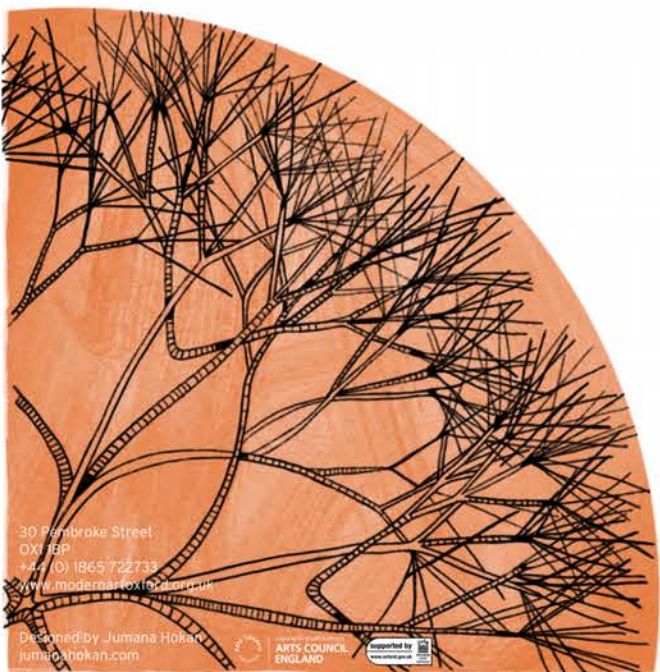
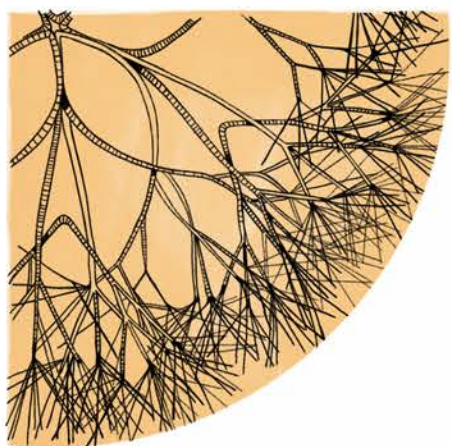


ACTIVITY SHEET • RUTH ASAWA • CITIZEN OF THE UNIVERSE



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# WELCOME

This guide has been created for you to read as you walk through the exhibition. If you need any help, find someone with a yellow badge.



**Untitled (SF.047a, Potato Print - Cross, Blue/Black), 1951-1952**  
Blue and black ink on sumi-e paper

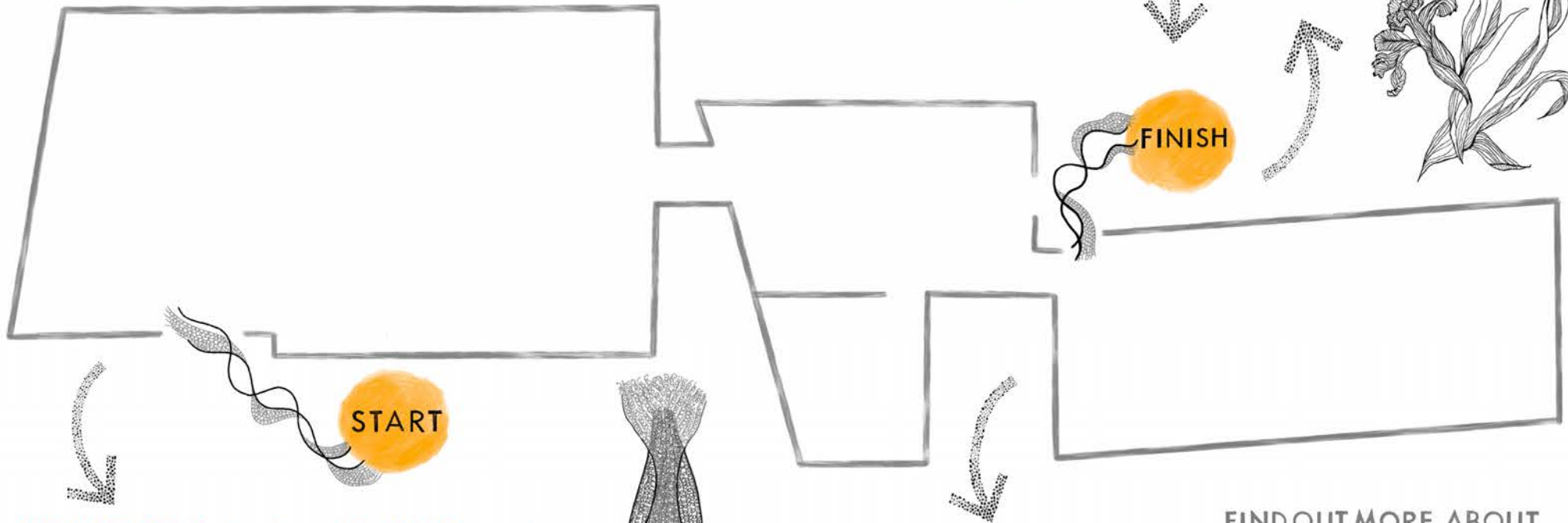
In this artwork Ruth used potatoes to make simple stamps to print repeating patterns on paper.

