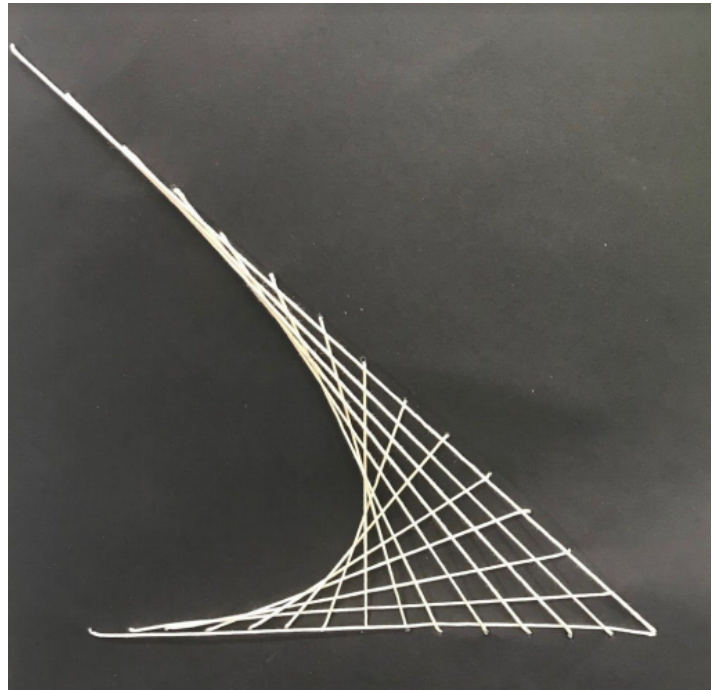


## Geometric String Art Inspired by Jo Baer

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY  
DESIGNED BY MONA  
EDUCATORS



*Educator example*

*Source: Museum of Northwest Art*

### Materials

- Rulers
- Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Dot paper
- Black thick paper
- Tape
- Needles
- Scissors
- Thumbtacks (optional for punching)
- White thread (Cut in 3-4 inch strips)
- Cardboard to put under for pre-punching of holes

### Description

Inspired by Jo Baer's minimalist graph-paper drawings, *Triangle*, students will create a geometric art piece by sewing an acute or obtuse angle using thread on paper.

### Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Line
- ✓ Line segment
- ✓ Acute angle
- ✓ Obtuse angle

## Instructions

- 1) Show students the full-size image of Jo Baer's drawing (included at the end of this lesson) and begin a discussion based on the students' interests and experiences. Some ideas for questions include:
  - What do you think the artist was thinking/feeling when she made this?  
Does this drawing remind you of anything?
- 2) Introduce vocabulary of line, line segment, acute, and obtuse angles.
- 3) Ask students to choose one of the two dot templates, acute or obtuse angles (included in this lesson), and to draw pencil lines connecting the numbered dots to plan their string art. They can also add dots and lines to plan any personal touches.
- 4) Once they have their design the way they want it, they can glue it on the back of a piece of black paper.
  - Optional: The students might choose to pre-punch the holes using the needle/thumbtack (remind them to avoid pricking their fingers).
- 5) Show the students some techniques for threading their needle, such as wetting the end. Pull the string through hole #1 (poking the needle through the dot paper side) until the thread is almost through. Then tape or knot the end so that it doesn't pull all the way through.
- 6) Insert the needle again at #2 and pull taut.
- 7) Continue through all the #'s until the entire design is finished and tape or knot at the end to finish.
- 8) Continue adding any personal touches.

