

# Intergenerational Art Activity



At the center of the Common Ground World Mandala is a handprint of a 100-year-old Mary Livornese Cavallery, and one month-old Kelly Rose Tom.

This action signifies finding common ground not just through geographical boundaries, but through generations of people. While there may seem to be a large gap between a 100-year-old and a one-month-old baby, even they share common ground as equal citizens on this planet.

Use the space to the right to trace a guardian’s hand. Then, have a child trace their handprint within it. Feel free to compliment the tracings with color and creativity!



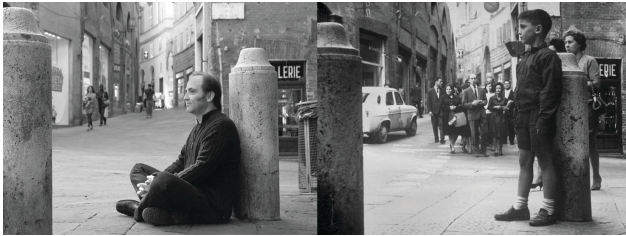
# Common Ground Family Guide



*Original sketch of the center  
of the Common Ground World  
Mandala by Neil Tetkowski*

Cover image: Installation view of *Common Ground World Mandala*

# About the Artist



Born in 1955, Neil Tetkowski’s early years were spent in Siena, Italy, where he attended grammar school for several years. Both parents were in the arts, and this provided an early foundation for what would become a lifetime passion for creativity, education, and a fascination with diverse cultures of the world. Before his tenth birthday, he had crossed the Atlantic Ocean three times by ship. He has visited museums and cultural landmarks in more than twenty countries!

Neil Tetkowski’s material of choice comes directly from the Earth. He uses clay, which he believes is the perfect medium to express his relationship to the natural environment.

Neil Tetkowski has received numerous grants and awards including a Ford Foundation grant. His artwork is widely published and placed in permanent collections of fifty museums including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of American Art, in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art Kogaikan in Tokyo.



# Common Ground World Mandala



## Common Ground World Mandala

As an artist Tetkowski asked, “What would happen if you took earth from all countries and blended them together?”

In response, Tetkowski asked all 188 member states of the United Nations to send him local clay or sand samples from their countries. The ambitious project took a year and a half, but in the end, he reached his goal, receiving packages of clay from around the globe, along with photos of the individuals and groups in the act of gathering them. He cataloged all the samples and combined them to make one “world clay.” This special world-clay mixture was used to create the first sculpture in the series, entitled the World Mandala Monument, a ten-foot sculpture that was shown at the United Nations visitor’s lobby.



## What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization whose stated purposes are to maintain international peace and security and to develop friendly relations among nations.

# A Global Process



People in 188 countries, strangers to each other, worked together. They were asked to dig up their clay and send it to New York.



Through this collective activity, the earth was transformed. Materials were blended together to metaphorically dissolve national borders and to show a vision of unity.

# Putting the Pieces Together



Individuals from each country placed pieces of their earth into the growing spiral of world clay. After three weeks the work was dry and ready to be fired, a process that turns clay into ceramics.



An aluminum structure was fabricated to support the heavy ceramic tiles.

Here is the finished product, the *Common Ground World Mandala*:

