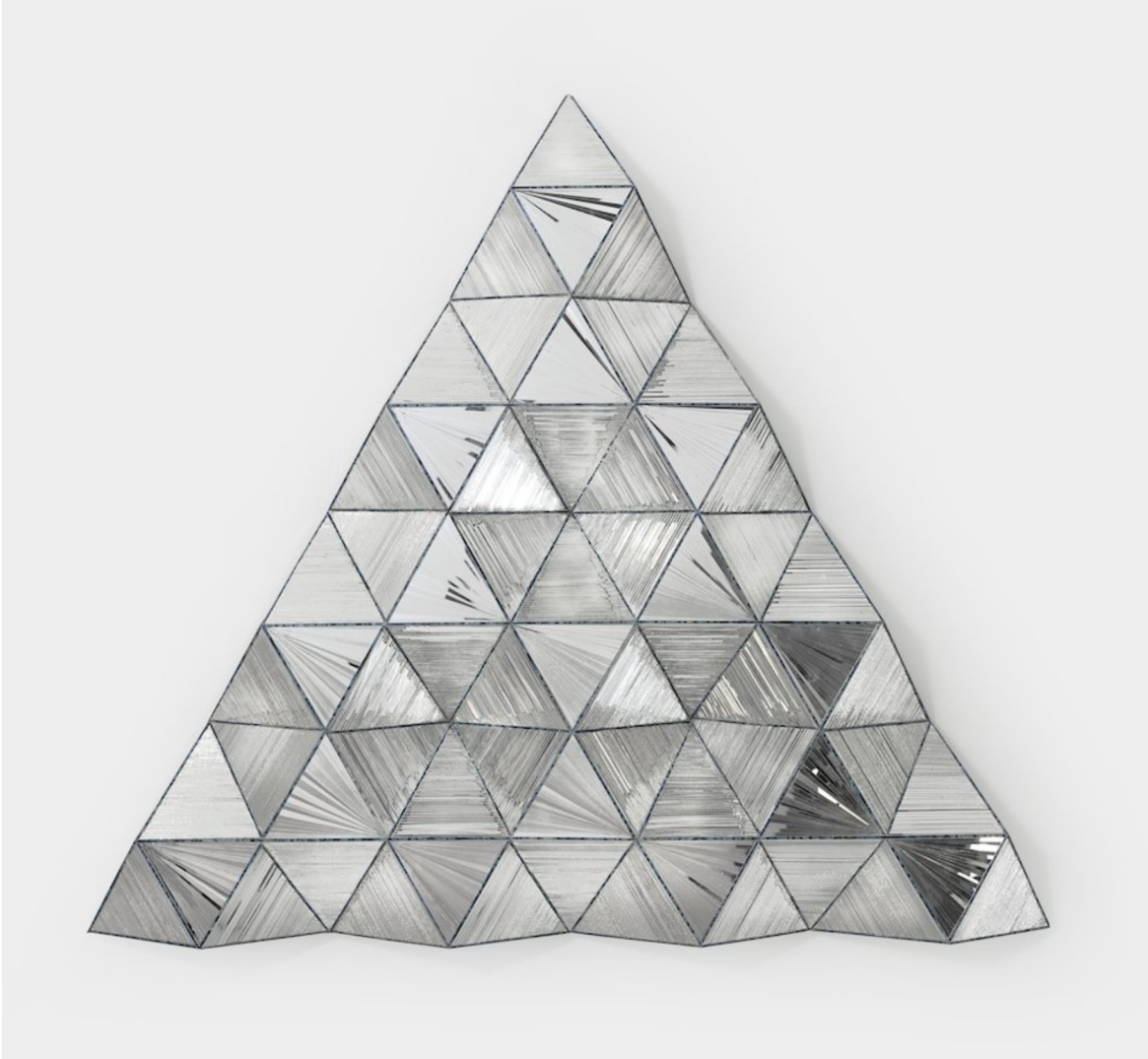
1. Take a large piece of foil and think about repeating a basic geometric shape (Ex: triangle, square, rectangle, etc.)
2. Start with a point and fold your foil into your desired shape
3. Repeat that shape by folding it over and over
4. Once it is too small to fold, reveal your artwork by unfolding your foil
5. Look at your unique geometric design and get creative trying another
6. Build on each foil design to create 3D structures or continue to create different folded patterns
7. Share your folding process, shapes, designs, and sculptures!

MATERIALS:

- Aluminum Foil
- Your Hands!



The first three Platonic solids, the triangle, square, and pentagon, diagrammed in *The Sense of Unity: The Sufi Tradition in Persian Architecture* (1973).



***Third Family–Triangle, 2011 (Photo Filipe Braga –
Fundação de Serralves–Museu de Arte
Contemporânea, Porto, Portugal)***

“My work is largely based on geometry which...a point can become three leading to a triangle, or four to a square, five to a pentagon, hexagon, octagon, and so on -- it’s endless.”

**- Monir Shahrudy
Farmanfarmaian**



FOLLOW UP:

What shapes do you see around you?

If you go outside, what shapes and patterns can you find in nature?

Can you find math and geometry in nature? In art? How?

What is geometry? What do you think is sacred geometry?

What shape(s) did you create and use for your folded artwork?

How did you repeat patterns, points, and shapes to create your artwork?

Did you build on your pattern and folded design? How?

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Providing access to art, artists, and arts education.

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