

StarHex-14

The beauty of polyform sets

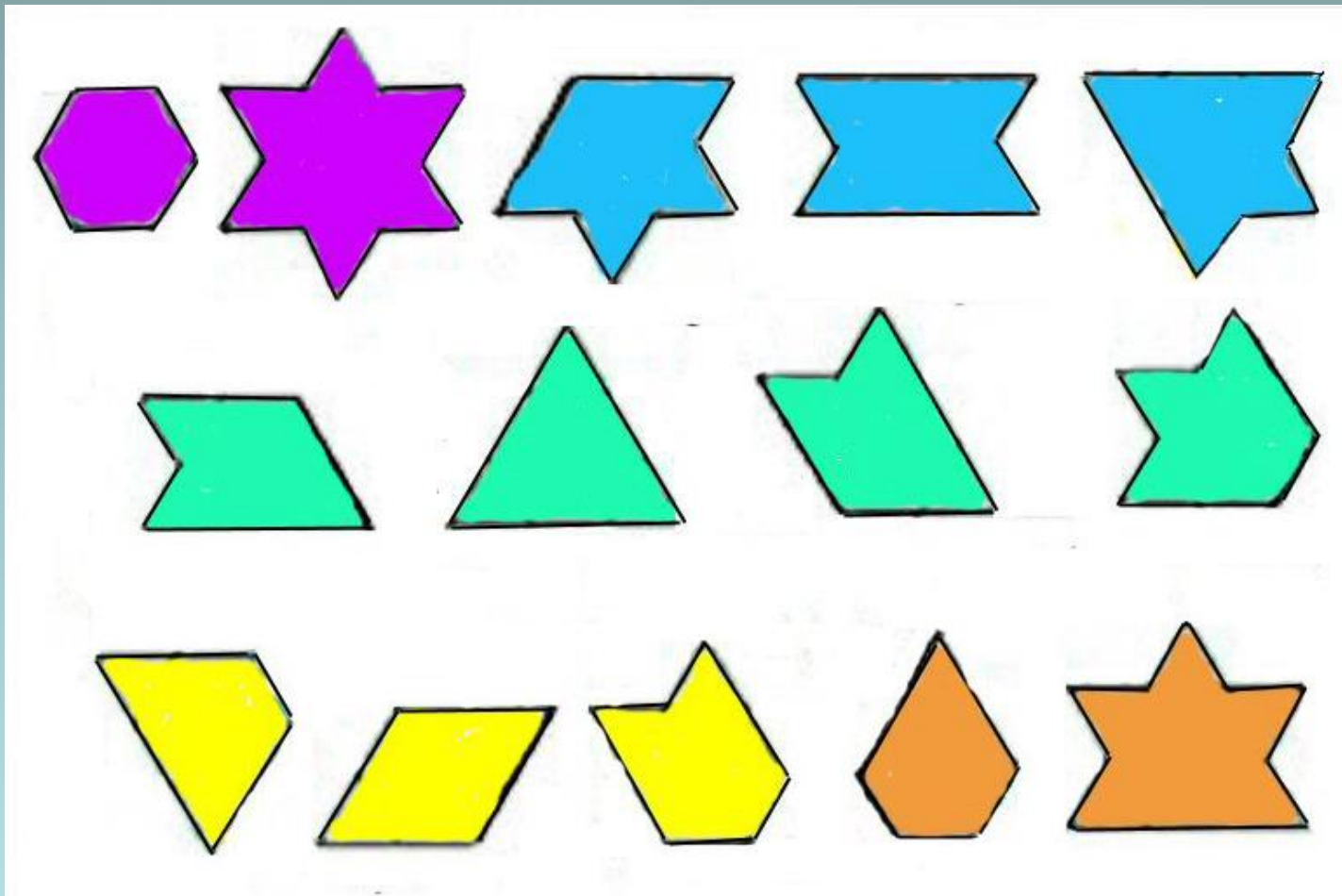
Presentation by Kate Jones
as 14-line sonnets
at Gathering for Gardner 14
Atlanta, GA – ~~2020/2021~~/2022

1.

Four decades of design and puzzle art
Have filled my life and overjoyed my heart.
I thank you all for treasuring my creations,
We do have fans in many different nations,

Whence ever more inventors join our line:
We publish their designs, too, not just mine.

