

INTRODUCTION

Mandala drawings are circular art configurations. This form of art goes back thousands of years in history. Mandalas were used in Hindu, Buddhist, and other religions as graphic representations. In China and Japan family crests were sometimes drawn in Mandala fashion.

I have free-hand drawn over 1,000 of these black and white color-contrasted highly creative Mandalas during a ten year period. Many people collect these Mandalas as a hobby and as works of art. Each Mandala is signed and dated individually.

The purest way to introduce oneself to the evolution of creativity is to observe nature. Approximately five billion years ago life is said to have begun forming here on earth. Nature since then has created the purest form of art. No artist could ever come near nature's originality and infinite configurations of artistic beauty.

Mandala art forms are older than life on earth and were first produced by nature. Today nature still contin-

ues to produce Mandala-like art forms in living and inanimate entities.



**ONE OF NATURE'S MANDALAS
(A Star Fish)**

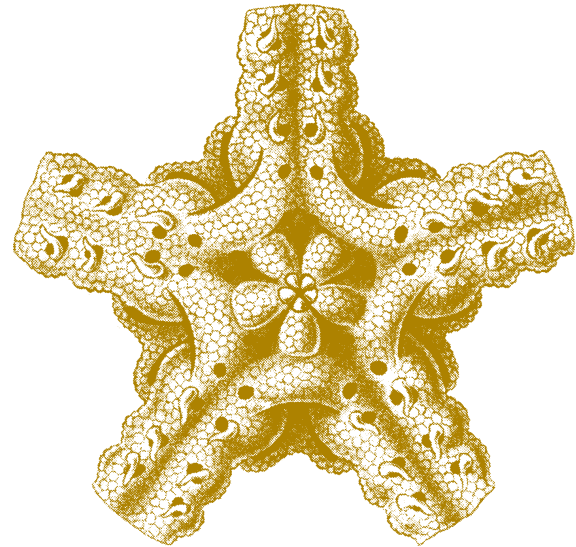
Ever since humans were capable of producing pictorial representations, a portion of art was Mandalas. Biology studies and other areas of science today continue to show us nature's creativity in the form of living entities.

Mandala art configurations in nature are abundant in marine protozoa. In protozoa and numerous other life forms, we see nature's endless variety of designs. Living things in nature are in many instances spherical forms of mandalas. Nature's natural form of symmetry in most animal forms are an example of two-level mandalas. The human body in form is a bi-level formation of symmetry. Mandala-like forms are a prominent format of nature's designs.

Nature is the greatest of all artists with an infinite ability to create its endless types of forms - - ever changing and evolving without limitation in variety - - the infinite existence. Nature's continuous automatic evolution with its endless trials and errors is a laboratory with all of time on its side - - and no budget or no time schedule to meet.

How glorious it is that we - - specks of dust upon

specks of dust have evolved to participate with nature and perceive a minute portion of nature's artistic product.



A TYPE OF STARFISH

Nature has no boundaries - - no limitations to its capacity. To perceive this fact is a wonderful capability of humans - - an element that no other animal can utilize. Yet we fortunate humans have the chance to observe nature's artistic results - - an endless journey into boundless creativity.

A portion of this book will be devoted to a brief instruction on how individuals can draw mandalas (see instruction section in rear of book). When you begin to draw mandalas you will be surprised to see a demonstration of your creative capacity and you might be impressed by your newly discovered creative ability in drawing mandalas.

I do not name my mandala drawings. Instead, I date and sign each mandala. It is my opinion that naming my drawings would distract from the viewer's reaction or interpretation of what one might be feeling. One's mind should freely wander without outside affect, based on different perspectives within one's own psychological make-up.

Color application in my mandala drawings have

not been applied so as to avoid distraction from the composition. Mental impressions of the observer will be based on his or her capacity to visualize beyond ordinary thinking and to perceive new and unusual realms of thought.