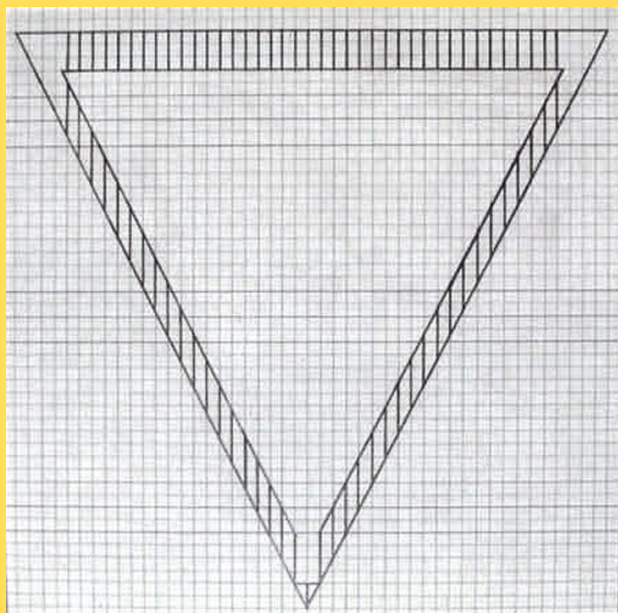
## Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **VA:Cr1.1.4** (Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem)

# About the Artist: Jo Baer

Jo Baer, was born Josephine Gail Kleinberg in Seattle, WA in 1929 and graduated from the University of Washington in 1949. She is one of the few female artists recognized as a part of the generally male Minimalist painting scene in New York in the 1960's and 70's. Her artworks are included in many public collections, such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Tate Gallery, London.



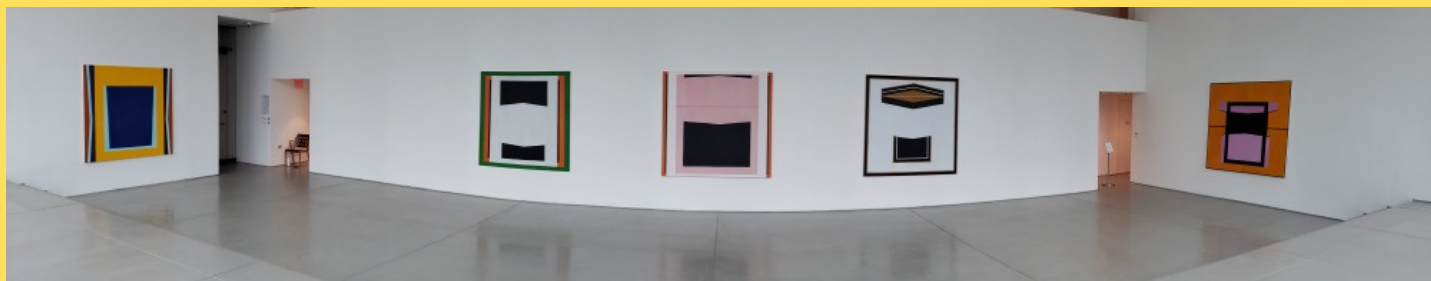
*Graph-Paper Drawings: Triangle, 1963*

Image source: [www.jobajer.net](http://www.jobajer.net)



Image: Jo Baer, 2020 © Yaël Temminck

Image Credit: [www.pacegallery.com/artists/jo-baer/](http://www.pacegallery.com/artists/jo-baer/)



