

LOOK!

DISCUSS!

CREATE!

MOHAMMED CHABÂA:

VISUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Mohammed Chabâa was born in 1935 in the city of Tangier, Morocco. He was a multidisciplinary artist – a painter, muralist, sculptor, graphic designer, interior designer, educator and a writer. He was a pioneer in his field who played a significant role in developing modern and contemporary art both in Morocco and in the Arab world.

Chabâa continuously sought ways to merge art, architecture, and craft together. His aim was to integrate art into people's everyday lives and did so by taking on projects such as painting public murals, designing architectural structures, as well as experimental projects where he employed a spectrum of techniques across various disciplines.

The vibrant artworks presented in this exhibition are wonderful examples of Chabâa's work where his interests and inspirations, such as the Bauhaus movement, American post-war art, Moroccan crafts and much more, all come together.

Observe & Discuss

Explore Mohammed Chabâa's artworks. Which ones catch your eye?

- What motifs or patterns can you identify? Do they remind you of designs and shapes you have seen before?
- How would you describe the lines, shapes and colours he chooses?
- How does the choice of colour or other visual elements communicate ideas or themes in his work?
- Where do you think the artist draws inspiration from? What makes you think this?
- What do you think the artwork is about? Could there be a message?
- What title would you give to this artwork? Explain.
- If you could choose a colour to describe you, what would it be and why?

Make & Create

Mohammed Chabâa was the graphic designer for Souffles-Anfas, a magazine for art and poetry printed in Rabat, Morocco, between 1966 and 1972. The magazine became a great platform for a group of Moroccan artists and intellectuals to voice their views and ideas on various topics concerning Morocco as well as the Arab world. Chabâa was responsible for the magazine's visuals, format and creating many of the logos for the magazine.

- Look carefully at Mohammed Chabâa's cover designs and paintings, pay attention to all the visual elements he incorporates, the colours, patterns, motifs, illustrations, typographies, and their arrangement within a work.
- Notice how he takes inspiration from various sources. For example, he created modern visual illustrations and patterns inspired by local Moroccan crafts as well as illustrations combining contrasting styles (e.g. geometric with free-flowing gestural shapes).

Create the cover of your own magazine inspired by Mohammed Chabâa's work:

- What is your magazine about? This could be a magazine about yourself or a specific subject that is significant to you.
- Choose a name for your magazine, using one or two words.
- Sketch the visual elements that you want to include on your cover, incorporating motifs, patterns, illustrations and/or typography that will help tell your readers what your magazine is about.
- Layout: Consider the arrangement and sizes of the visual elements you choose to incorporate in order to prioritise information on your cover.
- Colours: Consider the colour palette that would complement the message of your magazine.
- Take a step back. How is your cover coming together? Is there anything more you would like to add?
- Well done! You have just created your own Mohammed Chabâa's inspired magazine cover!

If you are up for a challenge, choose an existing magazine and design a new cover for it inspired by Mohammed Chabâa's design style.

You can use any combination of the suggested materials listed:

- Flat A4 surface (such as paper or cardboard)
- Pencils, pens and/or paints
- Colourful paper, scissors, and glue
- A selection of your favourite graphic design and printed materials for inspiration such as magazines, books and cards
- Paint programme (if you want to create a digital artwork)