



Activity Guide

TD Community Sunday:
Little Islands with Emmie Tsumura

Introduction

In this activity from artist Emmie Tsumura, create a patterned archipelago, or chain of islands, inspired by Michael Lin's *Archipelago* (pictured below).

After collecting motifs and patterns that represent your home or neighbourhood, you will cut out and decorate your island shapes, creating an archipelago – separate but all parts of a whole. Your archipelago will become a unique snapshot of you!

This activity was originally presented for TD Community Sunday on June 6, 2021.

Image Credits:

Emmie Tsumura (cover, page 5)

Tom Arban, Installation view: Michael Lin, *Archipelago*, MOCA Toronto (page 1)



Materials & Preparation

Before the workshop begins, you'll need to take some reference photos! Follow these prompts:

- Walk around your yard or neighbourhood and take 10-20 photos of flowers and plant life for reference
- Take 5 photos of other objects you encounter on your hunt for plants (disposable masks, soda cans, candy wrappers, etc.)

You'll also need to gather the following materials:

- Paint, markers, crayons, etc.
- Bristol board, recycled cardboard (optional: you can cover the cardboard in a base layer of paint ahead of time)
- Paper (construction, newsprint, etc.)
- Scissors
- Glue

Step 1: Cut out your island shapes

- You can print out Emmie's island shape cut-out templates on pages 6-8 , or trace and cut out your own shapes out of cardboard.



Step 2: Paint a base layer

- Paint a base colour onto your island shapes, and let dry. If you are not using paint, you can skip this step.



Step 3: Design your pattern

- Choose some flowers or objects from your reference images and collected materials that you would like to include in your pattern.
- Decide how you want to space out your pattern, using Emmie's Pattern Design Formats guide on page 9 (Emmie's favourite pattern design format is the "tossed salad!")
- Start painting or drawing your pattern, making sure to space out your flowers or objects according to the pattern design you chose.



Some helpful tips:

*Extend your pattern right to the edges of the island shapes, so that there is no central focal point. This suggests that there is something beyond what you see on the page, like the pattern can go on even past the edges of your island!

*Follow along with the workshop recording, where Emmie shows us how to paint a few different types of flowers and leaves.

