Magic Squares and the Magic of Collaboration

Susan Fohr, Education Coordinator
Textile Museum of Canada

Anne Devitt, Education Officer, Visual Arts
School Visits Harbourfront Centre

TMC art IN life

heart of toronto's waterfront

Harbourfront centre

TMC art IN life

• a permanent collection featuring more than 13,000 artifacts from over 200 countries and regions

• a dynamic program of interdisplinary exhibitions showcasing our permanent collection as well as contemporary Canadian and international art, design and craft

• an education program that facilitates interactivity and creativity in ways that are both “high touch” and “high tech” through its hands-on gallery *fibrespace* and award winning online projects

Left: Installation view, *Fashionably Wrapped,* 2009. Photo: Jill Kitchener. Centre: David R. Harper, *Last to Win*, 2009. Photo: Jill Kitchener. Right: Student working loom in f*ibrespace.* Photo: Brent Levin.

Education at the TMC

•Gallery/studio programs with connections to visual arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fashion, history and geography

•Participation from over 3000 students from kindergarten through post-secondary each school year through the school visits program

•Family programs for children and their caregivers during March Break and summer holidays

•Handmade! our DIY summer camp for children ages 5-12

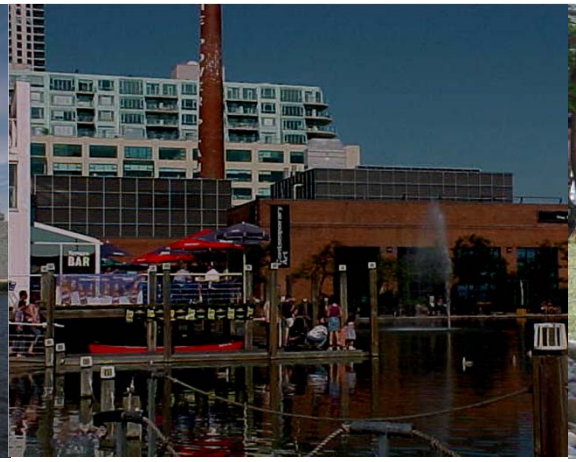
•A diverse selection of public programs, including lectures, workshops, curators' tours, behind-the-scenes seminars, and conversations in the galleries with exhibiting artists

•A teaching collection of over 500 artifacts that students can touch and examine

heart of toronto's waterfront

Harbourfront centre

- For over 30 years, our 10 acre site by the water has inspired creative minds of all ages
- At Harbourfront Centre you can enjoy
  - Exhibition spaces featuring the work of contemporary visual artists
  - Craft studios, featuring glass blowing, pottery, metal and textile arts
  - Theatre, dance and music performances, dance studios
  - The Toronto Music Garden and skating on the Natrel pond



Education at Harbourfront Centre

Who are we?

- School Visits
- Community Learning
  - Camps
  - Courses and Workshops
  - Learn to Skate
- Miss Lou's Room

Partnership Opportunities

•Competition amongst museums and other cultural organizations in the community for school visit attendance

•Cost, particularly for priority neighbourhood schools

•TMC does not have a workshop space that enables working with painting and printmaking; Harbourfront has extensive workshop space and experience offering printmaking workshops; students can also be inspired by observing artists at work in the craft studios

•Harbourfront Centre, despite a rich exhibition program of contemporary artists' work, does not have a permanent collection; the TMC collection can serve as a source of inspiration for Harbourfront Centre workshops

•The TMC does not have space for student lunches, thus limiting the length of programs it can offer; Harbourfront Centre has extensive space for student lunches; by working together a full day program is possible

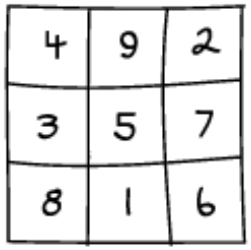
Magic Squares

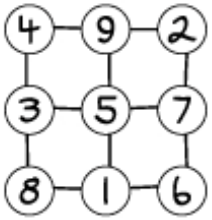
Hunter's coat, Mali, 1960-70. Textile Museum of Canada purchase. T81.0112

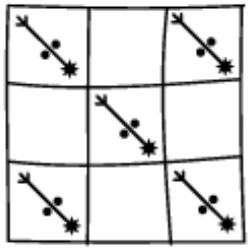
4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

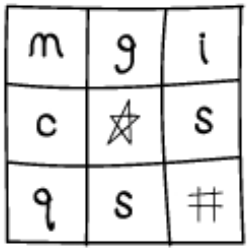
Karamoko Kunandi Ouattara writing the inscription for an amulet. From C. Kreamer et al. (2007). *Inscribing meaning: Writing and graphic systems in African art.* Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Museum of African Art.

Pattern Literacy







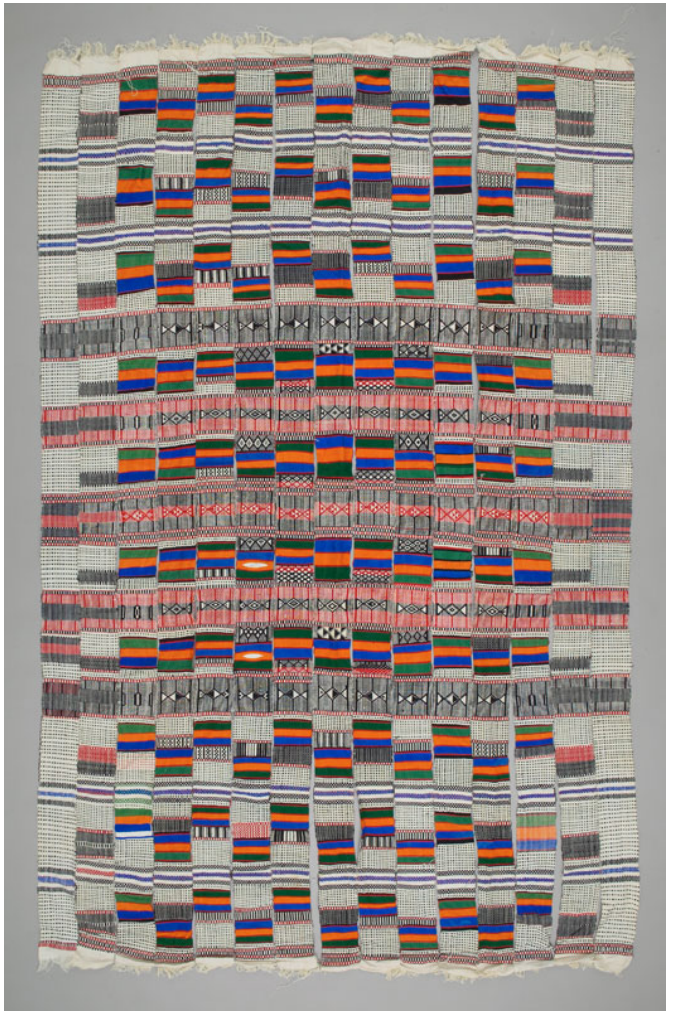


Hunter's shirt, Mali, c. 1900. Gift of Dr. Peter Herschman. T86.0071

Tunic, Liberia, 20th century. From the Opekar/Webster collection. T94.3006

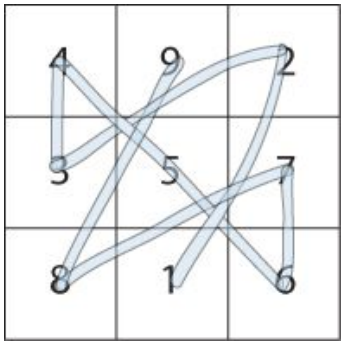
Checkerboards and Strip Weaving

Wrapper, Ghana, 20th century. Gift of J. Shur. T85.01112



Wrapper, Niger, early 20th century. Gift of Barbara Barde. T04.34.2

Knots



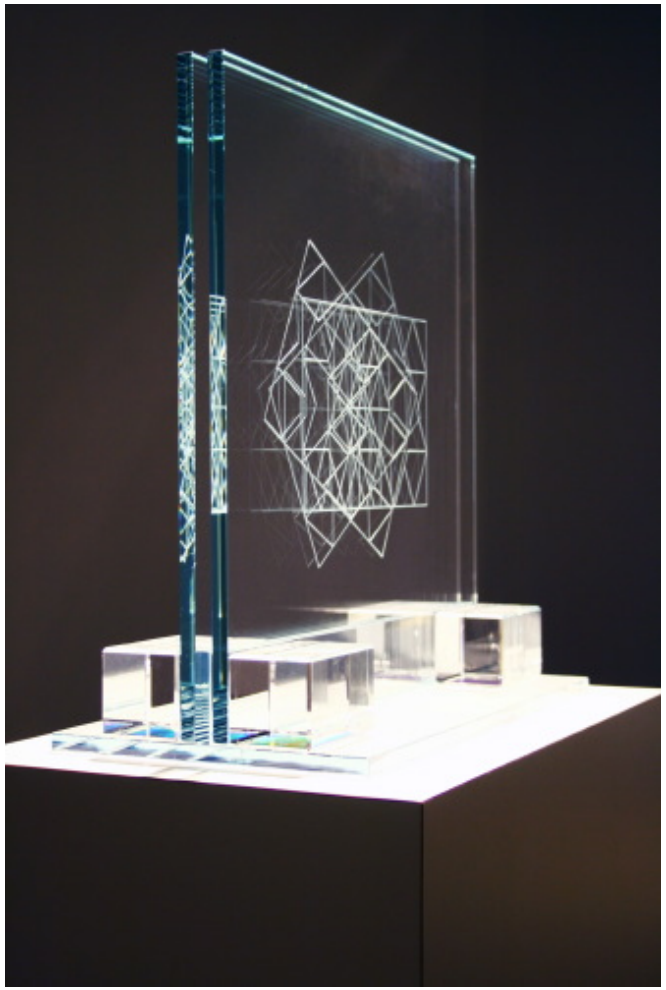
Stamp for printing, Ghana, c. 1980. Gift of Klaas Van Graft. T95.0094e

Tunic (back), Senegal, c. 1975. Gift of Klaas Van Graft. T95.0111a

Contemporary Expressions

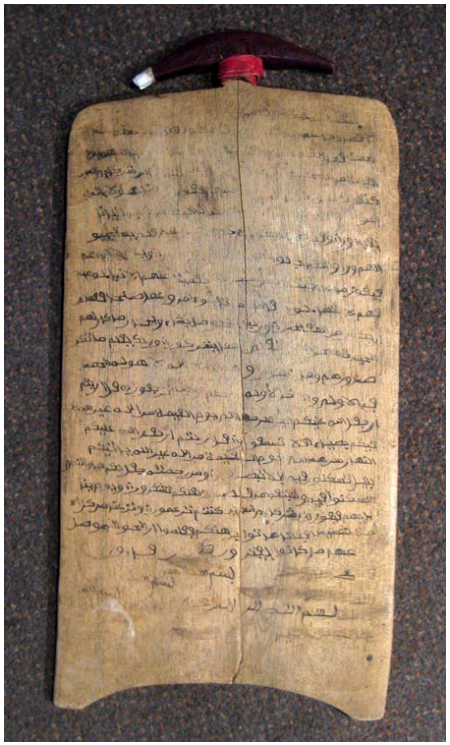
Hamid Kachmar, *Tiswingimin,* 2011. Mixed media on board. Collection of the artist. Above: Installation view. Photo: Jill Kitchener. Right: Details. Images courtesy of the artist.

Contemporary Expressions



Left: Tim Whiten, *Magic Squares,* 2002-2003. Right: Tim Whiten, *Mary's Permeating Sign*, 2006. Photos: Images courtesy of the artist and Olga Korper Gallery.

The Power of the Senses



Left: Qur'anic writing board, Nigeria, 19th century. Private collection.
Centre: Image from C. Kreamer et al. (2007). *Inscribing meaning: Writing and graphic systems in African art.* Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Museum of African Art.
Right: Fragment of *tiraz* textile, Egypt, 909-1171. Gift of Mrs. Herta Vodstrcil. T86.0124.

Exploration Through the Senses

Left: Jamelie Hassan, *Slippers of Disobedience,* 1996. Collection of the Art Gallery of Windsor. Photo: Jill Kitchener.
Right: Olfactory sensory station in *Magic Squares* exhibition. Photo: Jill Kitchener.

