



Enjoyed our activity trail?
Share your feedback with us
by scanning this QR code:



Wait, there's more!

Pop by our interpretive space at the Level 2 Foyer to learn how batiks are patterned and dyed – from the tools and materials to the meanings behind the motifs. Then try your hand at creating your own digital batik cap (stamped batik) at The Workbench.

...and still more!

Stay tuned for tours of *Batik Kita*, workshops, and exhibition-related activities. Connect with us on www.acmevents.peatix.com or check out website www.nhb.gov.sg/acm for updates!

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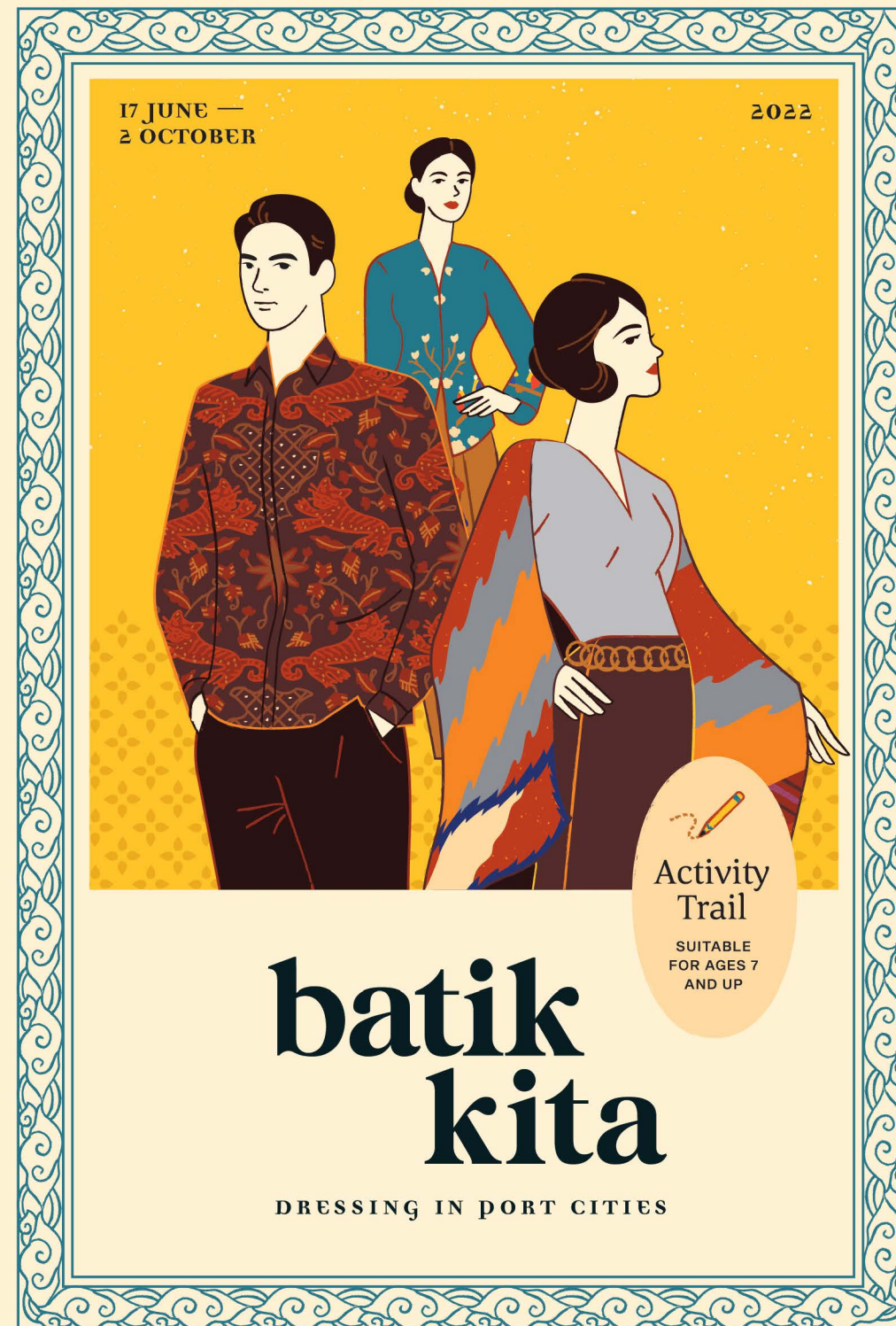