From *Theo Geerinck*'s brilliant creative mind
New polyforms — *his polystars* — we find.



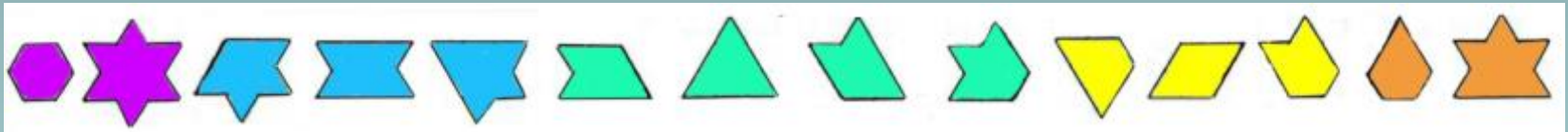
Their stellar highlight, at this grand event,
Is just the latest stage in their ascent.
Dear Martin Gardner's writings were the gate
Through which I found my fortune and my fate.



And by a lovely match of tiles and times
The number fourteen has inspired these rhymes:

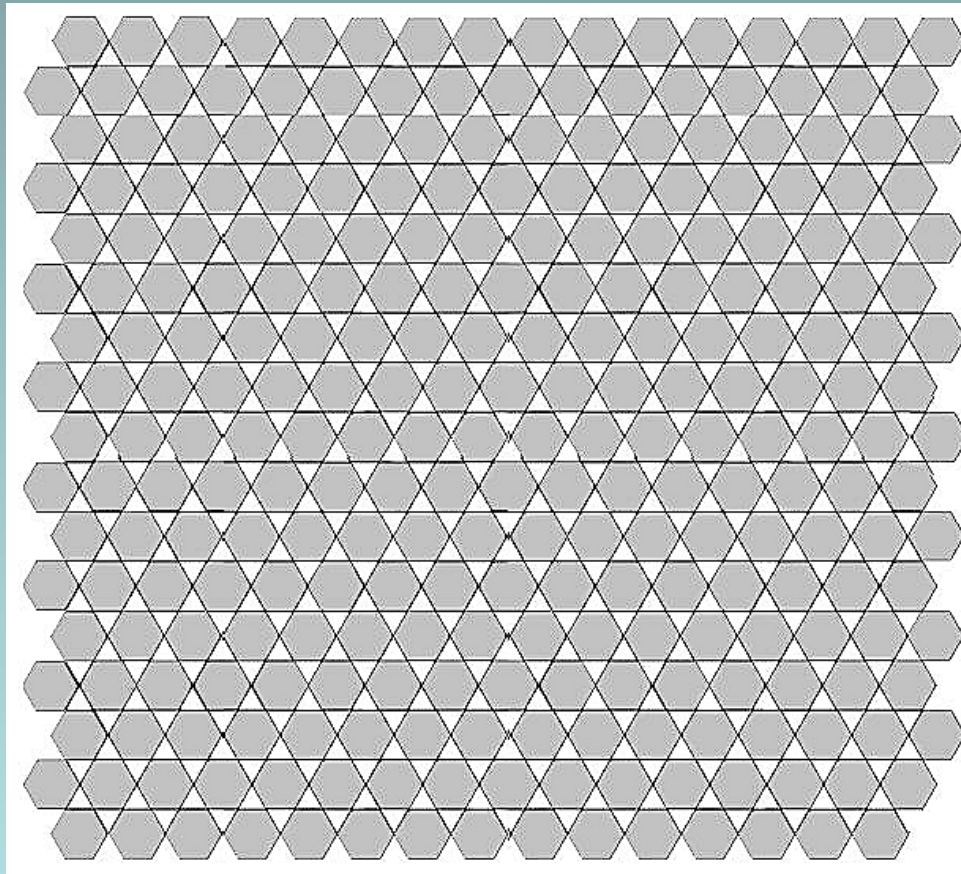
2.

The Cosmos spreads before us points of light,
Each tiny dot a fire immensely far,
A galaxy of giants, dim or bright,
A burst of energy we call a star.



Now let us model constellations fair
With puzzle shapes that mimic starry skies,
And let each star from none to six points share,
No two alike, that fourteen figures rise.

