

MASK MAKING INSPIRED BY LOUIS MAILOU JONES

LOIS MAILOU JONES - AFRICAN MASKS LINK



Use the links below to help inspire you:
[National Museum of African Art - Collections](#)
[Traditional African Mask Examples](#)
[Adinkra Meanings and Symbols](#)
[Patterns in African Masks](#)
[The style of an African Mask](#)



ACTIVITY #1 & #2

- Explore the lesson and research the above links to inspire you.
- Read the biography of Lois Mailou Jones and the brief history on masks and Adinkra symbols.
- Answer 3 of the 7 questions below of your choice.

QUESTIONS:

- Historically speaking, why were masks created and used in Africa?
- Who created Adinkra symbols?
- What do Adinkra symbols communicate?
- What is your favorite Adinkra symbol and why?
- If you were to create your own symbol to represent yourself what would it look like? Describe what your symbol represents.
- What did Jones do as a career besides painting and where did she work?
- Where was Jones influenced to create African art. Why do you think she explored African art and culture?

ACTIVITY #3: Influenced by the art of Lois Mailou Jones, design an African mask and composition using a combination of ideas taken from other masks and incorporate Adinkra symbols. There are many examples on the following pages.

Requirements: Use a medium of your choice. Can be in black and white or color.

Your mask design should demonstrate:

- The influence of artist Lois Mailou Jones
- Patterns and symbols
- Symmetry

MASKS have been used since antiquity for ceremonial, spiritual, theatrical, and practical purposes throughout multiple cultures and continents.

Visually and aesthetically speaking, masks will differ not only from culture to culture, but also in the intended purpose of each mask.

Historically, in Africa, masks are created for a variety of reasons such as religious ceremonies as a way to conjure or communicate with spirits or ancestors. In a traditional African setting African masks were created to be worn and danced on special occasions such as harvest, funerals, or holidays, rather than displayed on the walls of a museum.



Who is painter LOIS MAILOU JONES ?



Visual artist Lois Mailou Jones was born in 1905 in Boston, Massachusetts to Thomas Vreeland and Carolyn Dorinda Jones. Her father was a superintendent of a building and later became a lawyer, her mother was a cosmetologist. Early in life Jones displayed a passion for drawing, and her parents encouraged this interest by enrolling her in the High School of Practical Arts in Boston where she majored in art. In 1927, Jones graduated with honors from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and continued her education at the Boston Normal School of Arts and the Designers Art School in Boston.

A year later, Jones formed and chaired the art department at Palmer Memorial Institute, an all-black prep school in North Carolina. In 1928, she accepted a position at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where her art courses helped shape the careers of notable artists Elizabeth Catlett and Starmanda Bullock. Jones simultaneously pursued painting, using her immediate surroundings as inspiration for "Mob Victim," "The Banjo Player," and "Janitor."

Jones's formal career as a painter began on the island of Martha's Vineyard when she met sculptor Meta Warrick Fuller, who inspired one of her earliest paintings, "The Ascent of Ethiopia," a tribute to Africa and the Harlem Renaissance. Fuller later persuaded Jones to emigrate to France where she would be fully appreciated as an artist. In 1937, Jones took a one-year sabbatical from Howard University to study at Academie Julian in Paris.

While living abroad, many of Jones's works were inspired by the Luxembourg Gardens, boulevards, art galleries, and cafes of Paris. Her most celebrated Parisian painting, "Les Fetiches," was a depiction of African Masks. Much of Jones's art reflects her summer travels to Martha's Vineyard and her travels to Africa and Haiti. Jones, however, credited France with giving her the freedom and stability she needed to flourish as an artist.

After retiring from Howard University in 1977, Jones continued to exhibit, paint, and travel. Throughout her seven-decade career, she became the recipient of many prestigious honors and awards, including one from the Harmon Foundation and Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Lois Mailou Jones, longest-surviving artist of the Harlem Renaissance, died at the age of 98 in Washington, D.C.