Step 4: Add finishing touches

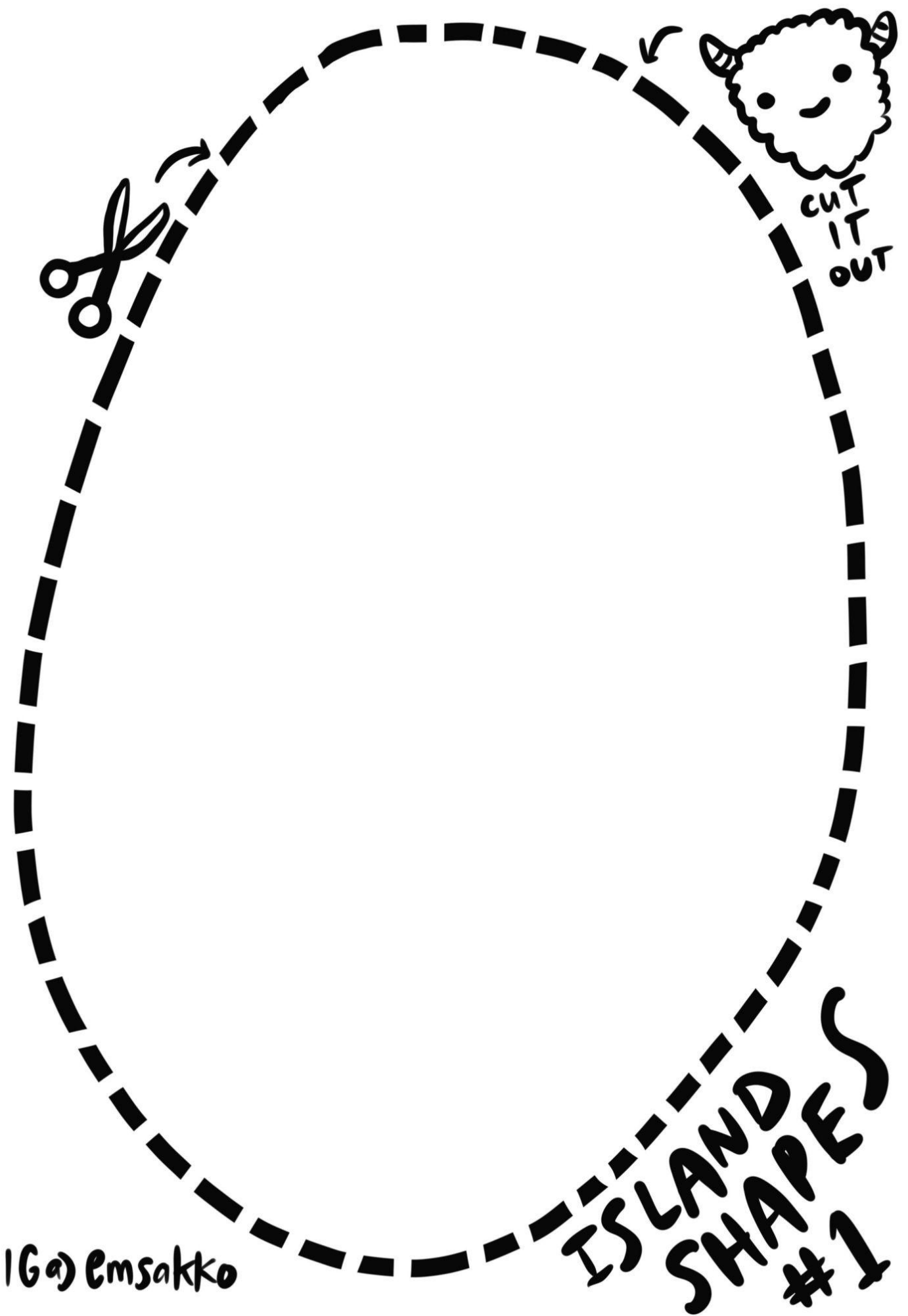
- If you want, you can follow Emmie's style and outline your flowers with black marker, to add some contrast.
- You can fill in any big gaps with small leaves or blades of grass.