Educational Objectives

Students had the opportunity to:

•Engage with unique cultural artists from the TMC's African collection and contemporary work by artists of diverse backgrounds.

•Participate in an interdisciplinary approach to art education, connecting to mathematics, visual arts, science, literacy, and social science

•Learn about diverse expressions of Muslim identity.

•Engage in educational programming at two dynamic visual arts organizations.

•Create original artwork and have it displayed in a public art institution.

•Share their own personal histories and ideas through words and images.

•Explore the key concepts through different styles of learning.

Touring the Exhibition

Photos: Mary Ellen LeBouedec, Humbercrest Public School.

TEXTILE MUSEUM of CANADA
connecting cloth, culture & art

Magic Squares: The Patterned Imagination of Muslim Africa in Contemporary Culture

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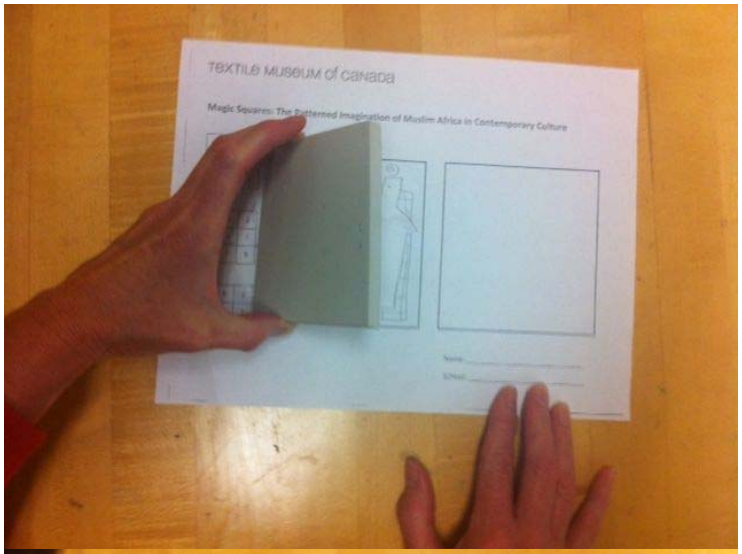
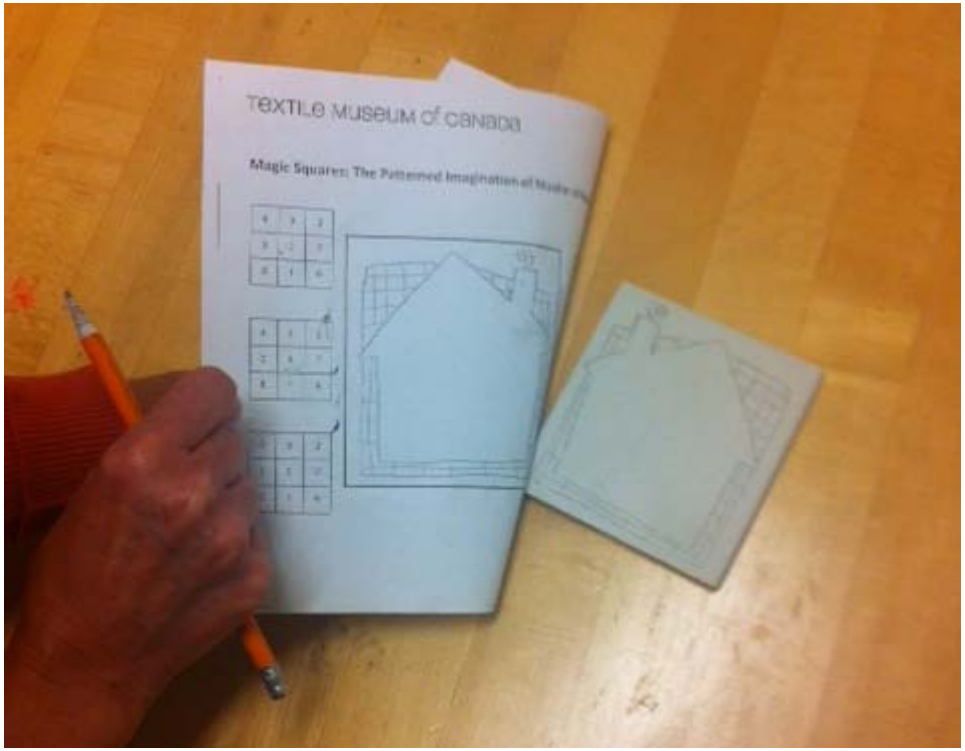
Harbourfront Workshop



Students transferred their drawings from the worksheet onto their lino block.