EXAMPLES OF
LOIS MAILOU JONES
ARTWORK



COLOR SYMBOLISM

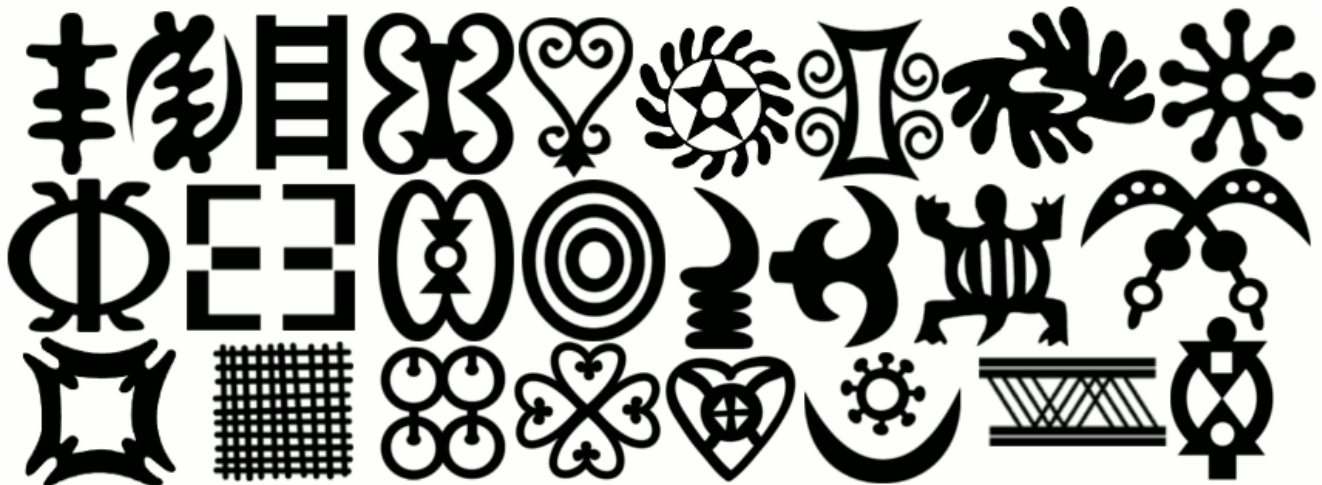
- **black**—strong spiritual energy
- **blue**—love, fortune, peacefulness, harmony
- **green**—plants, harvesting, growth, good health
- **gold**—royalty, wealth, high status, purity
- **grey**—healing and cleansing rituals; associated with ash
- **maroon/purple**—mother earth; associated with healing and protection
- **pink**—female essence of life; mild, gentle, tender
- **red**—strong political moods; bloodshed; death
- **silver**—serenity, purity, joy; associated with the moon
- **white**—purification, healing; festive occasions
- **yellow**—preciousness, beauty, holiness

ADRINKRA SYMBOLS

























Through the years, Adinkra symbols tell a story to express thoughts or feelings.

The Adinkra symbols and their profound meanings have survived to date. They are closely tied to the traditions, beliefs, and history of the Asante people of Ghana. Nana Kwadwo Agyeman Adinkra, a Gyaman King, was the one who created and designed these symbols and called them after himself.






















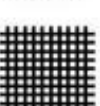
















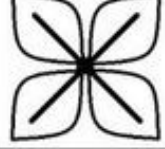





















They also serve as a shorthand that is used to communicate profound truths in a clear visual form and represent famous proverbs and maxims. They also record historical events, express specific behaviors or attitudes related to unique concepts, and depict figures that are related to abstract shapes.



