



## Reading Folding Screens

FOR AGES: 12-18

MATERIALS: Paper, pencil, and markers, crayons, colored pencils, or paint.



Screens are such a massive part of our lives today (computer, phone, tv, tablet, kindle, alarm clock, microwave, car dash, and more). But when Hollyhock House was built, screens, as we know them today, did not exist. Even television was not invented until 1927, six years after Hollyhock House was built. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Aline Barnsdall, who owned Hollyhock House, collected a different type of screen—Japanese folding screens. These were portable, multi-paneled, decorative objects used to divide living spaces in Japanese interiors.

A pair of 18th-century, six-panel folding screens, *Cranes and Pines*, still adorns the walls of the living room in Hollyhock House. The folding screens, like the Japanese language, are meant to be read from right to left.

- Look at the photograph of one of the screens, and describe what you see from right to left. How does the scene change as you look across the six panels?
- Create a small model of a decorative, folding screen you'd like to have in your house. First, fold a piece of white paper in half and then fold each half in thirds to create the six panels. Next, sketch a scene inspired by nature, keeping in mind how the elements can be read from right to left. How does your scene change across each panel? Finally, use colored pencils, pens, or paints to complete your miniature folding screen.