They plot upon a classic field — behold
How triangles and hexagons do spill
An infinite array. A tale is told
How polystars this symmetry will fill.



A classic wallpaper pattern

Now may their hues not touch, a solver's dream,

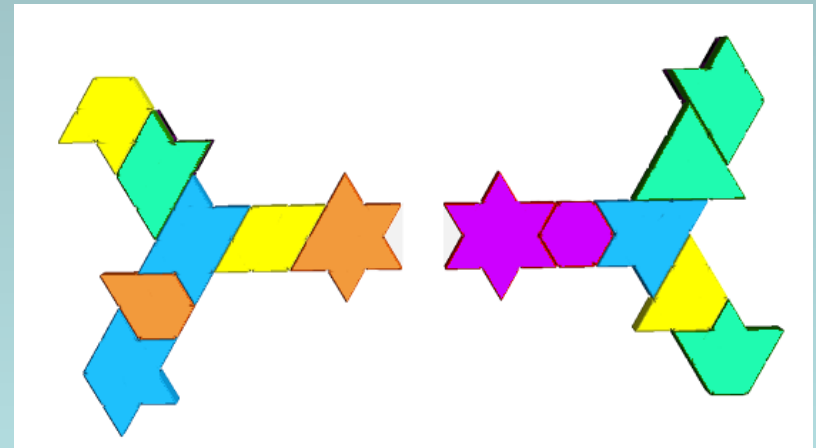
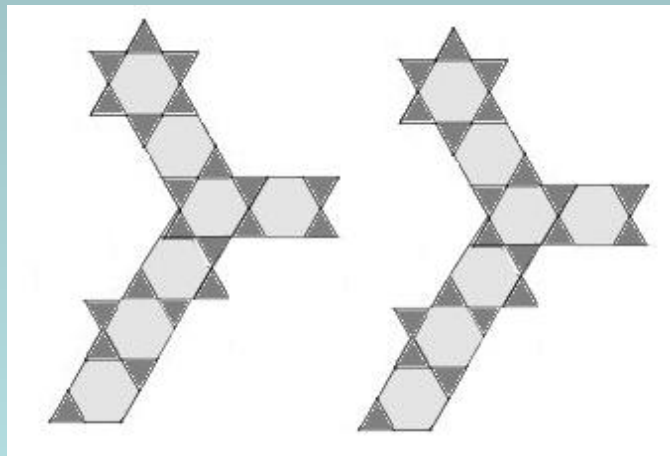
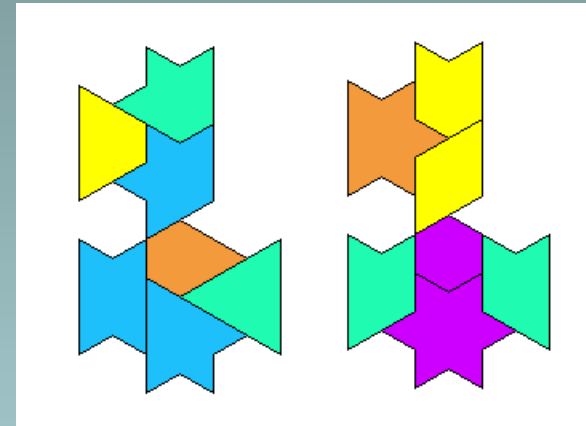
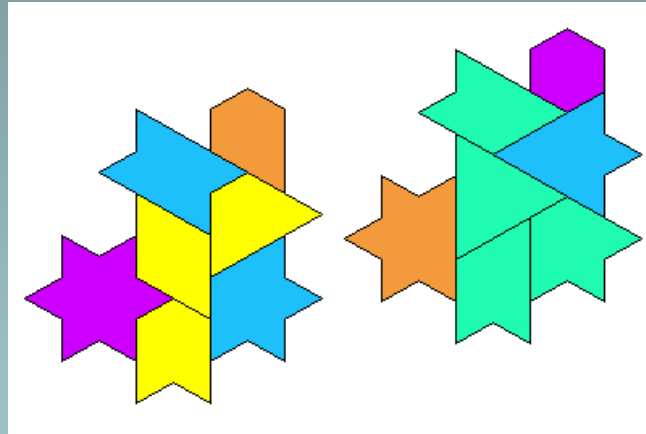
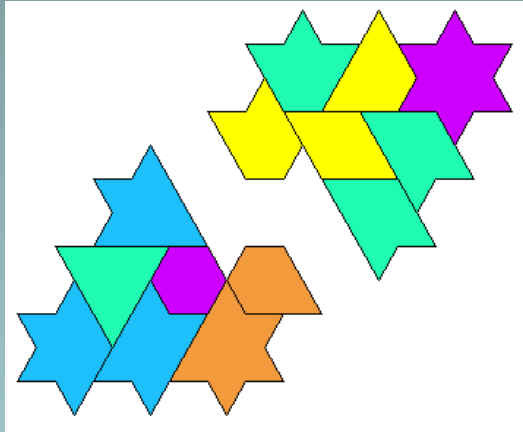


