Threshold Art: Around the Dot Designs
Illustrated by Stephanie Kao

These examples of threshold designs are created by drawing around a series of dots. They demonstrate a progression of basic patterns using a limited number of dots to more complex ones using increasingly varied numbers of dots. To practice drawing these kolams, use the worksheet Template of Dots: Four Points Forming a Square.

Fig. 1: (3 lines; 3 dots)
Fig. 2: (4 lines; 4 dots)
Fig. 3: (5 lines; 5 dots)
Fig. 4: (1,3,5,7,5,3,1 dots)
Threshold Art: Connect the Dot Designs
Illustrated by Stephanie Kao

These examples of floor painting designs are created by connecting a series of dots. They demonstrate how the basic shape of the six-pointed star, a symbol of Lakshmi, can be embellished using repeated motifs and borders. To practice drawing these kolams, use the worksheet Template of Dots: Four Points Forming a Rhomboid.

Fig. 1: Six-pointed star
Fig. 2: Variation of six-pointed star with border. Drawing based on a pattern used in an Antal festival in Madurai, India, from Hosting the Divine: The Kolam as Ritual, Art, and Ecology in Tamil Nadu, India by Vijaya Rettakudi Nagarajan, 1998.
Fig. 3: Six-petaled flower
Fig. 4: Variation of six-petaled flower with vines. Drawing based on a pattern used in a Pongal festival from The Language of Symbols: A Project on South Indian Ritual Decorations of a Semi-Permanent Nature by Archana, 1980.