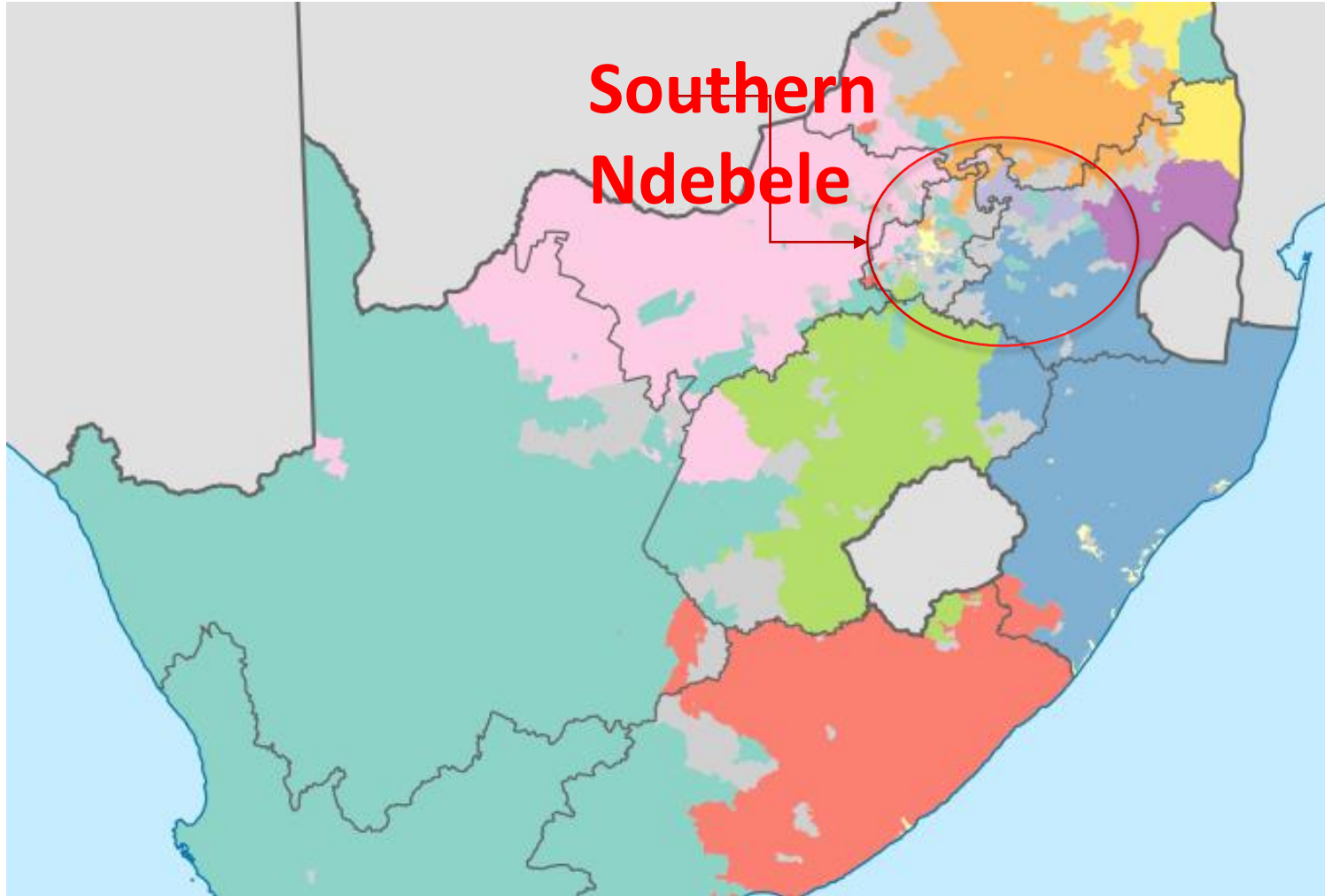




A painting by Dr Esther Mahlangu  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MELROSE GALLERY

Look at the artwork or object for a moment.

What colors do you see?  
What shapes do you see?  
What lines do you see?