Adinkra Meanings and Symbols

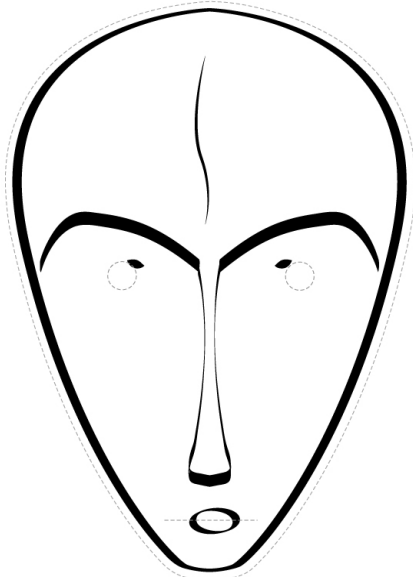
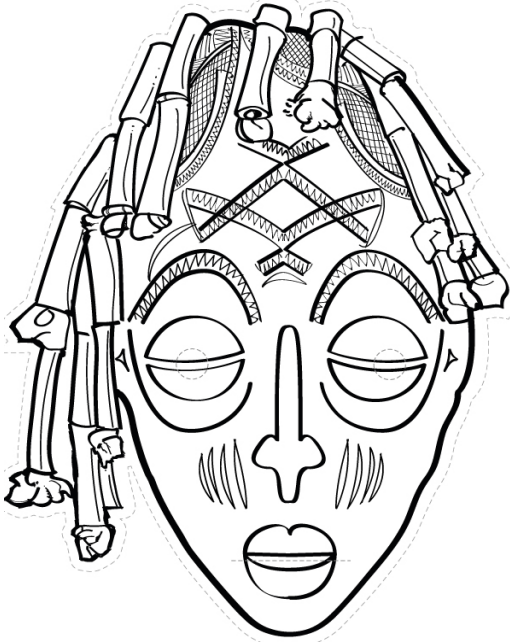
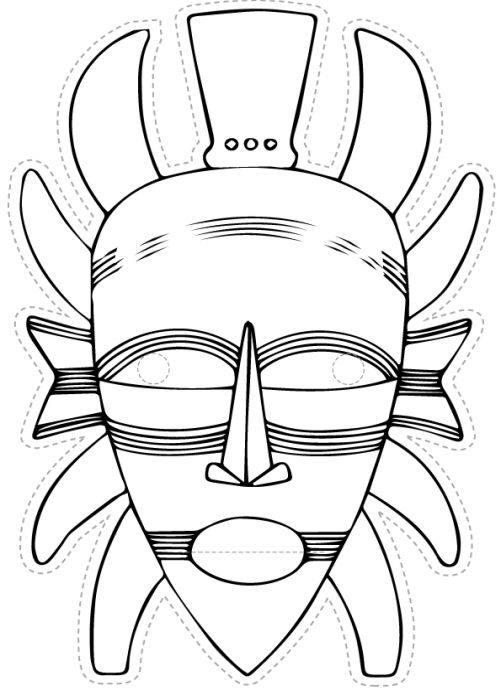
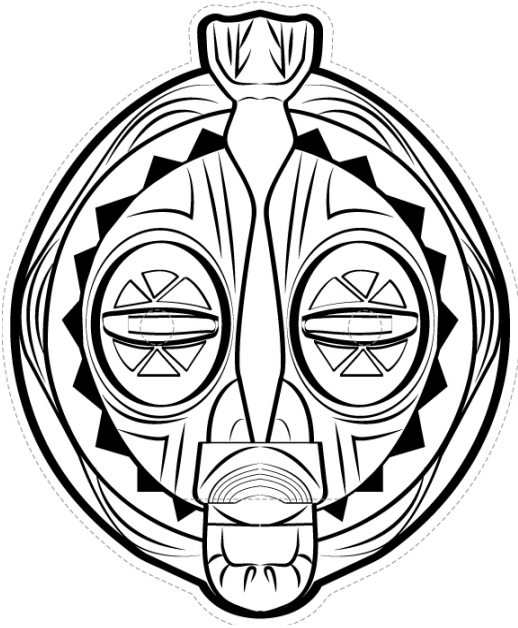
 <p>EXCELLENCE</p>	 <p>PERSEVERANCE</p>	 <p>WISDOM</p>	 <p>RECONCILIATION</p>	 <p>HOPE</p>	 <p>ENCOURAGEMENT</p>
 <p>TRUST IN GOD</p>	 <p>GOOD MARRIAGE</p>	 <p>LOYALTY</p>	 <p>ENDURANCE</p>	 <p>INGENUITY</p>	 <p>VIGILANCE</p>
 <p>UNDERSTANDING</p>	 <p>FRIENDSHIP</p>	 <p>COURAGE</p>	 <p>ABUNDANCE</p>	 <p>HUMILITY & STRENGTH</p>	 <p>FORTITUDE</p>
 <p>STRENGTH</p>	 <p>BEAUTY</p>	 <p>FREEDOM</p>	 <p>GOD'S PROTECTION</p>	 <p>DEMOCRACY</p>	 <p>BY GOD'S GRACE ALL WILL BE WELL</p>
 <p>UNITY</p>	 <p>GOOD FORTUNE</p>	 <p>WISDOM</p>	 <p>KNOWLEDGE</p>	 <p>LEADERSHIP</p>	 <p>JUSTICE</p>
 <p>COOPERATION</p>	 <p>NURTURING</p>	 <p>LEARN FROM THE PAST</p>	 <p>GOD IS SUPREME</p>	 <p>GOD IS KING</p>	 <p>ENDURANCE</p>
 <p>PATIENCE</p>	 <p>TIME CHANGES</p>	 <p>BRAVERY</p>	 <p>SKILLFULNESS</p>	 <p>VERSATILE</p>	 <p>GREATNESS</p>
 <p>STEADFAST</p>	 <p>FAITHFULNESS</p>	 <p>SAFETY</p>	 <p>POWER OF LOVE</p>	 <p>GOD'S CHILD</p>	 <p>COMMITMENT</p>

