

# Art A Day CHALLENGE: Motif Musings

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

### FA1: Analyze structure and context of various artistic works

**Enduring Understanding:** Analyzing the structures and contexts of various artistic works provides insight into the creator's intent, and informs performance or interpretation.

**How does understanding the structure and context of artistic works inform performance or interpretation?**

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag

#ARTaDayCHALLENGE

**Stuff you'll need:** Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

#### Words to know:

**Repetition:** one object or shape repeated

**Motif** is a recurring fragment, theme or pattern that appears in a work of art.

**LOOK** at this small glass vase made by Rene Lalique. This vase is made in a style, called Art Deco, that was popular when Rene Lalique was creating his glass work. Sometimes Art Deco represented luxury and the desire to be modern. Art Deco also sometimes used patterns, **repetition**, and **motifs** as well as elements from the natural world in the design. Look at the contrasting mustard yellow and cream white. Notice the animal design, a repeated pattern of a gazelle motif.



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**THINK** about why artists repeat a motif? If the artist only created the image of one gazelle instead of creating a gazelle **motif**, how would that change the artwork? Would the artwork hold the same visual strengths and results? What power does **repetition** hold in art?

**CREATE** your own **motif**. Select an animal or a plant. Draw it without details. Cut it out. On another piece of paper, trace the object to create a **repetition**. Consider overlapping and changing the **motif** direction when you move to another section or row in your work.

**Writing Journal Prompt:** How could you use **motifs** in writing? Do you find yourself writing about the same types of things or wanting to read stories that have common characters? Describe your experiences writing or reading **motifs**.

René Lalique  
French  
Chamois (Gazelle)  
Vase  
1931

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