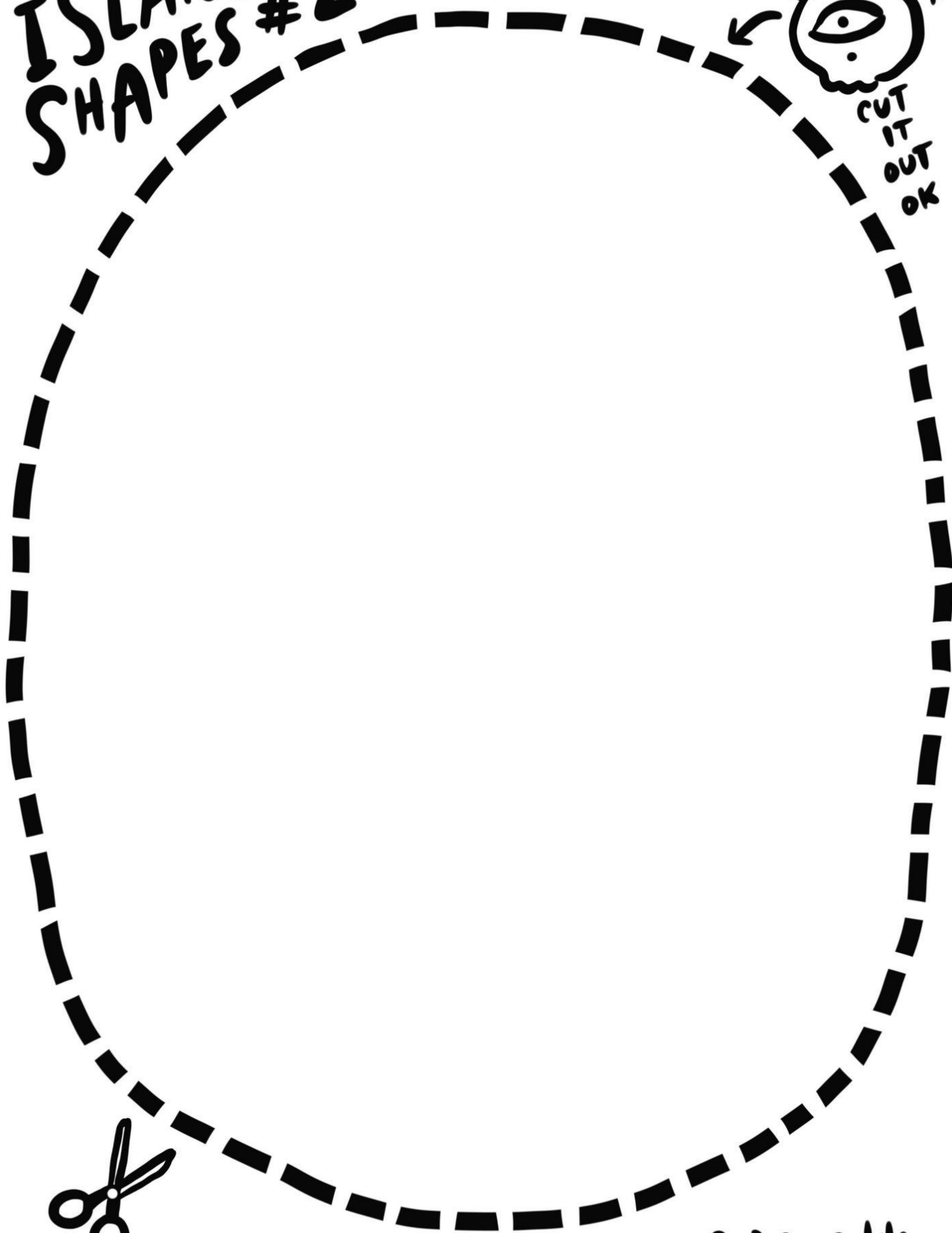
Step 5: Display your islands

- Once you're all finished decorating your islands, try displaying them in different ways, like on the floor or against a wall.
- Enjoy your little islands!