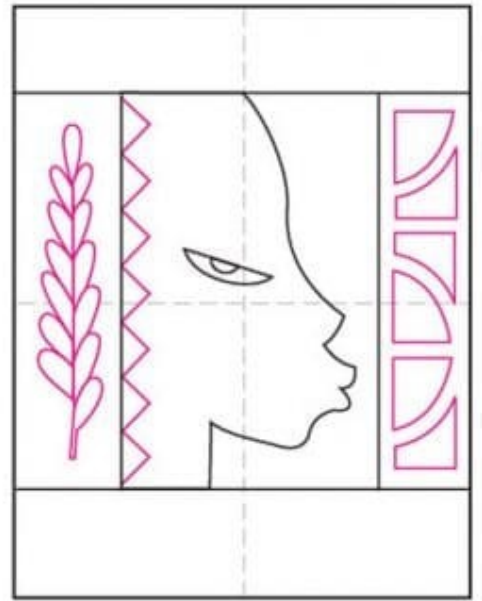
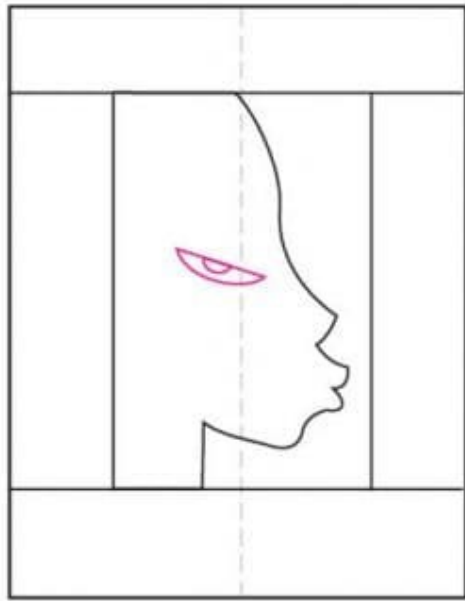
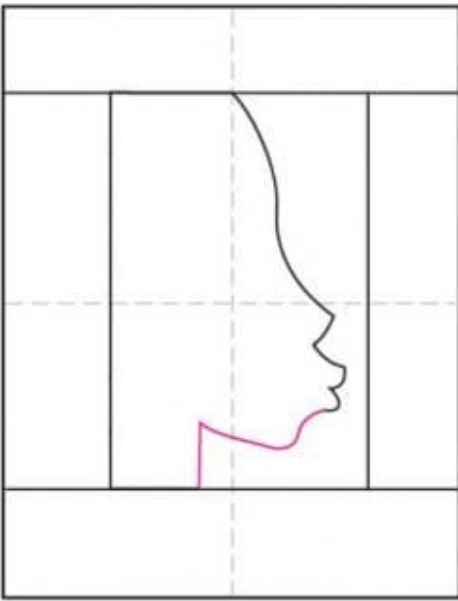
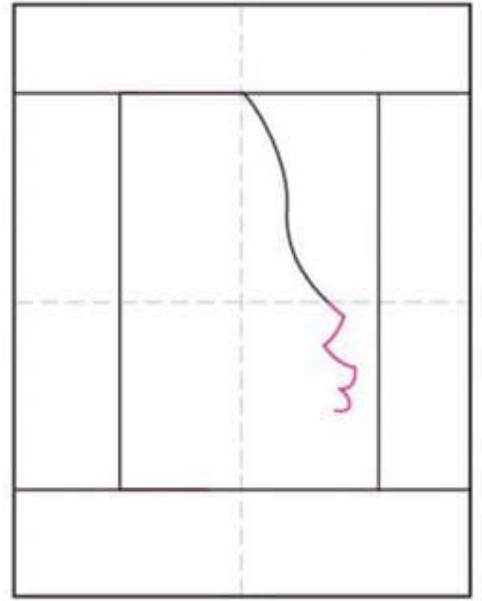
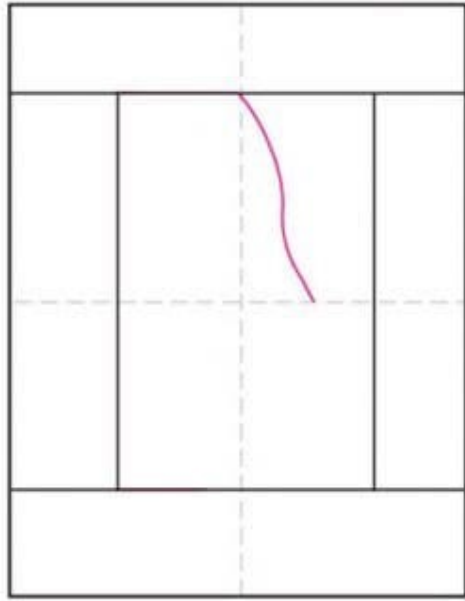
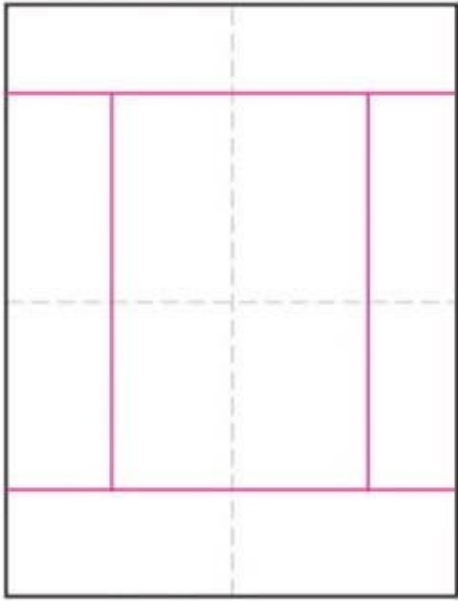
Adinkra Meanings and Symbols