Or group each color as a single beam.

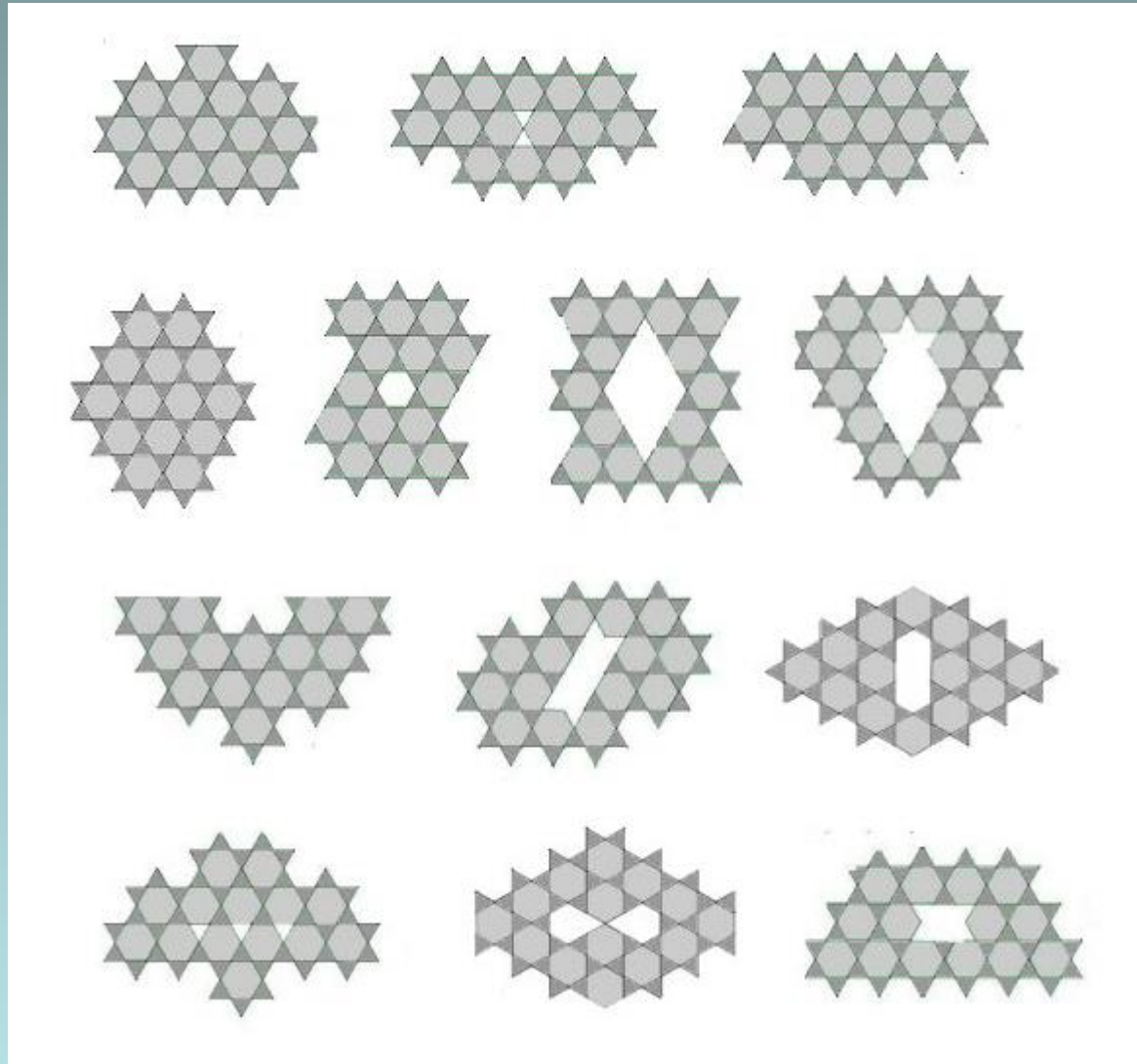


3.