Bernard F. Mc Mahon



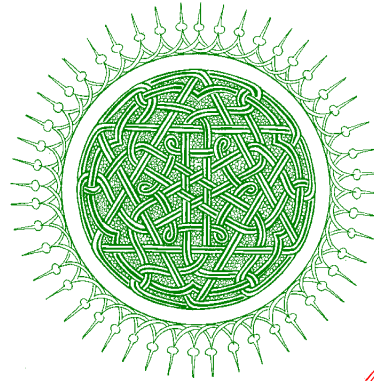
Mc Mahon Family Crest



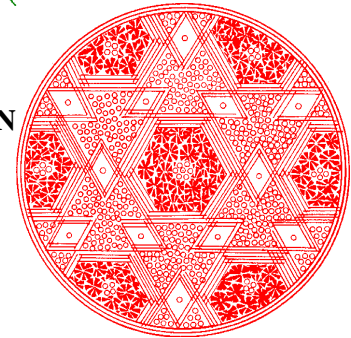
**SEVEN CIRCLE
PATTERN - ISLAMIC**



**FLORAL DESIGN
TURKEY 1500's**



**BRONZE DISH
KHURASAN, IRAN**



**IRAN
12TH CENTURY**

MANDALA ART FORMS

Artists of civilized societies throughout the centuries have practiced the mandala art form with different purposes in mind. Many were attempting to develop visual forms with religious objectives in mind. Others created mandala drawings for symbolic representations for one cause or another. Most of the mandala drawings of the past were free-hand drawn. Many were created with the use of drafting instruments - - mostly with the aid of a compass, ruler, or straightedge.

Practically every society worldwide had artists who drew mandala art forms. Ancient societies created mandala forms. Thousands of years ago Egyptians, Chinese, and other now non-existent countries had artists that drew mandalas. They all had one characteristic in common in their mandalas - - they were all circular art forms. Few were composed of two or more repetitive artistic components, except in the case of Chinese and Japanese family crests.

My mandala drawings consist of a number of art com-

ponents free-hand drawn of the same design with the objective of forming what looks to be each of a different configuration when viewed. My objective is not to produce my drawings geometrically, but instead to attempt to create somewhat abstract formations - - something never before seen - - abstract formations that might stimulate the imagination of the viewer to wander in thought.

For myself, drawing mandalas has been a form of self therapy, a way to relax from daily stresses in a constructive manner, and mostly as an outlet to improve creativity. As a result, an increase in self confidence and a sense of security based on one's own ability occurs. Days, weeks, months, and years later, I appreciate my drawings even more as they continue to stimulate my thinking. Practice makes perfect. Nothing could be truer when drawing mandalas. Thinking people will look at their product and realize after each is completed how much better it could have been drawn. In turn, the visual observance of one's work actuates creative plans for the next drawing. Ability to create stimulating mandalas grows as we learn to create new artistic con-

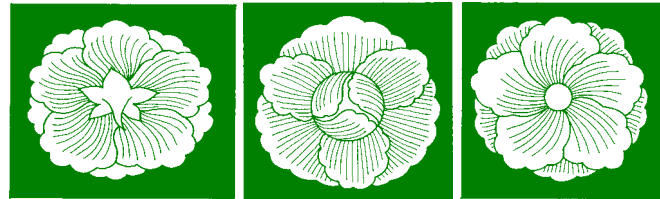
cepts and produce more and more mandalas.

Do not attempt to color your mandala drawings in the beginning - - concentrate on black and white contrast only. Discipline of this type will contribute to improving your artistic taste, sense of balance, and a more advanced composition.

Others will sometimes look at your mandalas and refer to them as "doodles". Mandala drawings are not "doodles". According to Webster's Dictionary - - to "doodle" is to scribble or sketch a design aimlessly. Mandala drawings are planned creative art forms. Mandalas produced by each individual represents a part of one's innerself - - a part of each person that even the artist cannot completely comprehend. The product of mandala art is built upon one's subconscious past, based on life experiences and reactions. Mandalas evolve into being what they are as a result of a step-by-step developmental procedure.

Later when you are satisfied with the quality of your work in black and white you can experiment with adding color. As a suggestion: When and if you decide to color your Mandala drawings - try coloring those you

have already produced in black and white. Don't color your original drawings - work from photo copies only, and always keep your original drawings in reserve. This way your original drawings are never destroyed. When adding color, just work with one color - start with RED. You will be surprised at the color combinations you can come up with by using just one additional color. If you feel that your colored drawing is going in the wrong direction - destroy it and start another one. Remember, you have many photo-copies to work with and only accept the best as the finished product.



JAPANESE MANDALA ART FORMS