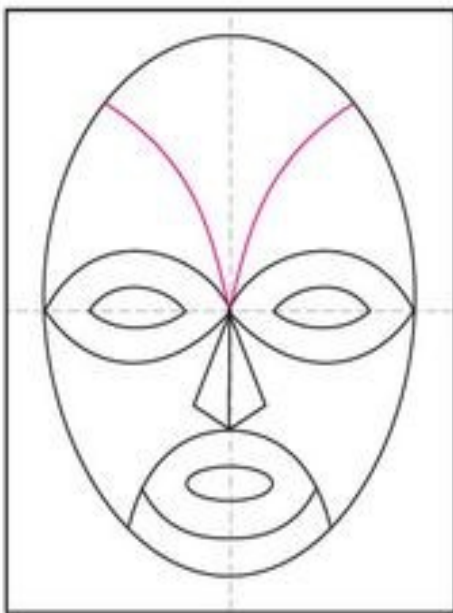
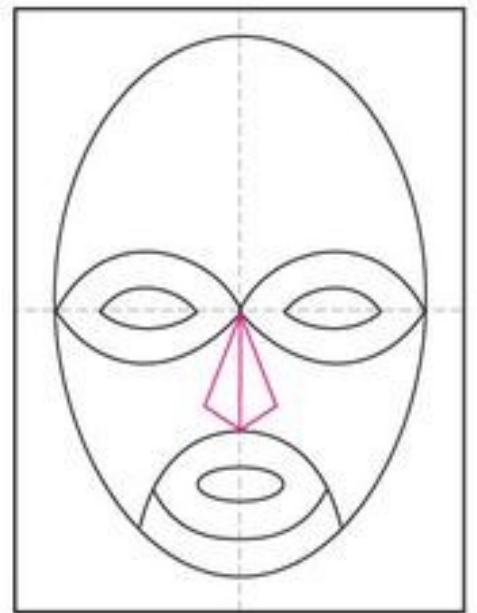
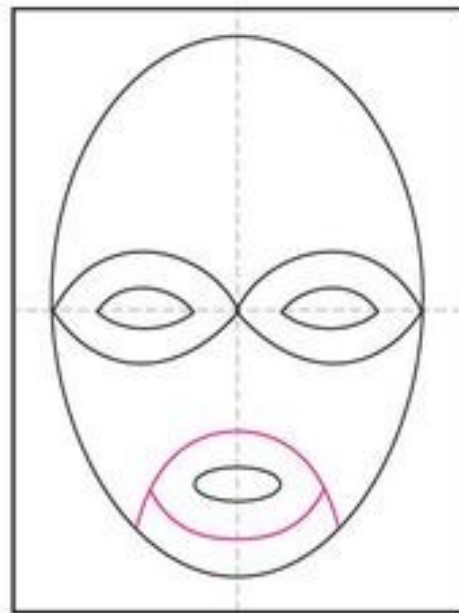
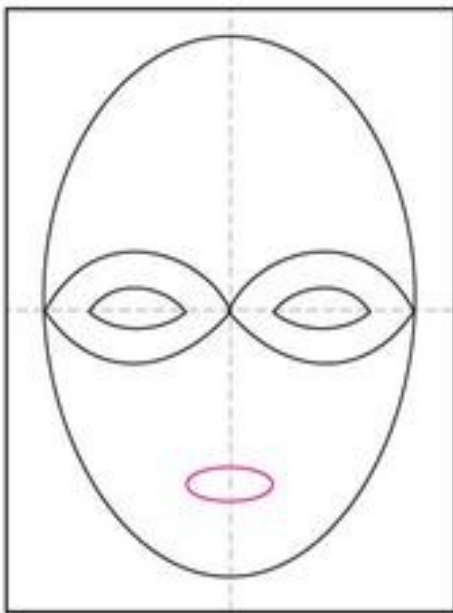
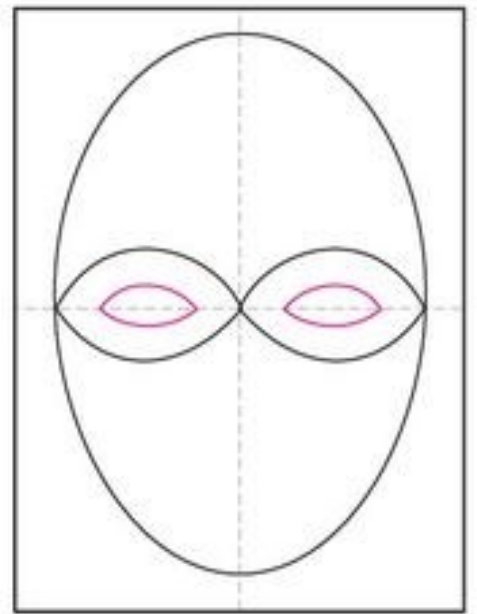
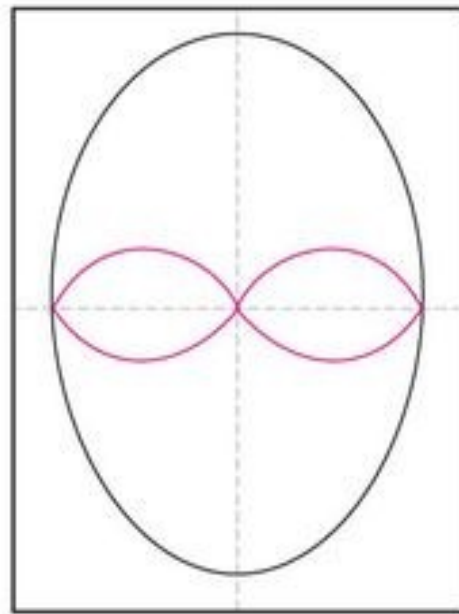
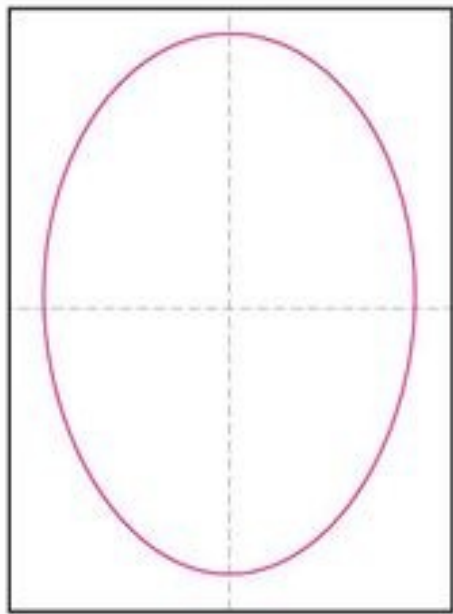
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Akokonan 	Akoma 	Asase Ye Duru 	Aya 	Denkyem 	Dono 
Duafe 	Dwennimmen 	Epa 	Funtunfunefu 	Gyawu Atiko 	Gye Nyame 
Hwemudia 	Hye Won Hye 	Kae Me 	Kete Pa 	Kojo Baiden 	Kontire Ne Akwamu 
Krado 	Kramo Bone 	Kuntankintan 	Mate Masie 	Me Ware Wo 	Mframadan 
Mmere Dane 	Mmra Krado 	Mmusuyidee 	Mpuannum 	Nea Ope Se Obedi Hene 	Nkontim 
Nkyimkyim 	Nsa 	Nseriwa 	Ntesie 	Nya Abotere 	Nyame Akroma 
Nyame Biribi Wo Soro 	Nyame Dua 	Nyame Nnwu Na Mawu 	Ohene 	Ohene Aniwa 	Ohene Tuo 
Osram 	Owuo Atwedee 	Pempamsie 	Sankofa 	Sepow 	Tabon 
Tamfo Bebre 	Tumi Te Se Kosua 	Tuo Ne Akofena 	Wawa Aba 	Wo Nsa Da Mu A 	Wuforo Dua Pa A 