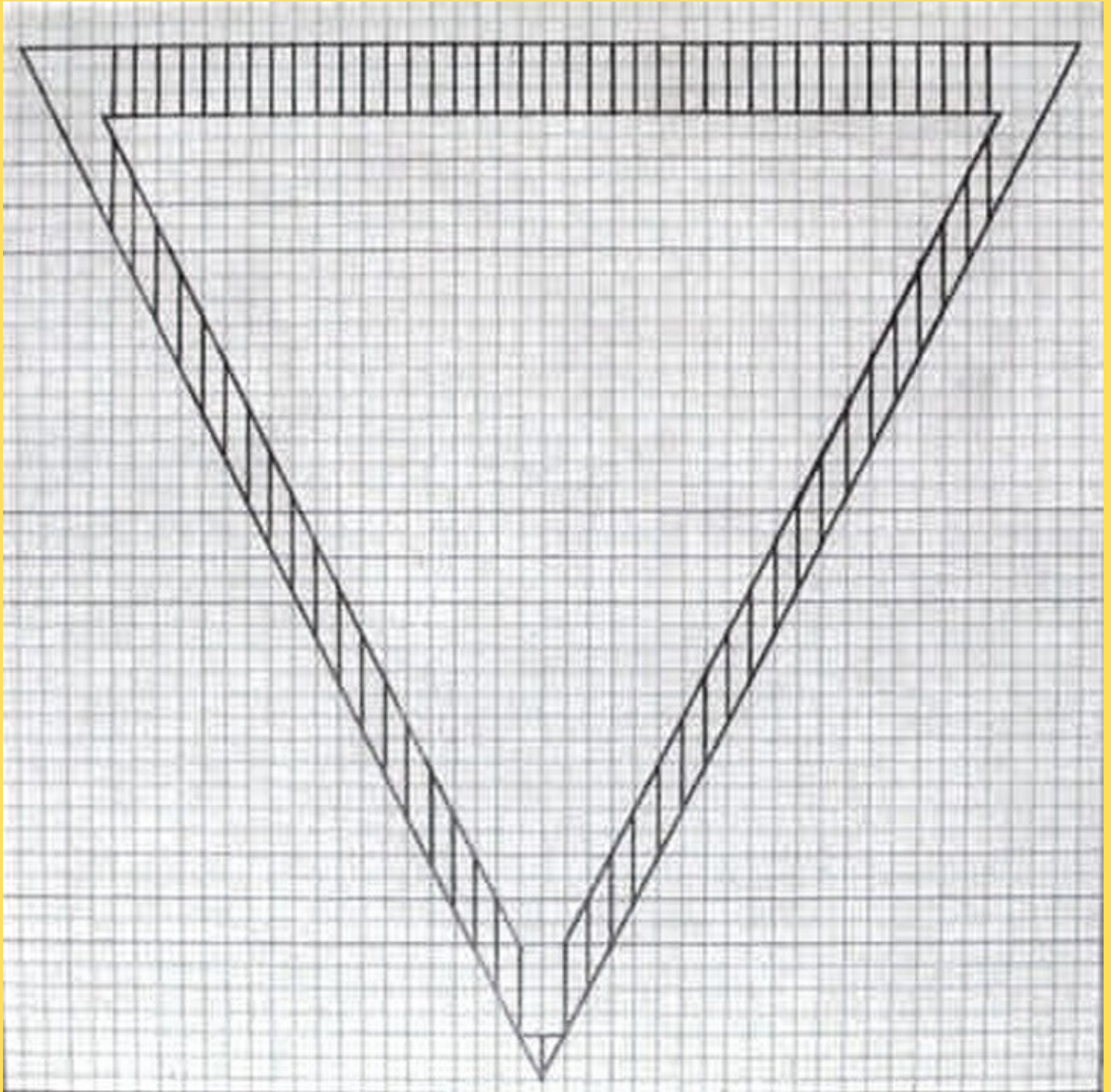
*Installation view*

RISEN from the New York 1960-1961 painting, reconstructed in Amsterdam in 2019

Pace Gallery, New York, 2020

Image credit: [www.jobajer.net/img/installation-view-the-risen-at-pace-gallery-new-york](http://www.jobajer.net/img/installation-view-the-risen-at-pace-gallery-new-york)