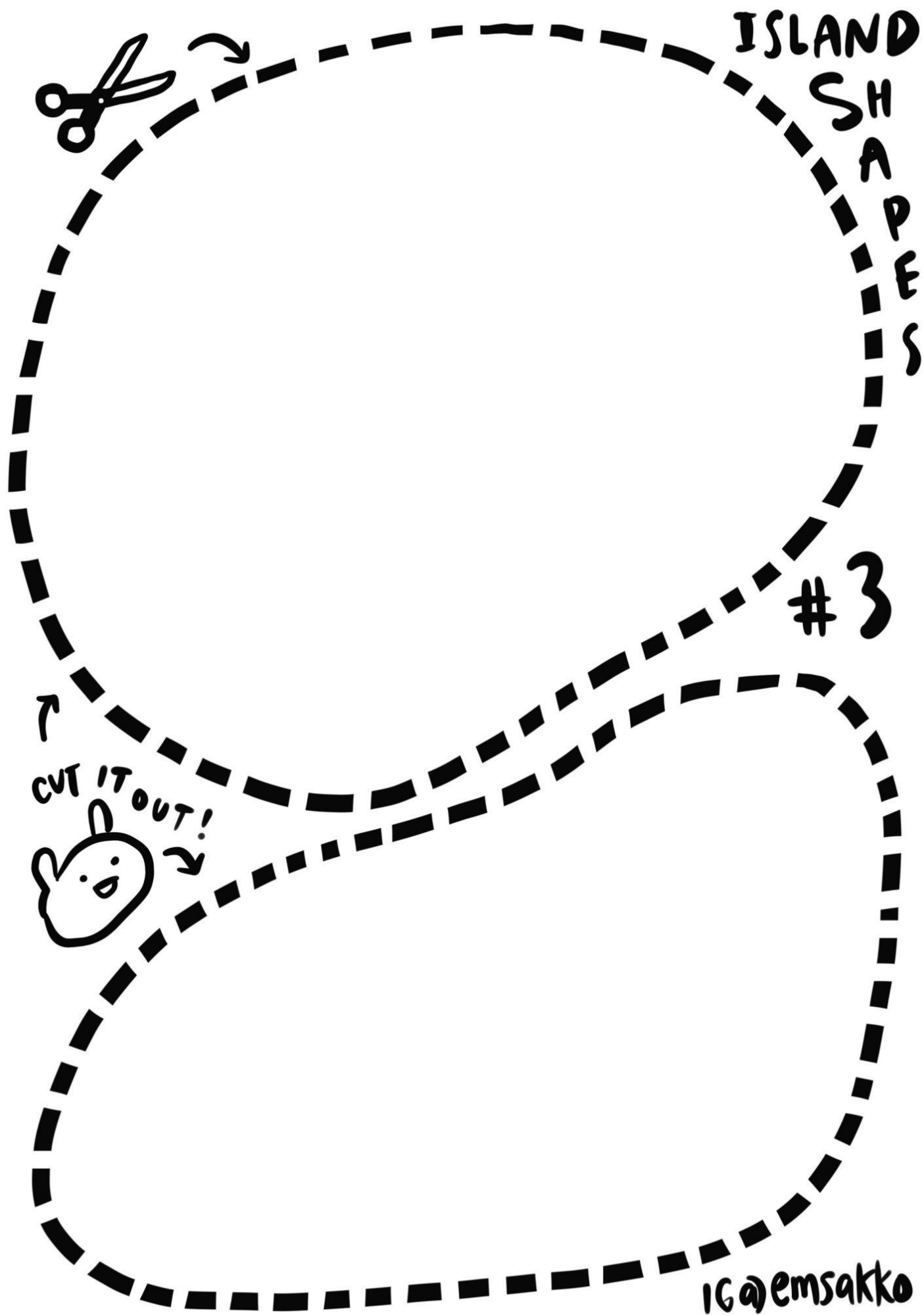




ISLAND SHAPES #2

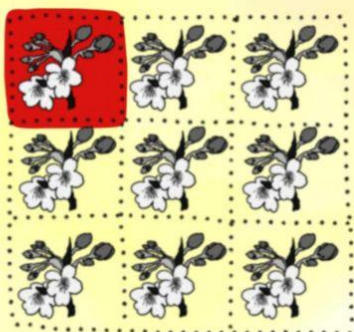


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Pattern Design Formats

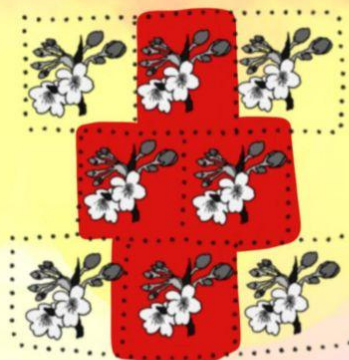
BLOCK REPEAT



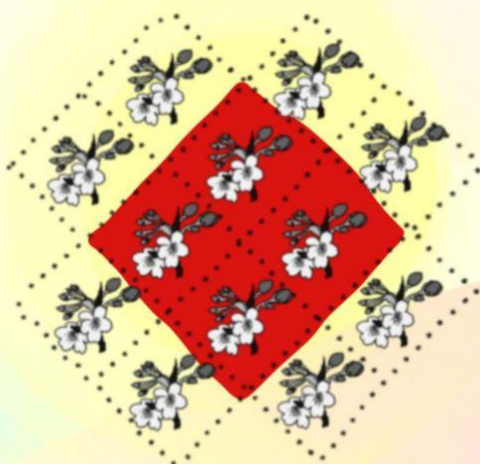
HALF DROP



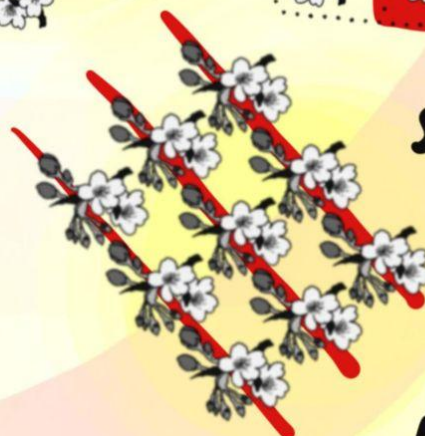
BRICK



DIAMOND



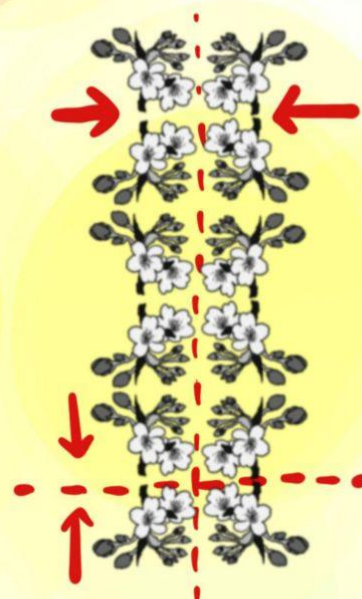
STRIPE



OGEE (ONION)



