

# Finding Art Inspiration from Home, History, Culture, and Ancestry

Answer the following questions to help you delve deeper into the potential influences on your art-making process.

1. List places you were raised and areas you've visited, or travel adventures you've taken that have had an influence on your life. What images are brought to your mind when you think of these locations?
2. List influential people in your life and how they've inspired you by their beliefs, actions, life stories.
3. Envision your home. What are the colors, collectables, mementos, and other personal items that bring you joy?
4. Think about the influence of your family's history. Where did your parents and grandparents grow up? What stories have they passed down to you about the struggles they endured and triumphs they enjoyed that have colored their lives and thus your life.
5. What countries or geographic regions do your ancestors hail from?
6. What types of traditional folktales, myths, or legends originate in those lands?
7. Do any spiritual or religious traditions play a role in your life? If so, what symbols, icons, or practices do you find inspiring?
8. Name some artists whose work inspires you. Describe what you find compelling about their work using the vocabulary we've learned in the color workshop and the elements and principles of art workshop.

## HOMEWORK

After you've researched and answered the self-reflection questions above, put that knowledge to work in the following homework / homeplay assignments.

1. Seek out some imagery from the research questions above to collect in your art journal as inspiration.
2. Study other art forms such as music, theatre, dance, sculpture, architecture, and textile arts for inspiration.
3. Listen to some music as you work on a piece to help inspire you. Consider choosing music that reflects your culture and/or ancestry and observe what effect it may have on the outcome of your artwork.
4. Complete an artwork inspired by the style of the artists from Question #8, while modifying it to reflect and incorporate your own style.
5. Complete an art piece that incorporates some of the beliefs, symbols, imagery, designs, and/or motifs you've listed above from your research.

