

# Socrates Sculpture Park x The Noguchi Museum Lunar New Year Lantern Making



Workshop created by Noguchi Museum educator Harumi Ori



## **Inspiration:**

Noguchi Akari light

## **Objectives:**

Families will learn about a traditional lantern used in Lunar New Year and Akari, a modern lantern by Isamu Noguchi. Families will experience making their own lantern observing the effect of light, and their choices in colors, shapes, and placement.

image courtesy of the Noguchi Museum, Isamu Noguchi at 10th Street Studio with Akari, ©INFGM / ARS

## **Introduction:**

For Lunar New Year, we are looking at artist Isamu Noguchi's light sculptures made of paper. Noguchi named his light sculptures [Akari](#). Akari means "light" (as in illumination) or "lightness" (as in weight) in Japanese. Akari are made in Gifu, Japan, a famous production area for traditional Japanese lanterns.

Let's make light sculptures for the Lunar New Year! This annual event is the beginning of a calendar year whose months are moon cycles, based on the lunar calendar. There are many traditions in China and other Asian countries for celebrating Lunar New Year, like having a special dinner with family. The Lunar New Year celebrations end with a lantern festival, where red and gold lanterns are hung and carried around. Light can symbolize new beginnings.



**Materials:**

popsicle sticks  
Glue  
Water  
Cup  
Brush  
tissue paper  
Scissors

image courtesy of the Noguchi Museum, samples created by educator Harumi Ori

**Art Making:**

Use popsicle sticks and tissue paper to make a light sculptures to celebrate Lunar New Year.

**Process:**

- Create a shape using the popsicle sticks and glue.
- Using a brush and glue, attach cut pieces of tissue paper to cover the popsicle stick shape
- Touch and experience the materials as you work. Experiment by holding your sculpture in front of a light and notice how it changes.

**Reflection:**

What surprises or challenges did you encounter along the way?