



# Art Outreach Program

## Projects & Lesson Plan: Peace Posters - Religion and Coexistence in Contemporary Art

### 7TH-12TH GRADE PAINTING PROJECT

#### Lesson Overview:

Students will learn about the major contemporary religions through art and art history.

#### Project Overview:

Students will create peace posters inspired by Tibetan Prayer flags and Coexist Symbols

#### ART VOCABULARY:

**Nature:** Pagans believe that nature is sacred and that the natural cycles of birth, growth and death observed in the world around us carry profoundly spiritual meanings. Human beings are seen as part of nature, along with other animals, trees, stones, plants, and everything else that is of this earth.

**Judaism:** One of the world's oldest monotheistic religions based on the teachings of the Torah.

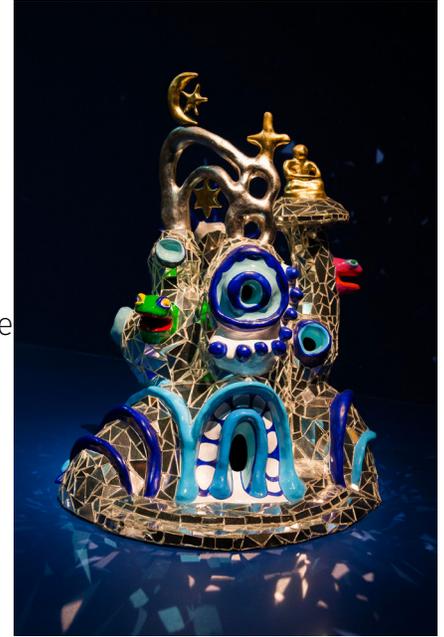
**Hinduism:** A religion of India that emphasizes freedom from the material world through purification of desires and elimination of personal identity.

**Christianity:** Monotheistic religion that stemmed from Judaism based on the teaching of Jesus Christ and the New Testament.

**Islam:** Monotheistic religion stemming from Judaism & Christianity, founded in 7th-century Arabia based on the teachings of Muhammad in the Koran.

**Buddhism:** A religion that originated in India by Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) and later spread to China, Burma, Japan, Tibet, and parts of southeast Asia. Buddhist believe that life is full of suffering caused by desire and that the way to end this suffering is through enlightenment that enables one to halt the endless sequence of births and deaths to which one is otherwise subject.

*Temple Ideal* by Niki de Saint Phalle was meant to become a life-sized space of worship that would welcome anybody from any religion. The temple itself is adorned with symbols of the five major world religion.



*5 wise men of different religions, graffiti art in Cayenne in French Guiana.*

## LEARN ABOUT

# MAJOR RELIGIONS / SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS THROUGH ART

### Nature:

- Indigenous cultures around the world began by worshiping nature. The Vikings, Mesoamericans, Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island commonly referred to as the United



King Akhenaton (left) with his wife, Queen Nefertiti, and three of their daughters under the rays of the Sun God Aton, altar relief, mid-14th century BCE;

States of America, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, Celts, and Pagans, all worshiped the mother earth and its surrounding celestial bodies. They have/had gods who personified the aspects of nature.



Sculpture of the Aztec god Tlaltec.

### Hinduism:

- One of the Hindi gods is Lakshmi, she is the goddess of wealth, fortune, power, luxury, beauty, fertility, and auspiciousness. She holds the promise of material fulfillment and contentment.



## LEARN ABOUT

# MAJOR RELIGIONS / SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS THROUGH ART

### Judaism:

- The 12 tribes of Israel are named after Jacob's 12 sons. Israelites all descended from these 12 brothers, and maintained the identity of their tribe.



Mosaic depicting the 12 Tribes of Israel on a wheel surrounding the Menorah

### Christianity:

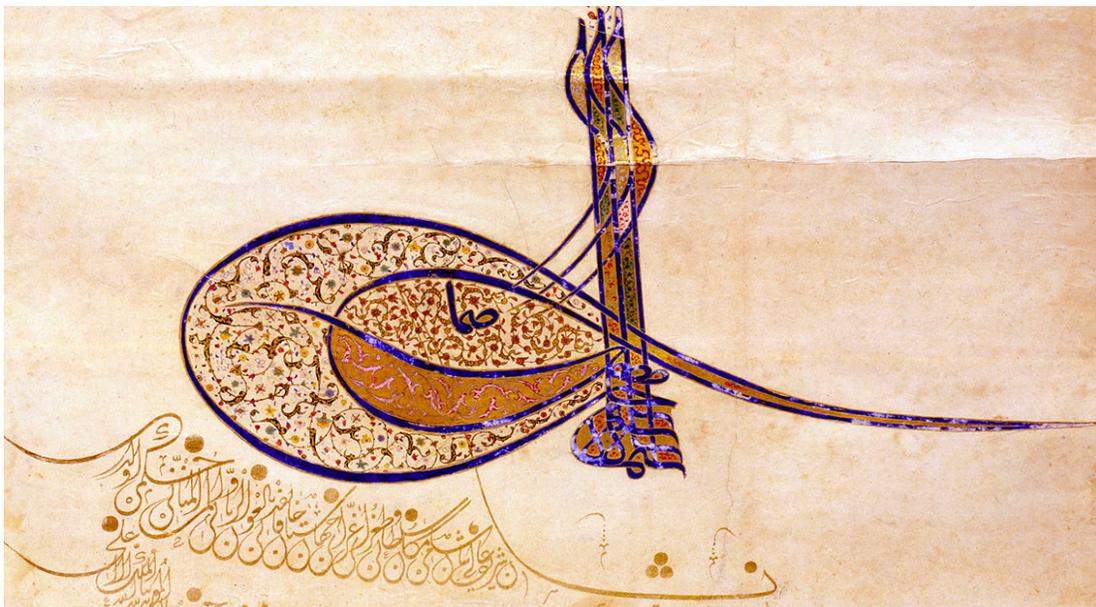
- Art depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. One of the most well known iterations of his life is the Last Supper.



Last Supper by Sarah Jenkins

### Islam:

- One of the most illustrative examples of this artistic preference is the calligraphy of the Ottoman Empire. Calligraphy of this era is highlighted by the distinctive Diwani script, invented by Housam Roumi and developed during the 16th and 17th centuries. The style is characterized by the complexity of the lines of the letters and the close juxtaposition of the letters within each word.



# LEARN ABOUT THE ORIGINAL PEACE POSTER INSPIRATION

## *Buddhism Tibetan Prayer Flags*

A Tibetan prayer flag is a colorful rectangular cloth, often found strung along trails and peaks high in the Himalayas. They are used to bless the surrounding countryside and for other purposes. Prayer flags are believed to have originated with Bon. In Bon, shamanistic Bonpo used primary-colored plain flags in Tibet. Traditional prayer flags include woodblock-printed text and images.

Nepal Sutras, originally written on cloth banners, were transmitted to other regions of the world as prayer flags. Legend ascribes the origin of the prayer flag to the Gautama Buddha, whose prayers were written on battle flags used by the devas against their adversaries, the asuras.





# STUDENT SAMPLES