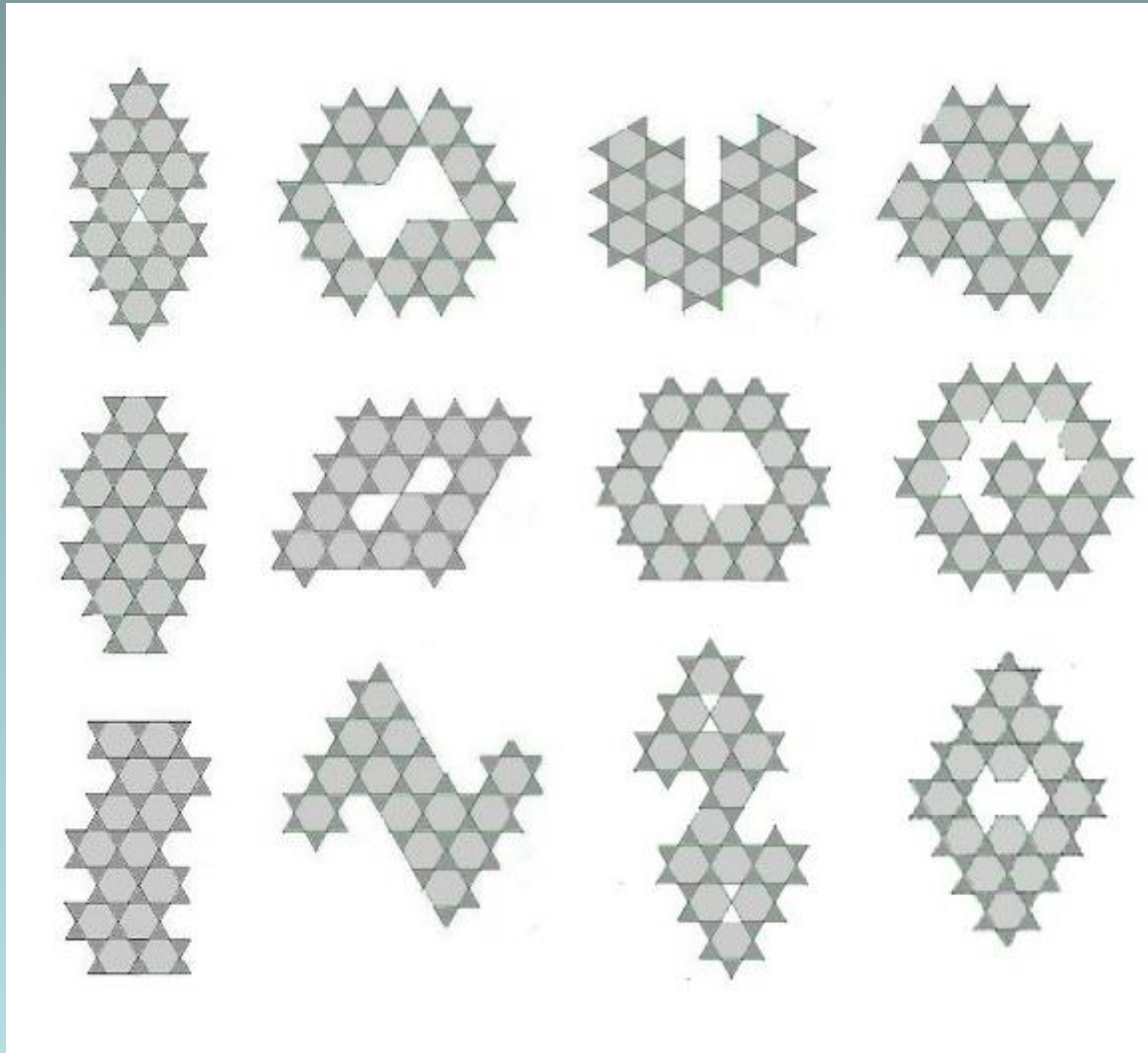
Then let the puzzler build some pretty twins,
Binary pairs or splendid symmetries