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Design and illustrations by Esther Goh



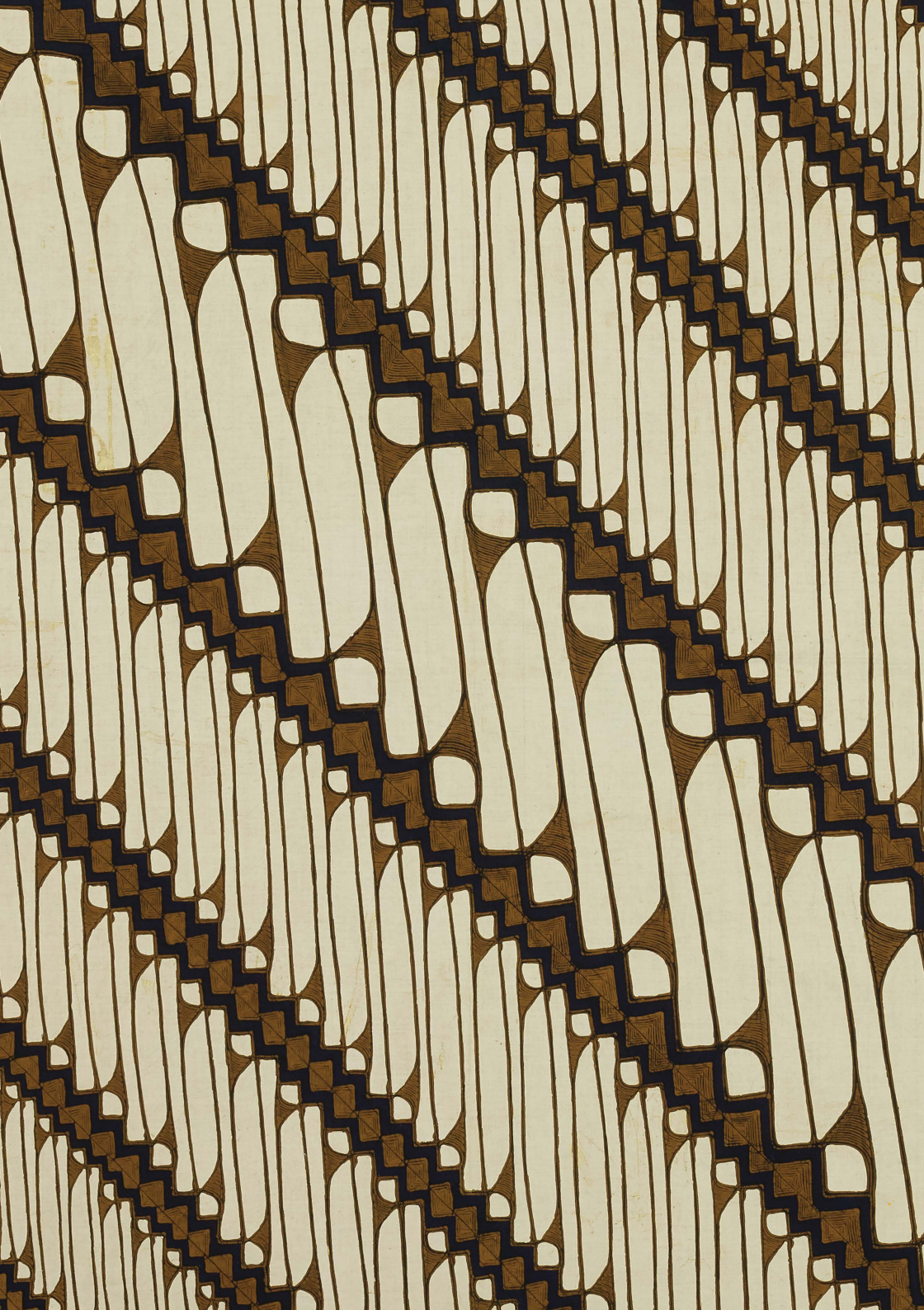
What is batik?

Batik is a traditional art form that involves using wax and dye to create beautiful and intricate patterns on cloth. There are so many different ways to mix and match motifs and colours that any two batik patterns are almost never exactly the same!

Select a card from this folder and search for the pattern among the batiks in our special exhibition. Once you've found it, flip the card over for some fun activities!



batik
kita
DRESSING IN PORT CITIES





Parang rusak Sri Sadono latar putih
Central Java, Solo, 1990–91
Batik tulis. Cotton, synthetic dyes
1991-00110



Did you spot this?