Carving the blocks

Tools:
Bench hook
Lino cutter
Soft linoleum block

Skills:
Safe use of tools
Mark making
Positive and negative space
Design

Photos: Michele Breslin, Brown Public School.

Tools:
Brayer
Plexiglass plate
Speedball Waterbased Block Printing Ink (yellow, magenta, turquoise, red, blue)
Popsicle sticks

Skills:
Inking and rolling technique
Colour mixing

Photos: Michele Breslin, Brown Public School.

Skills:
Experimenting with print placement (transformational geometry, repetition)
Experimenting with colour application
Experimenting with the printing process (pressing and rubbing)

Photo: Tom Bilenkey, Harbourfront Centre.

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Exhibition in Fibrespace

Photo: Tom Bilenkey, Harbourfront Centre.

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC...

...of a special collaborative project between the Textile Museum of Canada and Harbourfront Centre

In November 2011, students participated in a relief printing workshop at Harbourfront Centre, creating designs inspired by a visit to the exhibition *Magic Squares: The Patterned Imagination of Muslim Africa in Contemporary Culture* at the Textile Museum of Canada. The resulting artwork will be on display at the Textile Museum of Canada from March 5 through April 9, 2012.

Participating students from Brown Public School, Humbercrest Public School, Lord Dufferin Public School and Sprucecourt Public School, along with their teachers, families and friends, are invited to a special opening reception at the Textile Museum of Canada on Wednesday, March 7 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

The work will also be included in an exhibition featuring other young artists inspired by the themes of the *Magic Squares* exhibition opening in the !dea Gallery at the Ontario Science Centre in August 2012. Some of the work featured in this exhibition will use the printing blocks created by the students in the November 2011 workshop. More details to come!

TEXTILE MUSEUM of CANADA
55 Centre Avenue
Toronto ON
M5G 2H5

CONTACT US
e. schoolvisits@textilemuseum.ca
t. 416-599-5321
www.textilmuseum.ca

Exhibition Opening at the TMC

Photo: Tom Bilenkey, Harbourfront Centre.

Photos: Tom Bilenkey, Harbourfront Centre.

Challenges

•Promotion: because the program was offered in November, there wasn't a lot of time early in the school year to promote the program

•We didn't reach capacity.

•Difficulty in obtaining signed photo release forms to display images of participating children.

Successes

•120 students participated in the program , 6 classes from 4 different schools, including two priority neighbourhood schools

•Enthusiastic feedback from participating teachers and students

•Overwhelming turnout for student exhibition

•Some students returned to participate in other TMC programs

•Students from Lord Dufferin PS were excited to share their own experiences of Muslim identity

•This collaboration evolved into a much larger project for the !dea Gallery at the Ontario Science Centre, and involved secondary and post-secondary students. As a result, the project extended its reach to over 300 students

MaTHeMaGICaL!

FROM MAGIC SQUARE TO MAGIC WEAR

GALERIE

!dea

ədẹpi

GALLERY

New Partnership:
Marimekko, With Love

Thank You

Brown Public School
Hubercrest Public School
Lord Dufferin Public School
Sprucecourt Public School

Ontario Science Centre Science School
Marshall McLuhan Catholic Secondary School
Don Mills Collegiate Institute

Ryerson Fashion Program

…and associated teachers and instructors

Design Challenge Judges:
Shauna McCabe, Textile Museum of Canada; Kevin Von Appen, Ontario Science Centre; Melanie Egan, Harbourfront Centre

Thank You

Patricia Bentley
Curator, *Magic Squares: The Patterned Imagination of Muslim Africa in Contemporary Culture*

Textile Museum of Canada:
Education Volunteers
Alexandra Lau

Harbourfront Centre:
Anne Devitt
Carol Shelley
Penny Bateman
Julia Fielding
Tom Bilenkey
Education Volunteers

Ontario Science Centre:
Ana Klasnja