

Online Kids Drop in Art Day

Inspired by the artworks in *The Crescent Moon: the Asian Face of Islam in New Zealand* exhibition at Hastings City Art Gallery.

To read more about this exhibition please see

<https://hastingscityartgallery.co.nz/current-exhibitions/the-crescent-moon/>

Create a Hamsa hand



Before making a decorative *hamsa*, you can learn about this cultural object, its history and uses.

The **Hamsa Hand** is an ancient Middle Eastern amulet symbolizing the **Hand** of God. In all faiths it is a protective sign. It brings its owner happiness, luck, health, and good fortune. The **hamsa hand** has a wide variety of different spellings which includes hamesh, **hamsa**, chamsa, and khamsa.

The hamsa usually has an eye in the centre of the palm, and is traditionally decorated with intricate metal scrollwork or jewels. Silver is the traditional material for hamsas, since silver represents purity and was once believed to have magical powers. Common symbols include fish and the word *mazal*, meaning *luck*.

There are different traditions regarding which direction the hamsa should point. Some say that the fingers point up for protection and down for general luck and blessings; kabbalists add that a hamsa pointing toward the sky draws masculine energy, and toward the earth draws female energy.

You will need:

A4 paper or card
Colouring felt or crayon,
Gluesick
String
Sequins, stars or any decorative material
Paint- optional

How to make one?

- Before you begin decorating your hamsa hand, take a few minutes to reflect on the design you would like.
- Print off the template on a paper or card. If you can't print it, look at the shape and draw it.
- Cut out the Hamza shape
- Then use a felt or crayon to draw your design on it. You might like to use paint too, it's fine.
- Use glue stick, sequin and stars to decorate it!
- Once finished, make a tiny hole and tie a string. It's ready to hang on a wall in your home.

