

# Notan

“Notan “is the term used by the Japanese to express lights and darks placed next to each other within a work of art or design. The most extreme light and dark is white and black.

Here in US we use other words such as positive and negative space or contrast to express the same idea.

**Positive Space** is the area inside of the main object.

**Negative Space** is the area outside or around the main object.

**Contrast** is the arrangement of opposite elements such as light and dark or big and small objects with in a work of art.

To create a cut paper Notan design, shapes are cut and flipped from the edges of a black square. Here are some things to remember when creating a cut paper Notan design:

- Make sure your cut shapes start and stop on the same side.

- Every shape you cut must be used! Nothing will thrown away!!

- Try not to cross the middle of the square.

- Every shape will have to be cut with scissors, so don't make your designs too complicated. But also don't make them too simple or your design will be boring.

- Practice makes perfect. Try drawing a small Notan plan in your sketch book before cutting your black square.