Have you ever used potatoes prints? See if there are some you can use in the Creative Space

**Untitled (BMC.66, Stem with Leaves: "Background" Painting), c. 1948-1949**  
Watercolor over graphite on paper

Ruth wanted all schools in California to teach children about art and gardening every day.

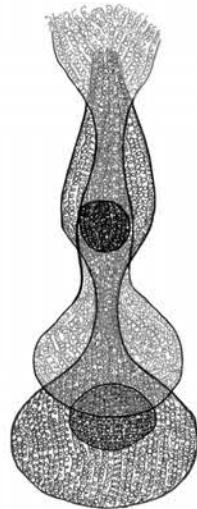
Would you like to do those activities every day in your school?



**Untitled (S.439, Hanging Seven-Lobed, Multi-Layered Interlocking Continuous Form within a Form with Spheres in the First and Third Lobes), 1955**  
Copper and brass wire

The artist often used wire to create her very large and detailed sculptures.

Can you imagine how much wire was used to make this artwork?



**Untitled (FF.1211, Paul Lanier on Patterned Blanket), 1961**  
Pen and black ink on rice paper on board

The baby in this picture is Ruth's youngest son Paul. Ruth has 6 children and working with children played a big part in her artistic practice and inspiration.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION OVER THE PAGE!



START

# ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ruth Asawa was born in 1926 in Norwalk, California.

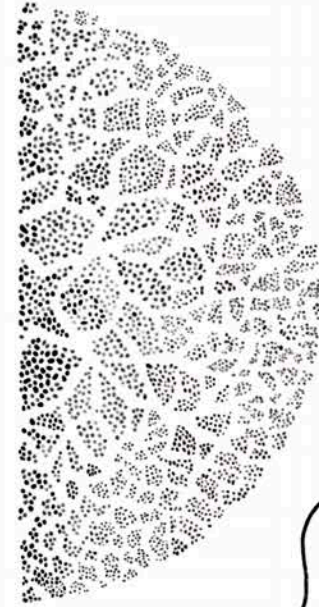
Throughout her life, Ruth created sculptures, drawings and prints inspired by the natural world around her, using easily found and affordable materials.

Ruth studied at **Black Mountain College**, an experimental art college where all the teachers were practicing artists. During her time at the college, Ruth learnt from a creative community of artists, dancers, architects, and inventors.

# ABOUT THE SHOW

*Citizen of the Universe* is a celebration of Ruth Asawa as an artist, educator and activist. Ruth believed that art is for everybody, and that creativity is an essential part of education.

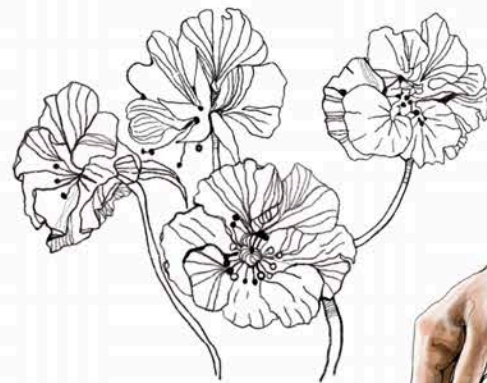
Ruth's own artistic practice was strongly connected with her family life and work with the local community. Ruth created a programme of art education workshops that she took to schools in San Francisco. This was where she lived with her husband and 6 children.



