

Nature has provided artists with inspiration since the beginning of time. When mankind wanted to leave an image to remember they drew animals and plants as in the ancient hieroglyphics found in the pyramids. Since then we have incorporated the patterns and textures found in our surrounding world.

Look at the photograph of the tree to the left and compare it to the inset of "the scream" painted in 1893 by Edvard Munch. You can't help but notice the similarities...from the peculiar face, to the flowing texture of the weathered wood grain. The background of the painting has the same flow. Can you picture the artist seeing that tree and the image of *the scream* coming to his mind? He was greatly influenced by Van Gogh, one of the great masters of impressionism. That is what this style of art is referred to as. At the time, the late 1800's, this style was very controversial. It was way out of the norm of traditional "realism" found in pictures that everyone had grown accustomed to. So, like with many new and different ideas, the style was shunned and considered meaningless. There is a lot of reference to this in the movie *Titanic*. The rich boyfriend was an art collector and puts down the works of many great artists, but that was generally the feeling at the time. But lucky for us the artists continued their work and in turn influenced many great artists along the way.



Edvard Munch  
1893



From the cross-section of a nautilus shell to the blooming of an artichoke, these all have their own pattern and texture that occur naturally. Sometimes it is symmetrical and other times it is not.

The function of form... *Part Four: Patterns in nature (continued)*

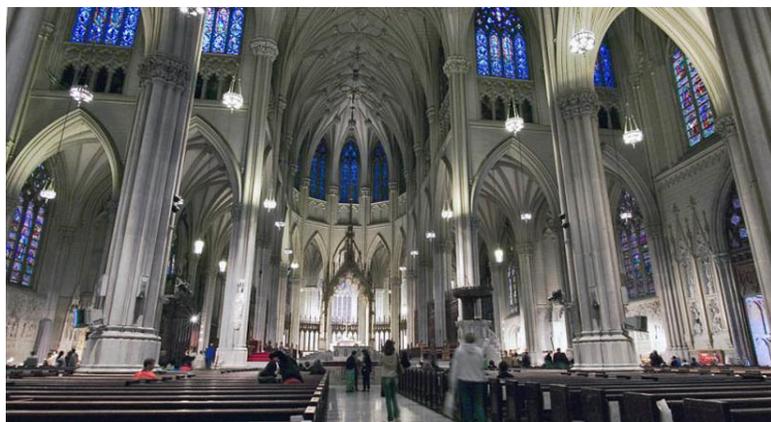
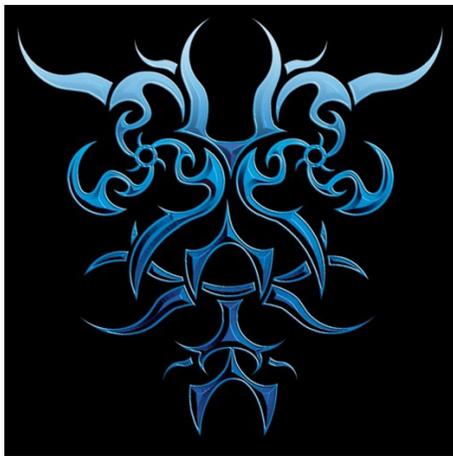
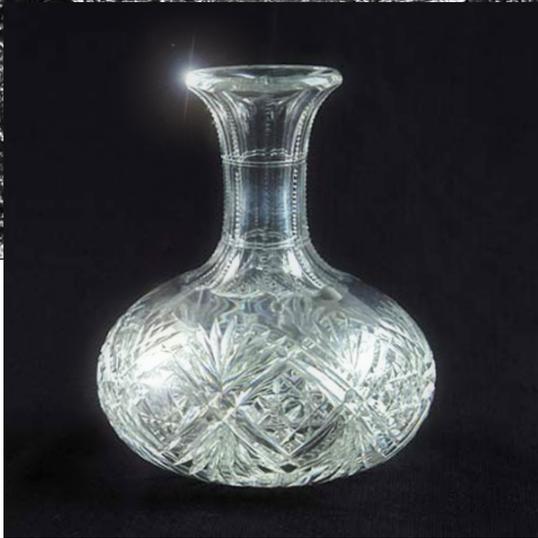
Patterns, symmetry and textures are everywhere we look. You can incorporate them as a background or use them as a texture for type. Something bold like the zebra is certain to grab attention. Find different and unusual ways to use the patterns and textures you like in your artwork. For instance, a close up of a coral reef would make a really nice background for a travel agent or even a SCUBA training center. You have an interest in marine biology, so exploring the countless forms of patterns and textures should be fun. And whenever you find a really interesting image, save it. You will be thrilled the day you get to use it.



The iridescent feathers of a hummingbird, the bold texture of a zebra's stripes or the fine intricacies of a fern all provide ideas for the looking designer.

A stained glass artisan would certainly be inspired by the beautiful colors of the feathers, as would a fashion and textile designer towards the zebra and fern textures. Everyone may get something different from each but the fact remains that these creations are all around us if we take the time to notice them. And if we let our imagination wander they will indeed inspire us.





Can you imagine the first time a glass artisan saw frost on a window. It must have flooded their mind with thoughts. You just know they had to figure out how to create that in their art. They did, with cut crystal. The images so often portrayed in crystal are similar to the one's we see on our windows in the winter. Some of the finest cut crystal ever made is from Ireland. The winters are cold and damp, the perfect environment for plenty of frost, and most likely plenty of inspiration to create beautiful pieces, some are truly incredible.

Celtic art is some of the most intricate and complex art created. The weaving of the elements creates an almost basket look as is evident in *figure 17A*. The tattoo craze over the last fifteen or so years has helped introduce everyone to tribal designs. These bold and flowing forms are derived from Celtic illustrations. Some of the best tribal designs incorporate weaving of

the different elements in an intricate and beautiful way.

I heard over the weekend that the Sacred Heart church burned down in Weymouth. The church was constructed over 100 years ago entirely by Irish immigrants. They used their magnificent talents and artistry to make a remarkable church. Check out Saint Patrick's Cathedral (bottom left). Notice the sharply pointed arches, and see them again in *figure 17A* below. A true crafts person continues to perfect their craft, always hungry for new and innovative ways to create their art more beautifully. And you just never know what will inspire them next.



figure 17A