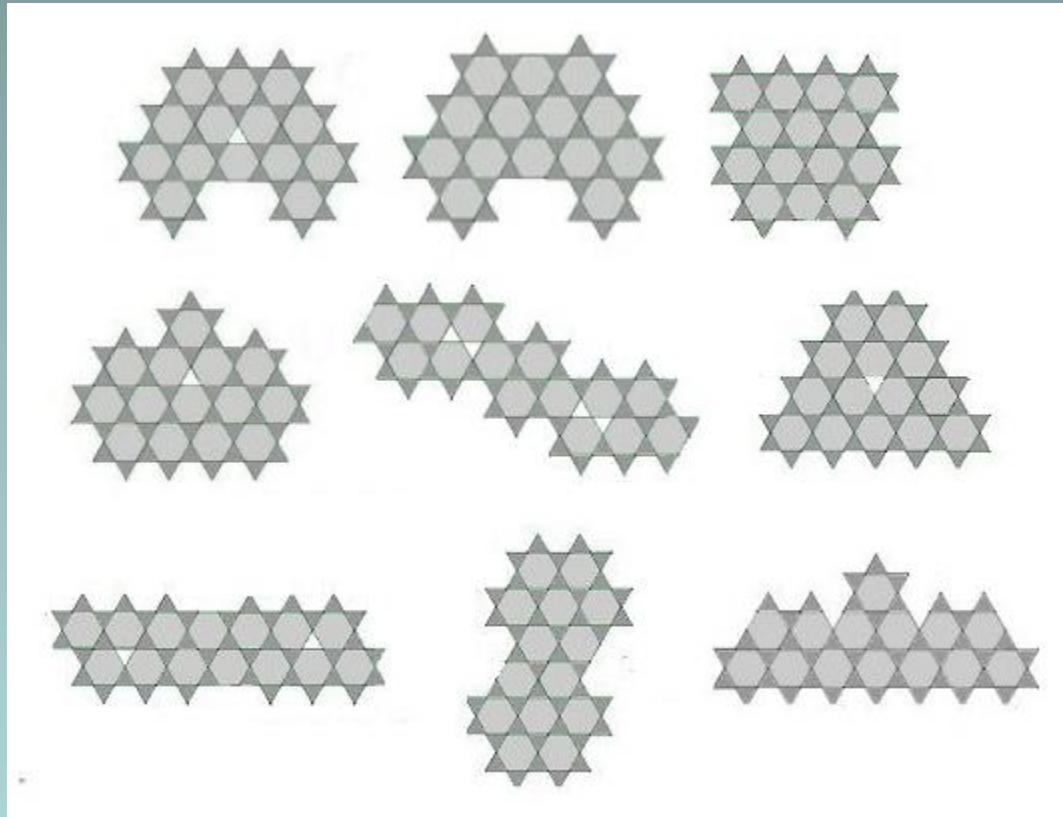
Where every shape a glorious orbit spins
The eye and mind with mirror forms to please.