The diagonal arrangements of S-shaped patterns on this batik are known as the *parang rusak* motif. This was one of the most important designs, and one that was worn most often in the palaces of Central Java. In the past, the design was strictly reserved for royals, and commoners were forbidden to wear it!

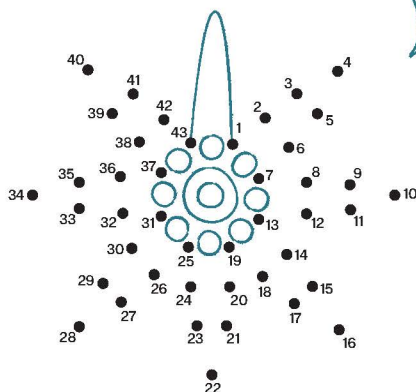
Connect the dots



What other motifs are found in traditional Javanese court batiks? Connect the dots below to find out. Then, see if you can spot these motifs around the exhibition.

Garuda

The bird-like creature that serves as the companion of the Javanese/Balinese god Wisnu (Vishnu).



Truntum

Symbolic of love and loyalty, this design was inspired by flowers, but also resembles stars in a clear night sky.





Kain sarong (unsewn sarong cloth)
iwak etong, a popular motif of sea
creatures unique to Indramayu
 West Java, Indramayu, 1991
 Batik tulis. Cotton, synthetic dyes
 1991-00222



Did you spot this?

What underwater creatures do you see here?

This pattern is called *iwak etong* (meaning “fish” and “prawns”). The sea creatures on this batik were drawn using a canting, which is a tool that batik makers use to draw with wax. The wax is used to prevent (“resist”) coloured dyes from reaching parts of the cloth under the wax, thereby creating a pattern.

Draw it

Sketch out other sea creatures that would go well on this batik!

DIY at home

You probably don't have a canting, but you can make your own wax resist crayon at home! Try designing a batik pattern using the sea creatures you have drawn, or perhaps using other designs you like from this exhibition.

Instructions:

Draw patterns or pictures on your paper using the wax crayon. Then, use watercolours to paint over the paper. The wax crayon lines will “resist” the paint.

Materials you will need:







Kain panjang mega mendung
West Java, Cirebon, Trusmi, 1990–91
Batik tulis. Cotton, synthetic dyes
1991-00105



Did you spot this?

Can you tell that this design was inspired by clouds in the sky? Known as *mega mendung*, this motif is a symbol of patience, and a reminder of the value of having a cool temperament.

Identify and sort

There are many batik motifs in this exhibition inspired by plants, animals, and other things from nature. Can you find them all?
Name or draw out these designs in the columns below!

Plants

Animals

Natural Formations





Kain panjang Slamet Pakai
(Selamat Pakai – "Happy wearing")
 with Easter eggs and stork
 Central Java, Pekalongan, 1920s
 Batik tulis. Cotton, synthetic dyes
 T-0811



Did you spot this?

This skirtcloth was probably made to celebrate the birth of a child. If you look carefully, you might notice there's a stork carrying a baby, women dressed in Western clothing, Cupid, and Easter eggs!

This is an example of Dutch batik, called "batik Belanda", made for the Dutch or Dutch-Indonesian community on Java at the time. Popular designs on batik Belanda include bouquets of flowers with roses or tulips, and characters and scenes from European fairy tales.

I Spy

See if you can spot the designs shown below on this batik.
 Put a tick in the box beside each design you discover.







Kain panjang tambal
Java, Yogyakarta, around 1950
Batik tulis. Cotton, synthetic dyes
T-0776



Did you spot this?

Check out that patchwork of triangles! In the past, patchwork-styled batiks (called “batik tambal”) were worn by members of the Central Javanese courts. Combining different patterns and motifs on a single cloth is believed to give the fabric the power to protect its wearer and to ward off sickness and evil.

