Repeating Surrealist Patterns

The ceramic work of artist Shoko Teruyama—which is often described as dream-like and surreal—narrates the artist’s experiences growing up in Japan. Particularly, she highlights traditional elements of ceremonial objects that were prevalent in her childhood through the use of repeating patterns, textures, and ornamentation. Teruyama's work often features animal characters and natural elements, and uses repeating patterns to “create visual movement representing water, wind, and clouds.” In celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, design your own repeating surrealist pattern artwork inspired by the work of Shoko Teruyama.

Shoko Teruyama and Matt Kelleher
Floating Pipe, 2010
Glazed earthenware
19 x 10 1/2 inches diameter
Racine Art Museum, Promised Gift of Barbara Waldman
Photography: Jon Bolton

Supplies

- Paper
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.
- Pencil
- Reference photograph (optional)
Instructions

1. Sketch an animal or figure onto your paper using a pencil.
2. Fill in the animal or figure with detailed, repeating patterns. As a challenge, try to include patterns found in nature.
3. Color in your repeating patterns.
4. Add a surrealist, dream-like background to your piece.

Example of finished project