**Southern  
Ndebele**

The Ndebele are a small community within South Africa. They make up about 2% of the population. This group is known worldwide for its famous arts and crafts.





Painted Ndeble Houses

[Click to watch to watch a video on Ndeble homes.](#)





**Beaded  
Head pieces**

**Idzilla- gold or cooper  
rings worn around the  
neck, arms or legs.  
Indicate marriage,  
status and wealth.**

**Beaded  
Neck Piece**

**Marriage  
blanket**

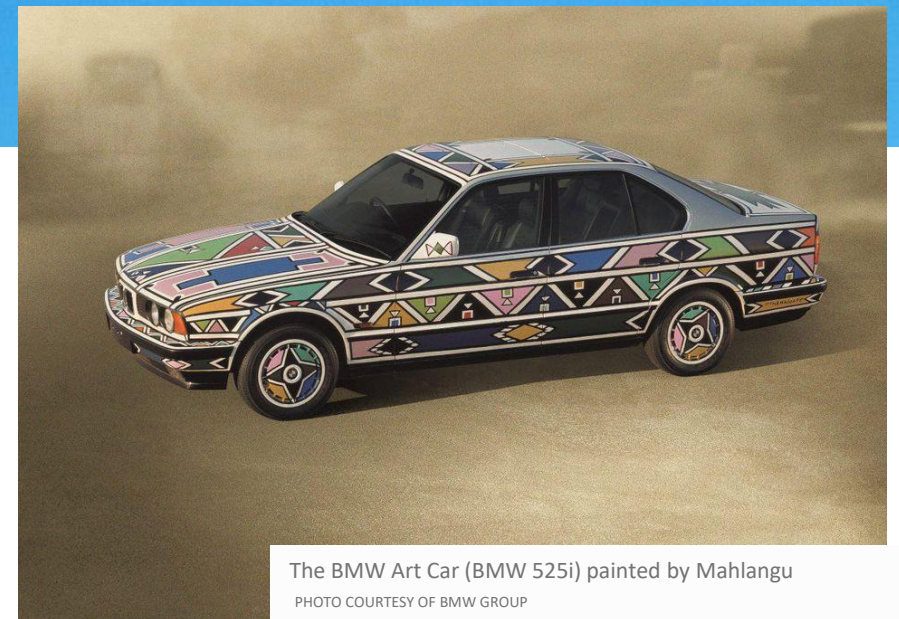




Dr. Esther  
Mahlangu,  
South  
African, b.  
1935

A painting by Dr Esther Mahlangu  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MELROSE GALLERY

- Dr. Esther Mahlangu is globally acclaimed for her bright and bold abstract paintings that are inspired by Ndebele design.
- She was the first person to reimagine Ndebele design that is traditionally used for decorating houses on contemporary mediums.
- Dr. Mahlangu's works have been shown all over the world. She has collaborated with the world's most respected museums, celebrities and global brands including BMW.