# DID YOU KNOW...

Ruth used to study nature closely by making detailed drawings of vegetables and flowers found in her garden.

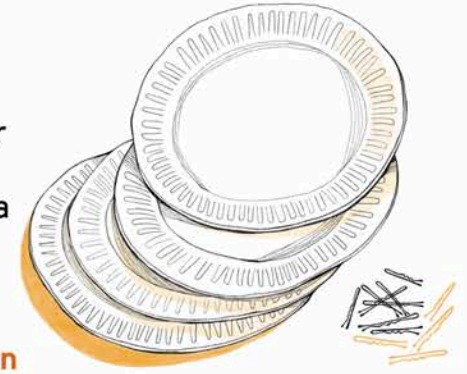
Can you spot any of these drawings in the exhibition?



# ACTIVITY: GREAT CIRCLE

At **Black Mountain College** Ruth Asawa was taught by an engineer and inventor called R. Buckminster Fuller.

Buckminster Fuller was interested in creating designs for structures that used a small amount of material but remained self-supporting and strong. Ruth used these ideas for activities with children in schools.



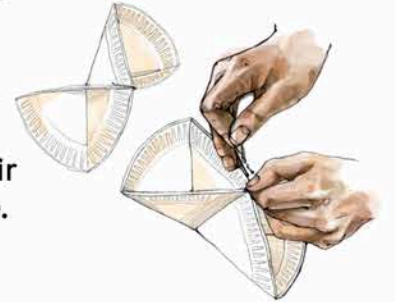
One of these activities is called 'The Great Circle', which you can make by following these instructions:

You need 4 paper plates and 12 paper clips or hair pins.

**1** Fold your first paper plate in half and then fold the half circle into 3 equal triangle sections.



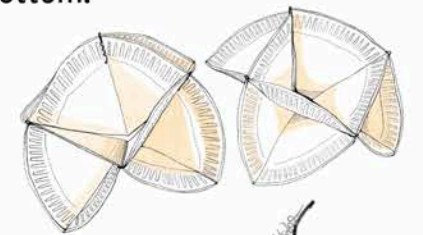
**2** Take this paper plate and hold it in the middle of the 3 triangular shapes. Slide the plate gently with your fingers and thumb until it opens like a bow tie. Use a hair pin to hold in place. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each plate.



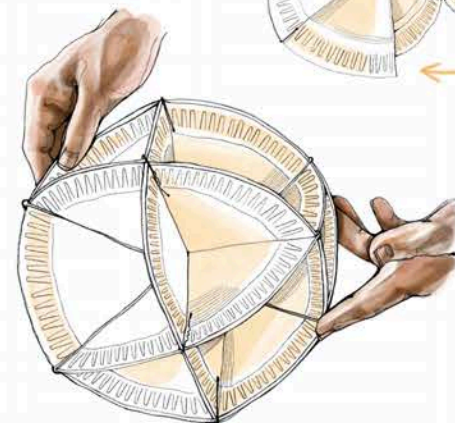
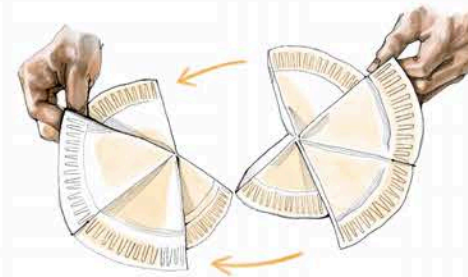
**3** Take 2 of the bow tie shapes and hold them together so that their centres touch. Use a paper clip or hair pin to attach the shapes together at the top and the bottom.



**4** Repeat step 3 with the remaining 2 bow tie shapes. You should now have two semi-spheres.



**5** Turn the 2 semi-spheres upside down. You will see a cross shape where the plates have been folded. Use the straight lines of each cross as a guide and attach the 2 semi-spheres to complete your Great Circle!



Head to the Creative Space to make your Great Circle.

FINISH