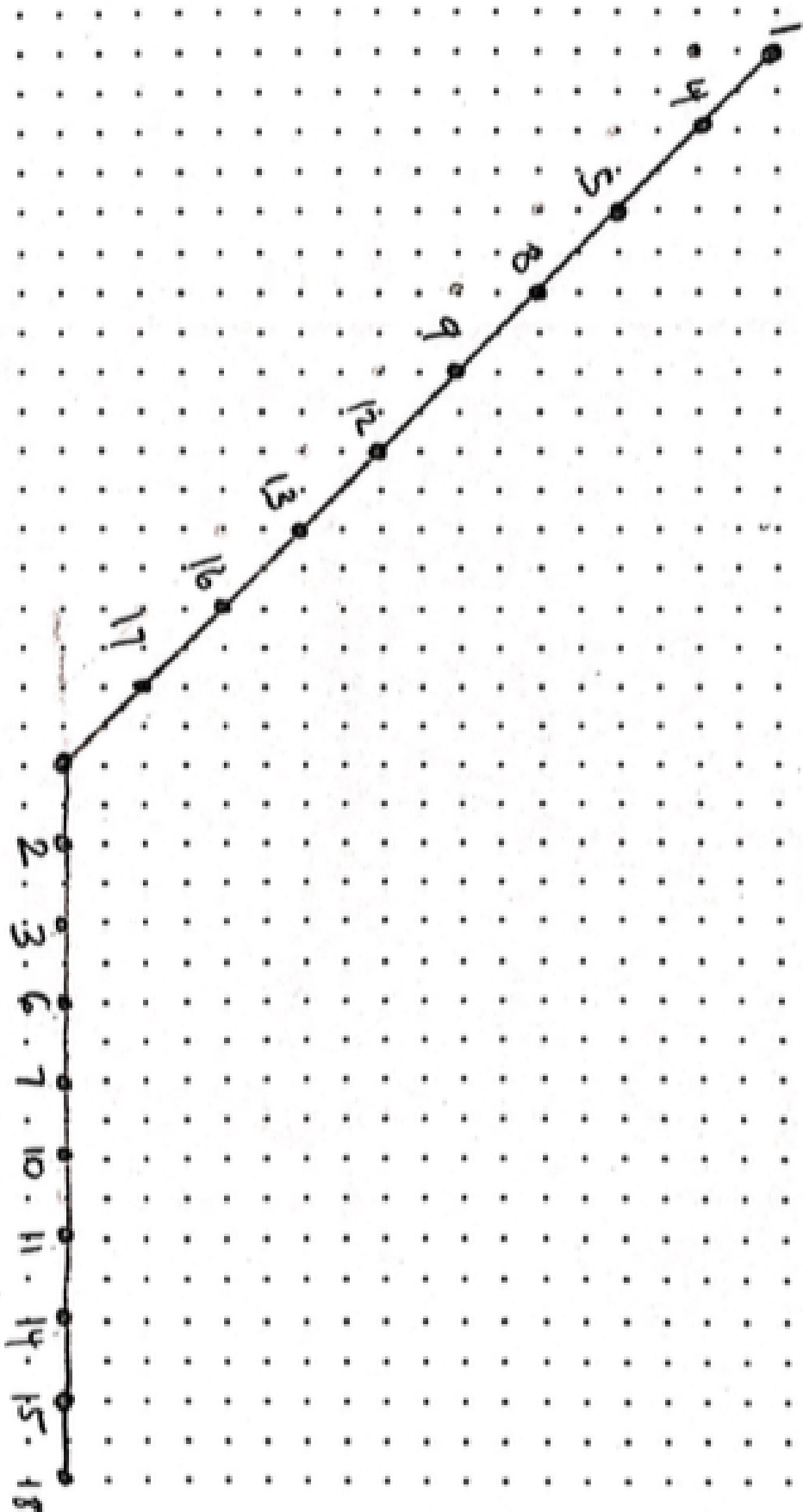


Graph-Paper Drawings: Triangle (from a set of eight)  
1963 - Pencil on Labanotation graph-paper - 15.3 x 15.3 cm

The LeWitt Collection, Chester, CT

Image source: [www.jobbaer.net/img/graph-paper-drawings-triangle](http://www.jobbaer.net/img/graph-paper-drawings-triangle)

# OBTUSE



# ACUTE