The BMW Art Car (BMW 525i) painted by Mahlangu  
PHOTO COURTESY OF BMW GROUP

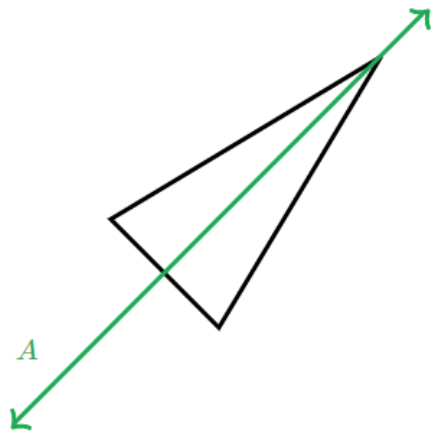
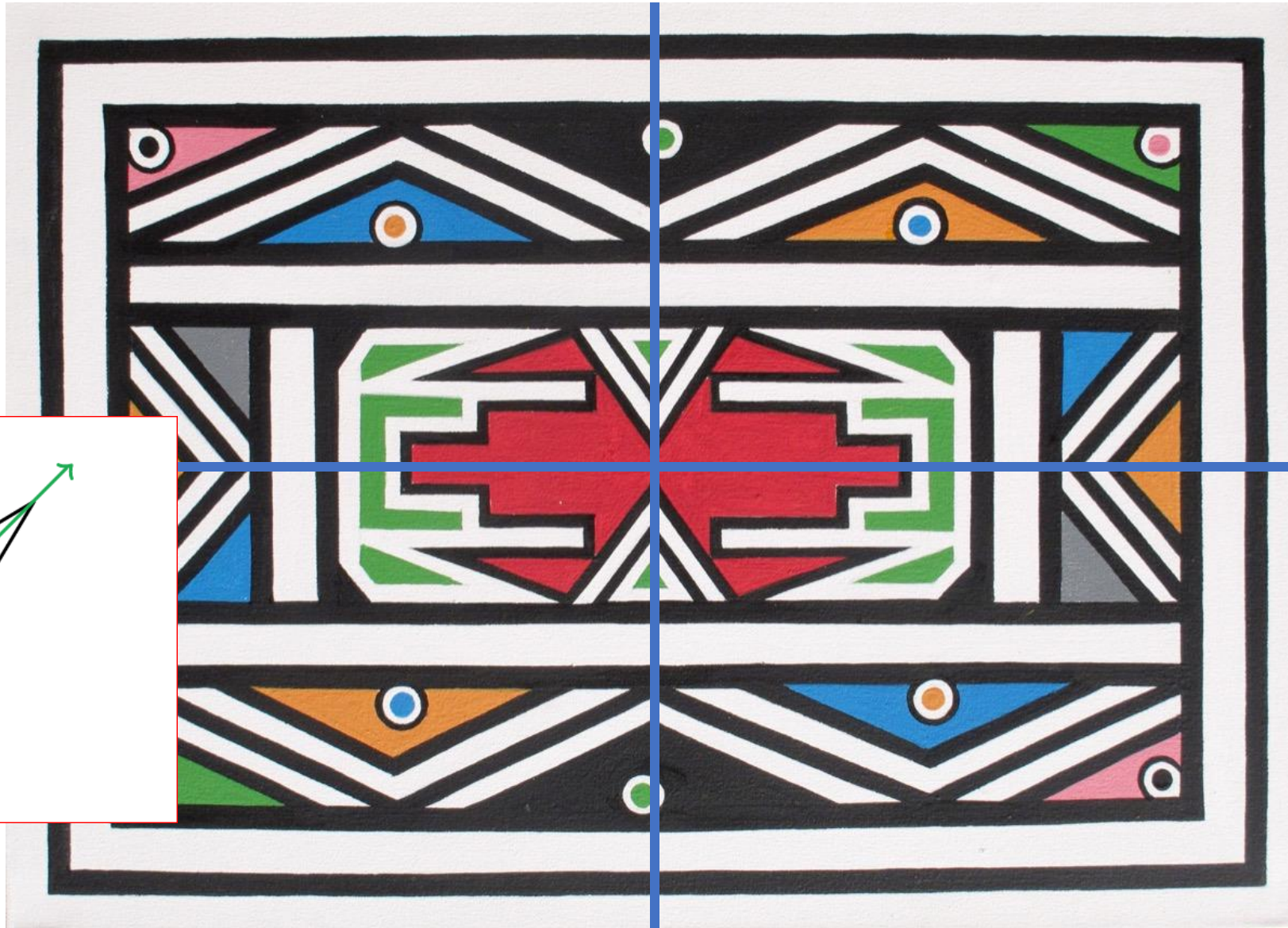
# Dr. Esther Mahlangu

Click [here](#) to learn about Dr. Esther Mahlangu's art.