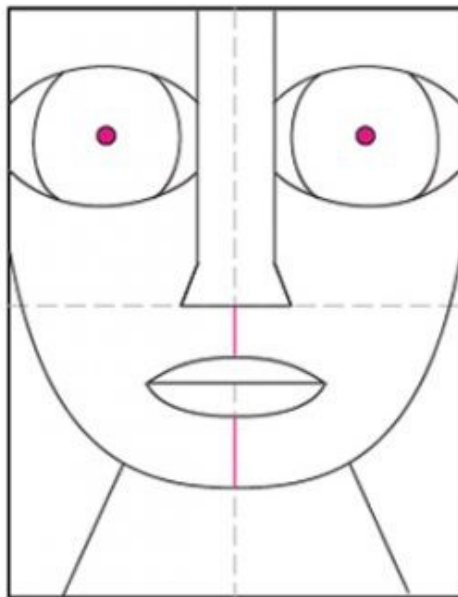
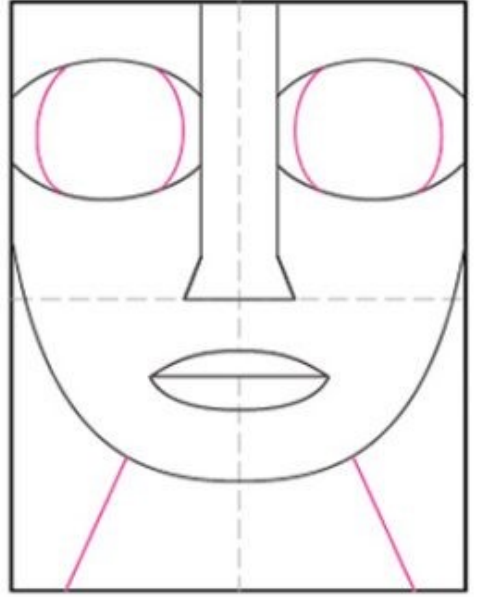
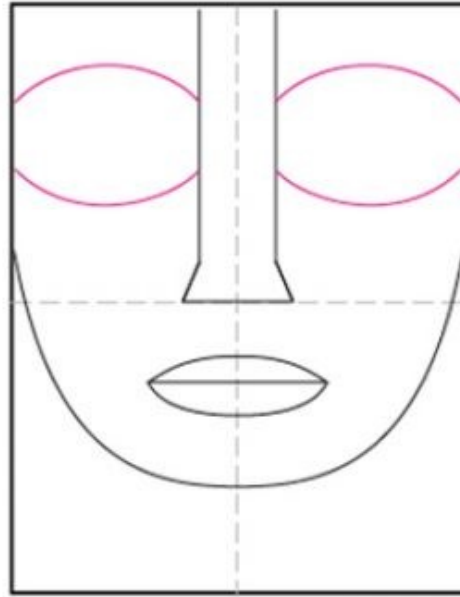
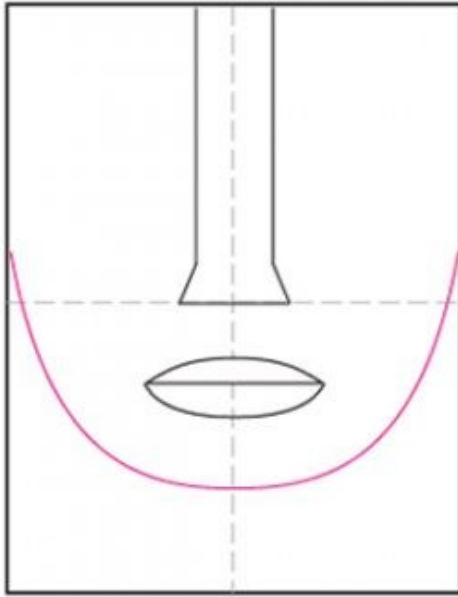
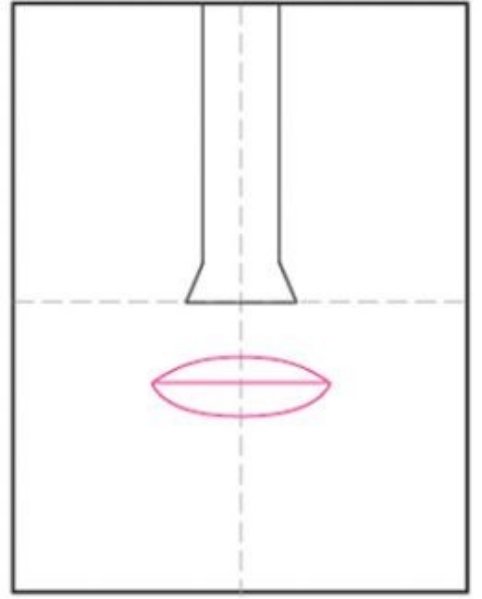
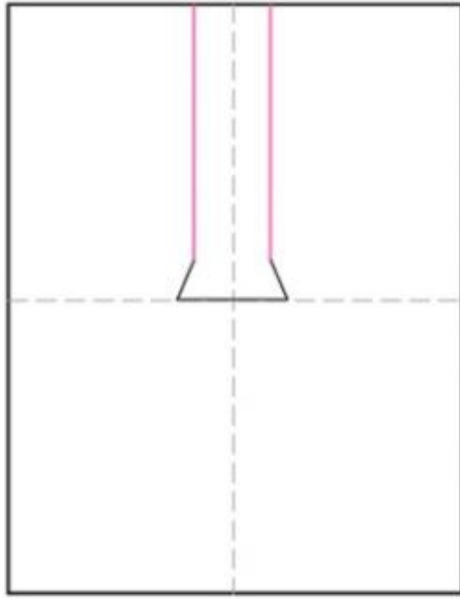
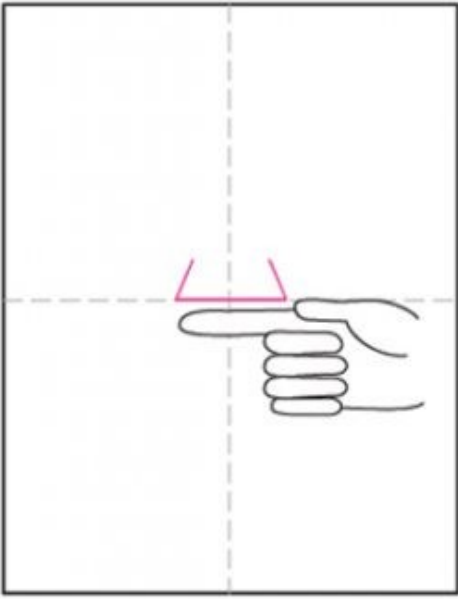
Contemporary Mask Designs by [Artist Kenal Louis](#)