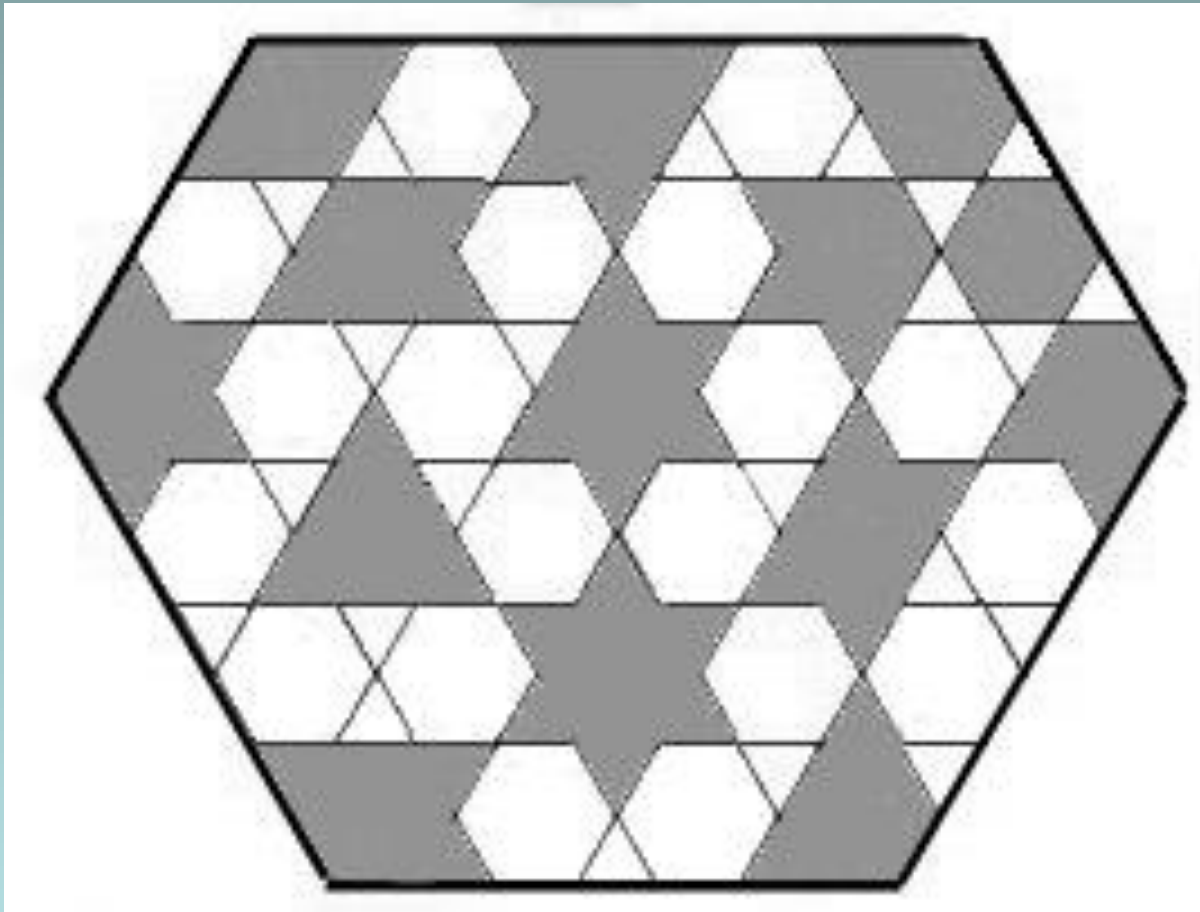
and more...