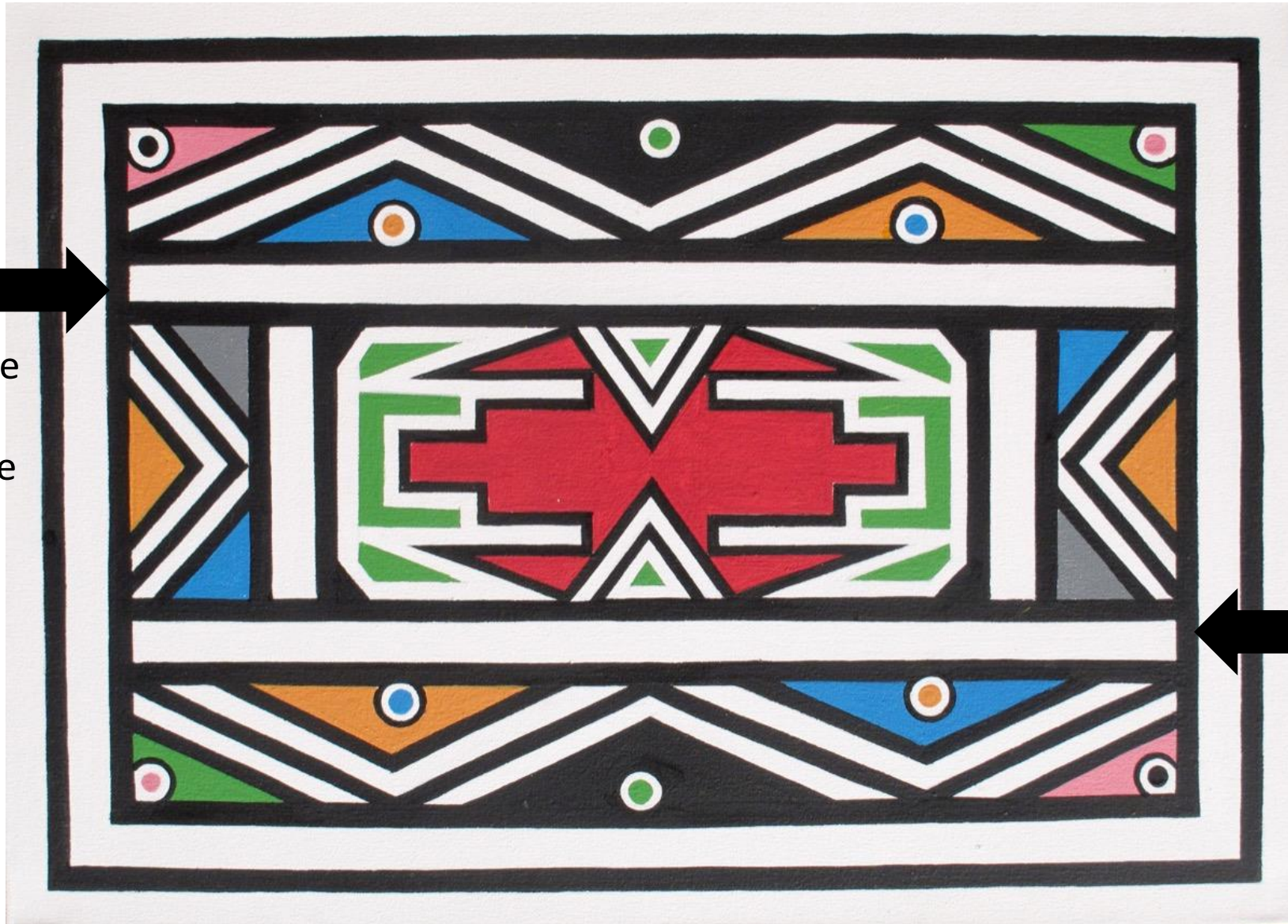
**Line of symmetry** is a line where we can fold the image and have both halves match exactly.

Reflective Symmetry





**Parallel lines** are lines that are always the same distance apart. Parallel lines never intersect.







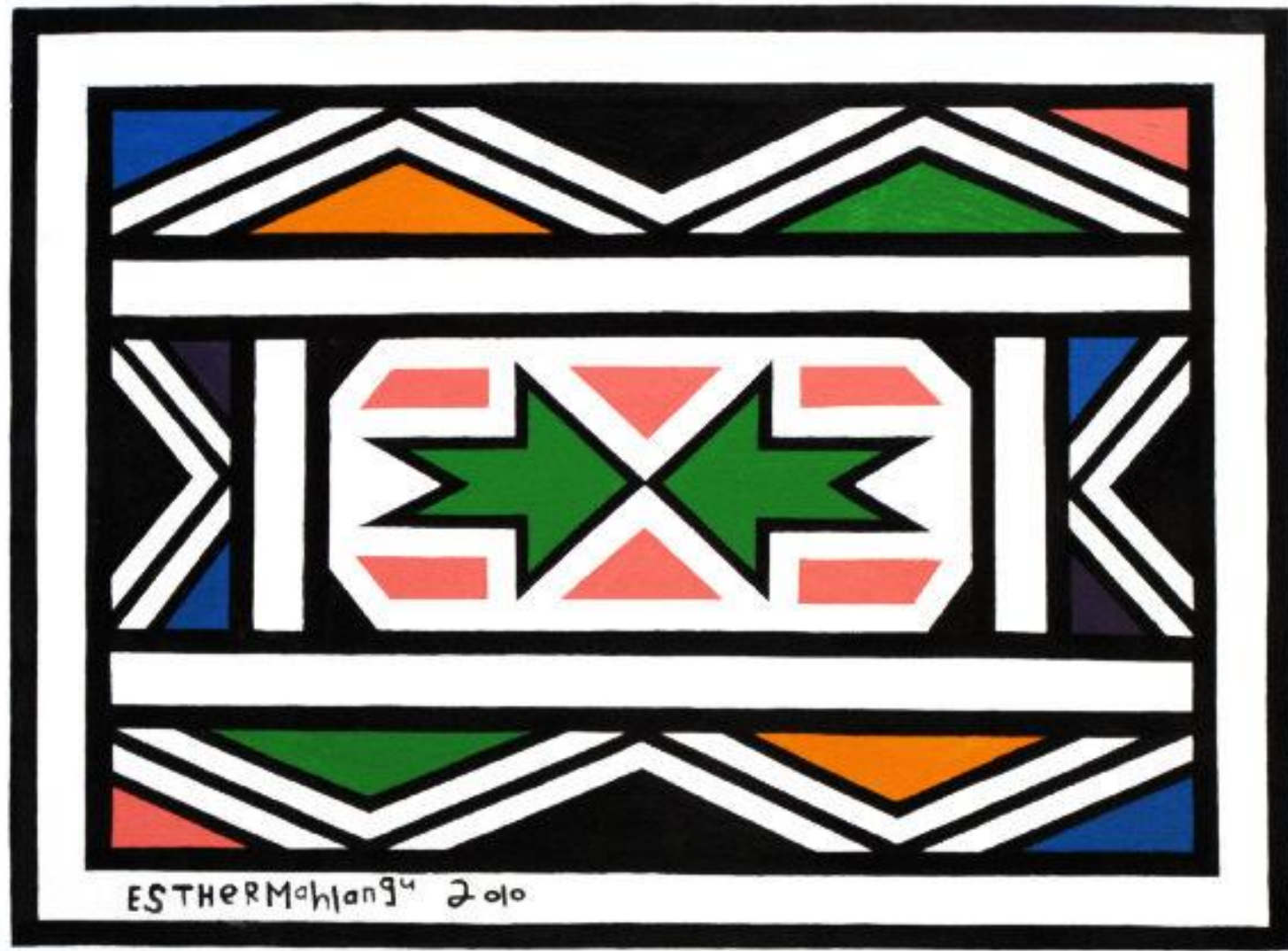


ESTHER MOHLANGA 2009





ESTHER Mahlangu 2014



ESTHER Mahlan<sup>94</sup> 2010





# Ndebele Art Project Description

- Today, we are going to make a Ndebele (EN DEH BEH LAY) painting. This artwork, just like the homes we viewed, display many properties of math, specifically geometry.
- Geometry can get complicated, but you already know some of its basic terms – point, lines, circles, triangles,.... But some terms may be new to you such as symmetry and parallel.
- There is so much geometry in the patterns painted on the Ndebele homes and artwork.



# Ndebele Artwork Instructions

## Materials needed

- White cardstock or construction paper
- ruler
- pencil
- colored pencils
- black (and if you have colored) markers