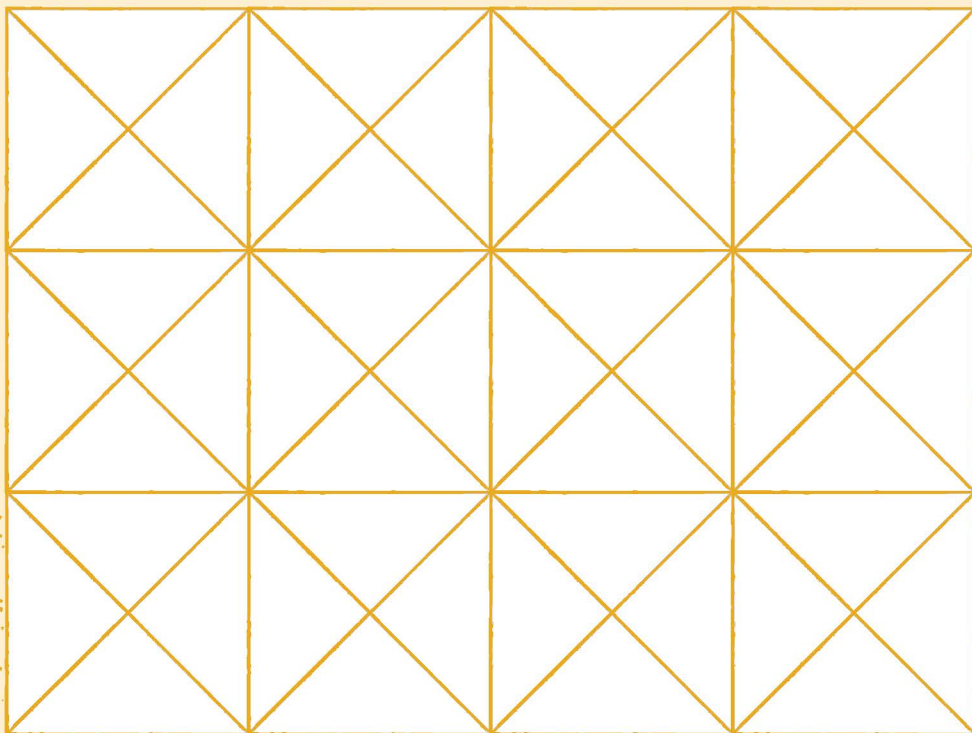
Look closely

Patterns in batik tambal are rarely repeated.
How many different patterns can you spot on this batik?

While the patchwork here takes the form of triangles, other patchwork designs might use different shapes, such as rectangles or medallions. See if you can find other batiks in the exhibition that have different shapes in their patchwork.

Complete the patchwork

Use the stickers provided in this pack to create your own unique patchwork of patterns. You might also want to add drawings of some of the motifs you see in the exhibition!





Use the stickers here to help you with
the activity on this card.





Crack the code

There are many ways to wear batik. Different names are used for the cloths depending on how they are stitched and worn.

The BINhouse batiks on display are made for flexibility – they can be worn in different ways.

What are some common names for batik clothing? Can you crack the code using the hints below? Fill in the blanks with your answers!

A 	B 	C 	D 
E 	F 	G 	H 
I 	J 	K 	L 
M 	N 	O 	P 
Q 	R 	S 	T 
U 	V 	W 	X 
Y 	Z 		



This means "long cloth" in Malay. It is an unsewn piece of batik worn as a wrapped skirtcloth by both men and women.



To make this garment, the ends of the batik are sewn together to form a tubular skirt.



This cloth can be worn as a covering for the head, neck, and shoulders.





Did you spot this?

Look familiar? This iconic flight attendant uniform takes the form of a sarong kebaya, which is a tubular batik skirt worn with a fitted blouse. The uniform was designed by Pierre Balmain, a famous French designer, in 1968.

Untangle the lines

Fashion has changed over the years, but do you see how batik has been used for a long time to make different styles of clothing? Find these outfits in the exhibition and untangle the coloured lines below to identify the correct time period for each clothing style.



1920s

1930s

1950s

1960s and 1970s

Answers: Sarong-kebaya (1930s), Singapore Airlines uniform (1960s and 1970s), "New Look" Dress (1950s), Shanghai cheongsam (1920s)





Did you spot this?

Some of the batik shirts on display were worn by leaders of Singapore and Malaysia on important occasions. At the 1994 Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, Singapore's Prime Minister at the time, Goh Chok Tong, was given a batik print shirt like this. Do you recognise the type of flower printed on it? It's an orchid design meant to represent Singapore!

Design and draw

Your task: design a batik shirt that represents your country.
Which icons or images will you use? Which colours?
Go for it on the shirt here!





Be a fashion designer

Feeling inspired by the batiks on display? Using art and craft materials, design a piece of clothing with some of your favourite patterns and motifs from the exhibition.

You can use the sticker page in this activity pack to help you in your design!

