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Glide Reflections as a Cultural and Artistic Value. Preliminary report.

In linear designs, some cultures, and certain art forms, regularly use glide-reflections as a pattern symmetry within their art. Other cultures and art forms avoid the use of such symmetries. Of course glide-reflections are probably the most difficult linear symmetry to see, and so some avoidance may be due to this difficulty. Some uses and avoidances may be due simply to a tradition that limits what patterns are “acceptable”. We will argue, though, that in at least some cases the preference for or against glide-reflections are due to specific artistic goals, cultural phenomena, or historical reasons. (Received September 22, 2010)