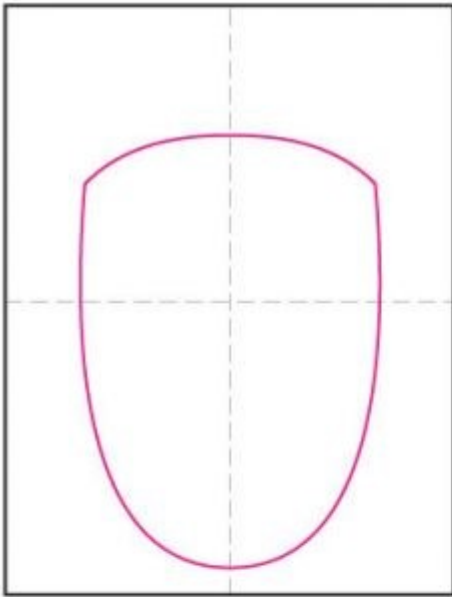




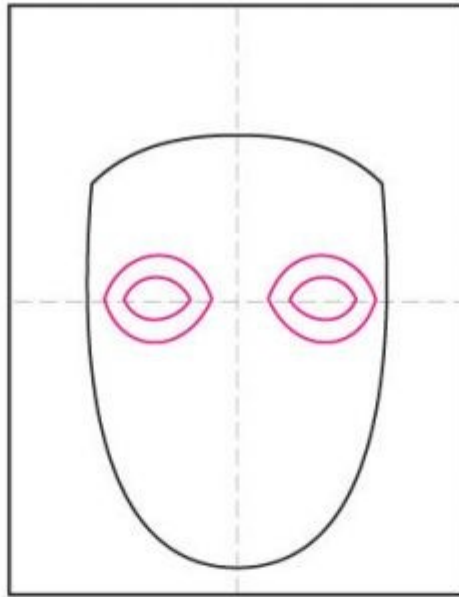




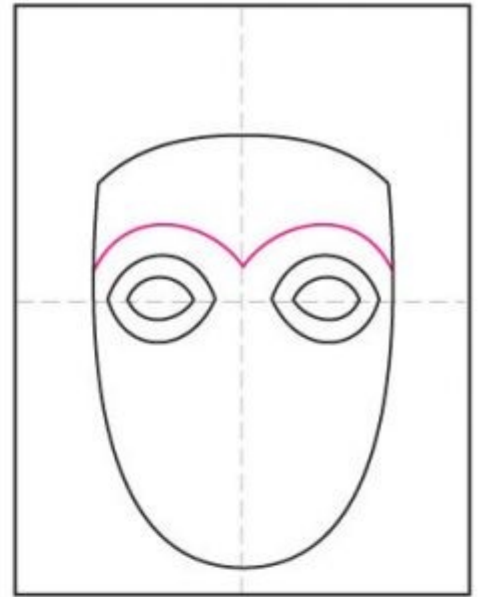




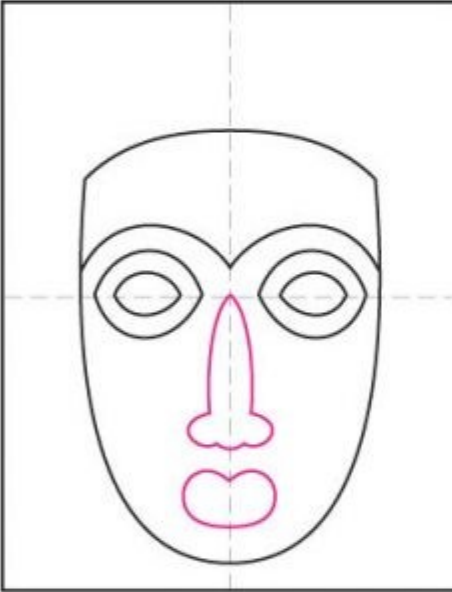
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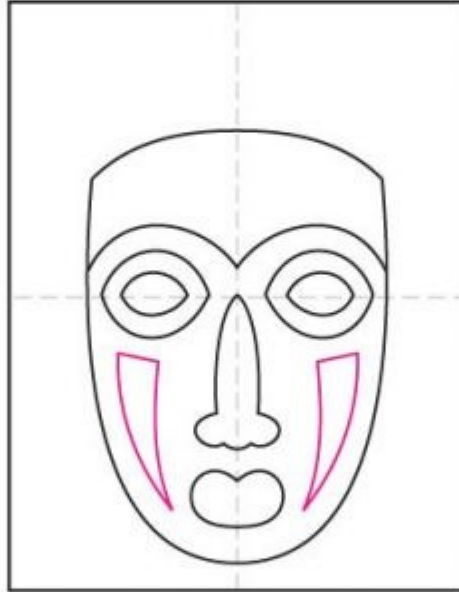
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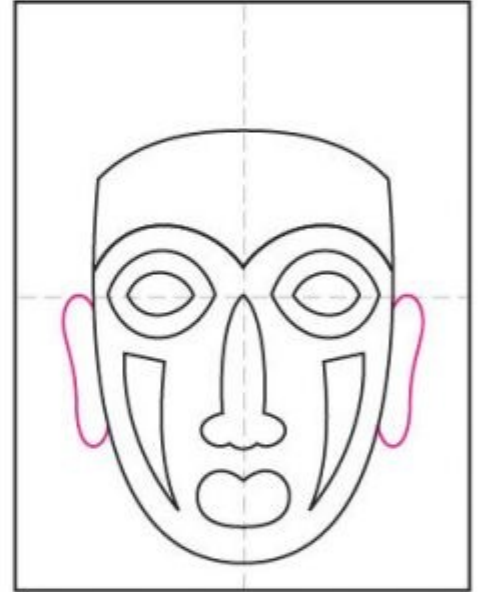
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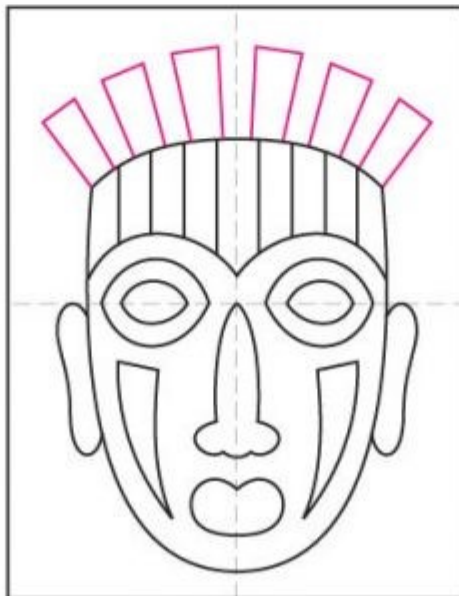
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