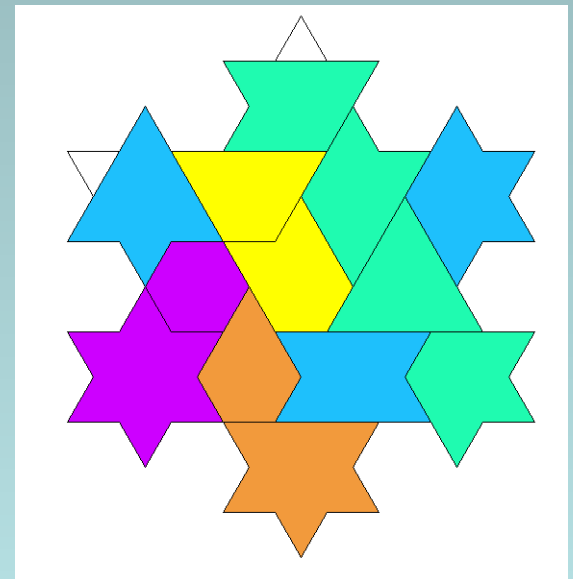
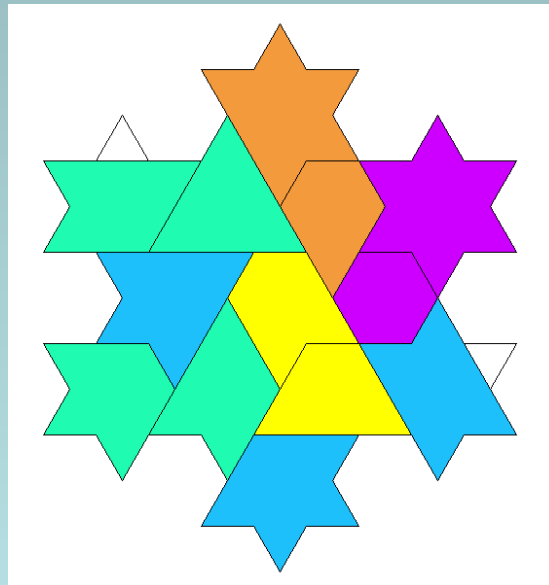
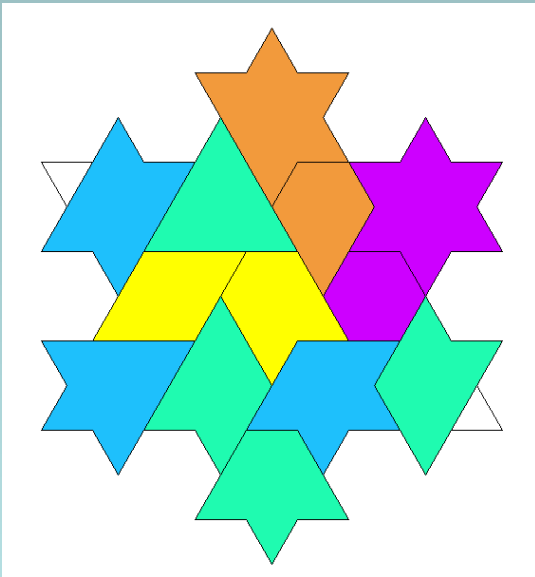
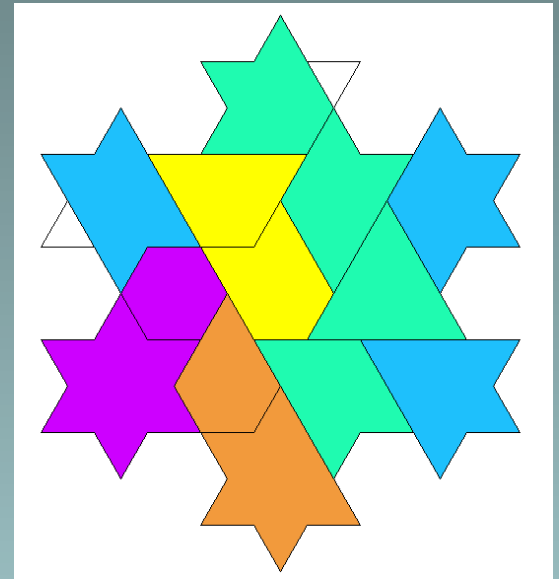
and more...



Now capture all your stars within a hive
That only corners touch, a mighty feat,



Or join just thirteen so that stars arrive,
2 points less, yet balance mirrored sweet.



This marvelous set in Kastellorizo earned
The Archimedes prize for puzzle fame.



With Archimedes, too, a fourteen turned
Into our awesomely historic game.



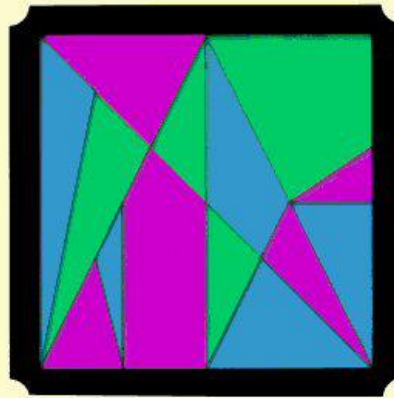
Tricolor
Stomachion
The other
14-piece
puzzle!



We celebrate today the old and new
As polyforms define the good and true.

And its
marvelous
monograph

***Available only
from Kadon***



THE TRICOLOR STOMACHION

A Monograph

A TASTY TALE

How three obscure amateurs pushed the frontier
forward on a 2200-year-old puzzle first studied by
Archimedes.

Kate Jones, Joe Marasco, and Alex Streif
Kadon Enterprises, Inc.

Thank you for watching...

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for the joy of thinking