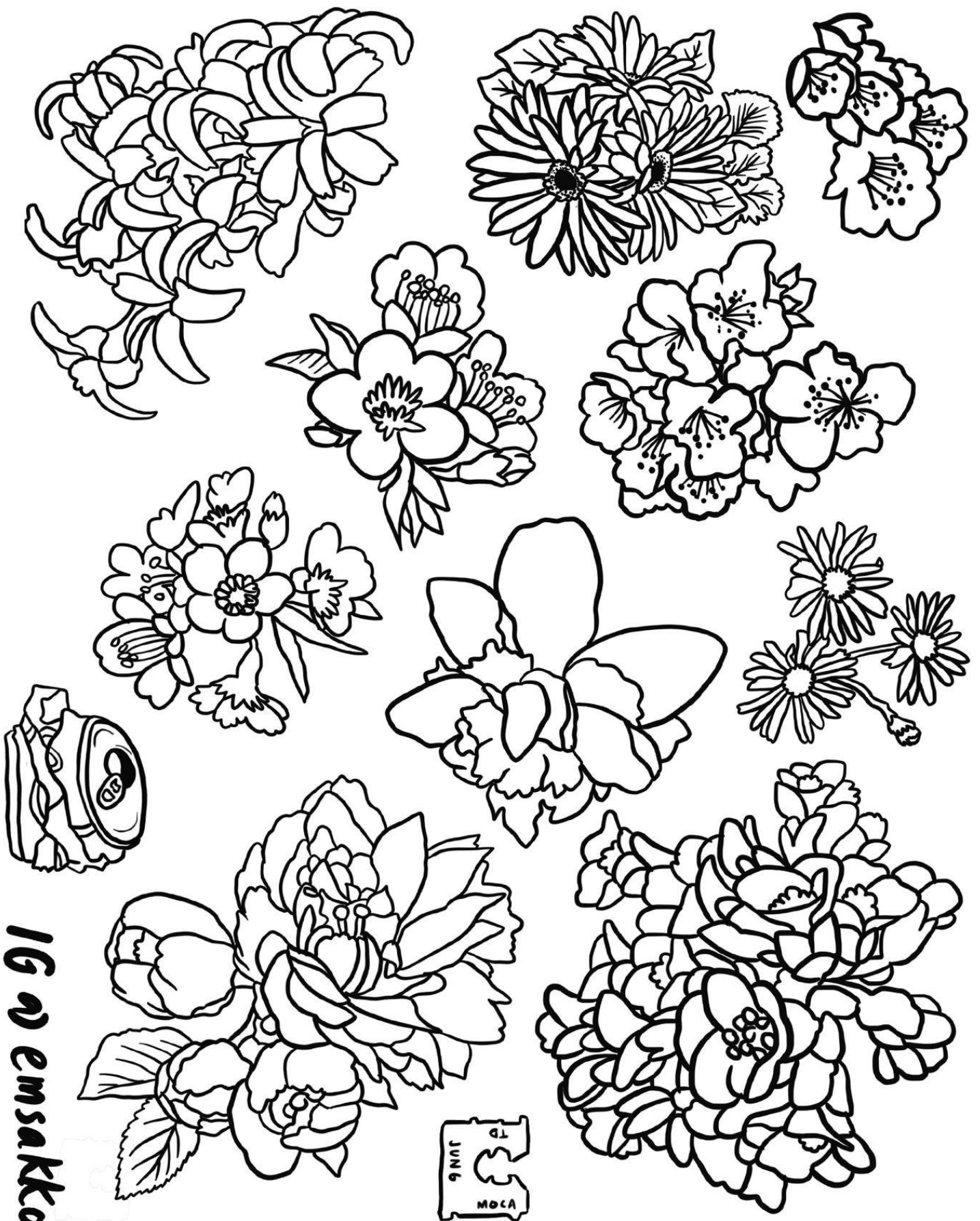
MIRROR



TOSSED SALAD

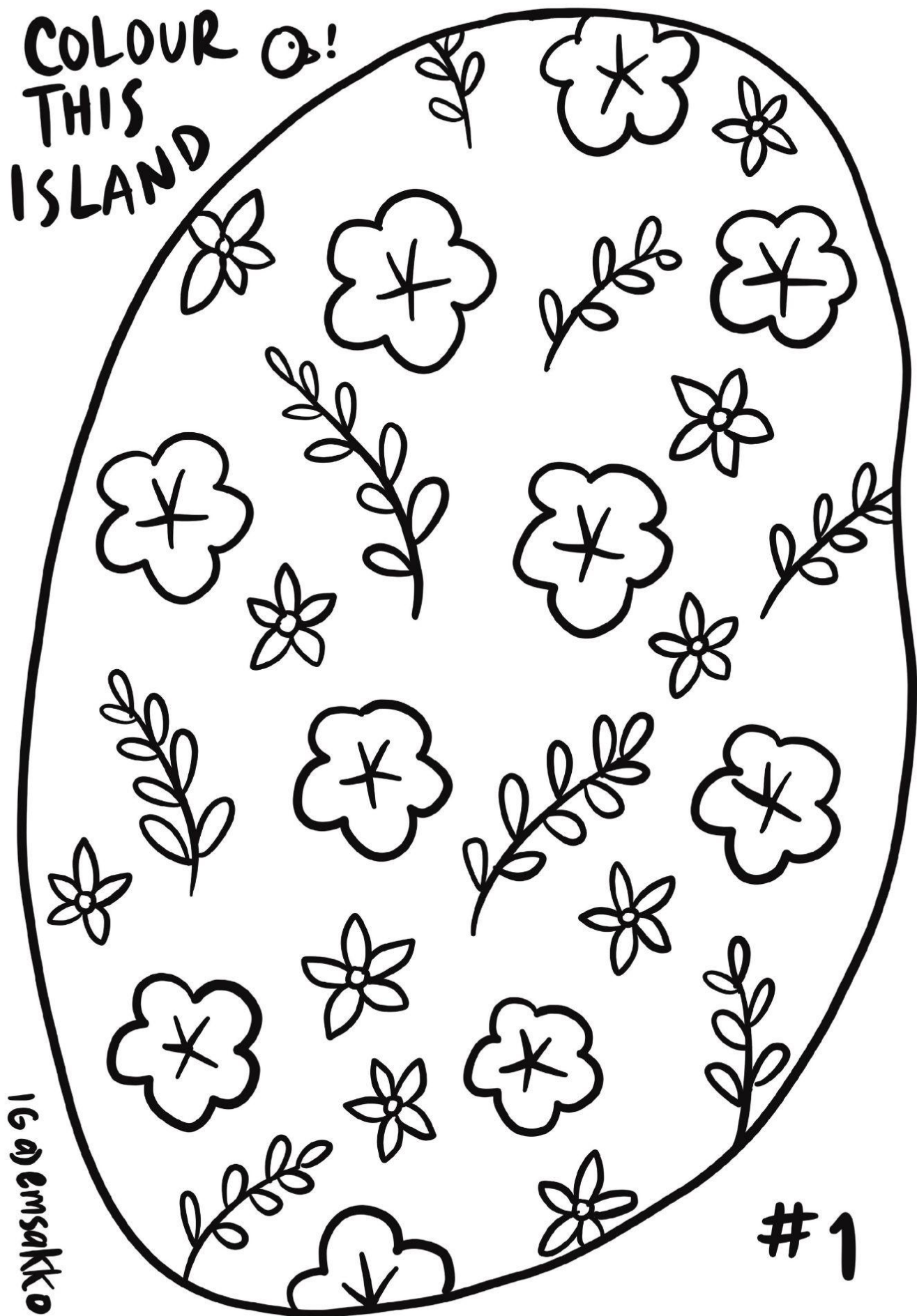


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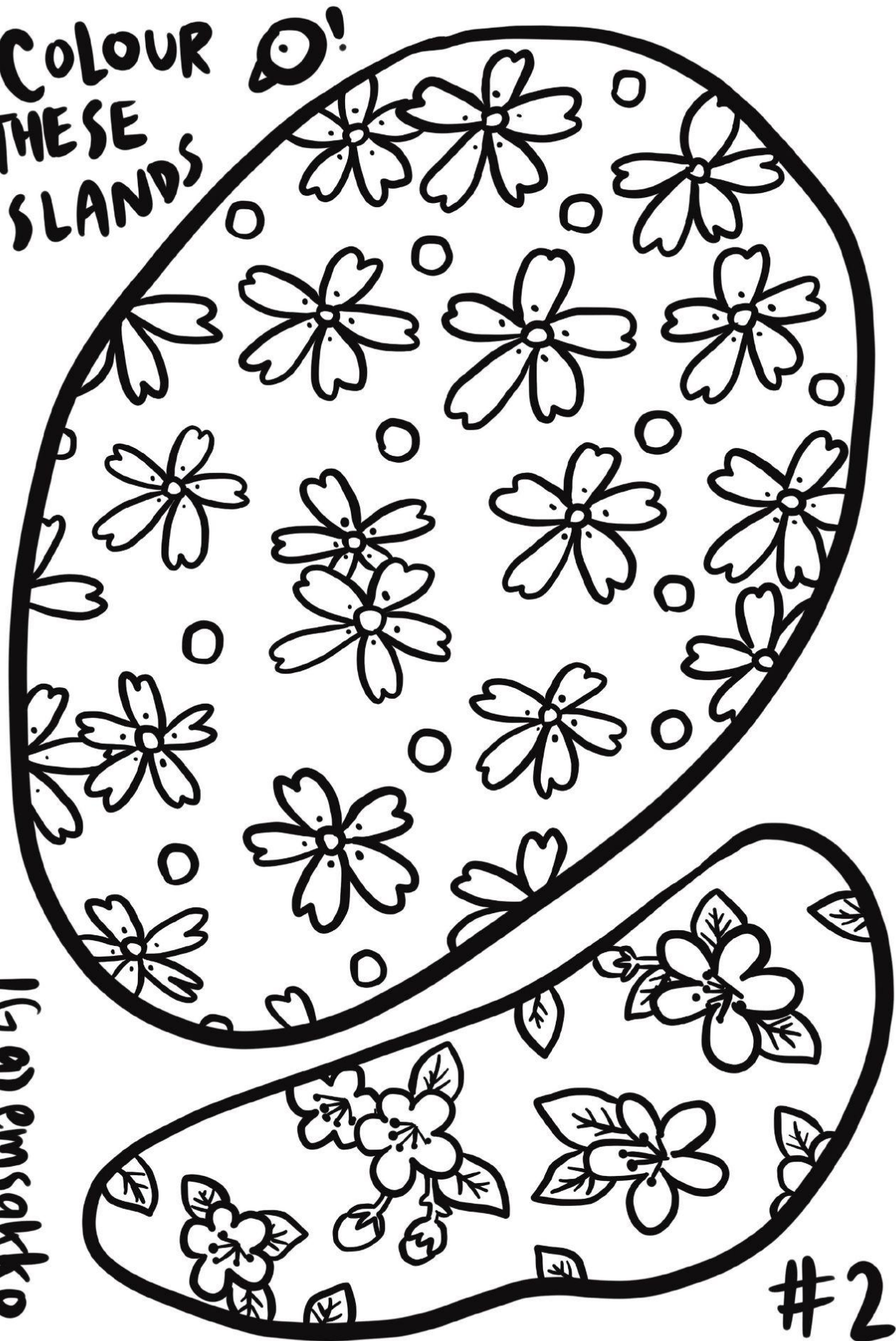
COLOUR Q!
THIS
ISLAND



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#1

COLOUR
THESE
ISLANDS



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#2