

# Ikon Activity Pack

## KS2

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. Inspired by Ikon's exhibitions by [Betsy Bradley](#) and [James T. Hong](#).

Created by artist Haseebah Ali, they include questions for thinking and talking about art in relation to other subjects, including global cultures and environments.

Share your creations with [learning@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:learning@ikon-gallery.org) or via social media [@ikongallery](#) [#ikongallery](#).

**IKON**



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# James T. Hong

## *Animal*

James T. Hong is a Taiwanese-American artist and filmmaker. His work encourages viewers to question their own thoughts and actions, often by using animals as characters in his films to reflect the behaviours of humans. The films focus on social matters including migration and the Covid-19 pandemic. It also explores historical issues including conflict in Asia. Film scenes in East Asia reflect the artist's cultural heritage and his experiences of living there.

**Key words and themes:** Culture, identity, migration, minority, discrimination, viewpoints.

**Method:** Film, photography and sound.

**Materials:** Camera and microphone.

**Related artists:** Francis Alÿs, Craig Baldwin, Yin-Ju Chen.



Installation view, James T. Hong, *Animal* (2021)



*The Duck of Nature/The Duck of God (2010)*

Watch the trailer [James T. Hong : Animal](#).

**In James T. Hong's film, *The Duck of Nature/ The Duck of God* (2010), a mechanical duck represents the experience of a migrant and the difficulties they may face.**

Why do you think the artist has chosen a mechanical duck to represent a migrant?

How might the film reflect an experience of migration?

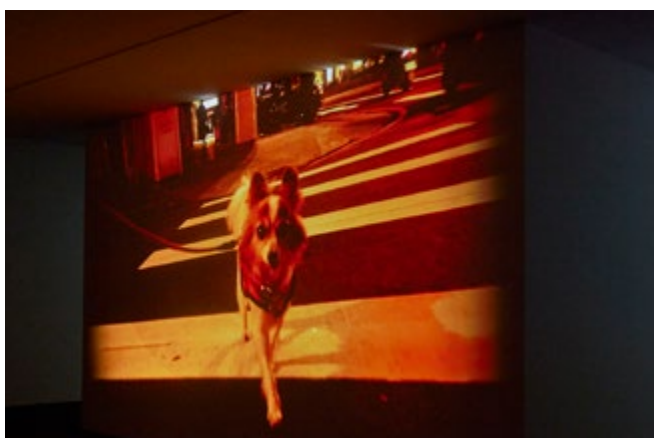


*De Anima (2021)*

***De Anima* (2021), presents different points of view of the pandemic, including that of the artist, the virus, and a dog.**

How are animals and humans similar and different?

What can animals teach us about the way humans live?



*De Anima (2021)*

# Exquisite corpse

Create a collaborative drawing, combining human and animal body parts, inspired by James T. Hong's works.

**You will need:** paper, pencil, coloured crayons, pen (optional).

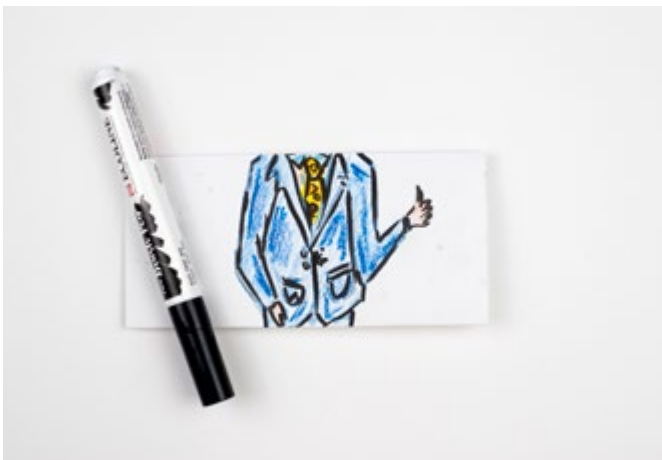
1. Divide a piece of paper into three sections and fold it so there are two creases.



2. Whilst the paper is folded, draw the head of your chosen animal and colour it in with your crayons. You can also outline some parts in pen to create a bolder look.



3. Then draw the torso and arms of a human. You can dress the human however you like with your crayons.



4. Finally draw and colour in animal legs. Fold out the paper to reveal your character.



# Betsy Bradley

## *Chasing Rainbows*

Betsy Bradley creates big, bold and colourful paintings using see-through fabrics, including materials called voile and organza. She makes her own large paintbrushes to create different marks and brushstrokes. The artist is inspired by an art movement from Japan called Mono-ha, which involves experimenting with different natural and man-made objects as artworks.

**Key words and themes:** Colour, mark-making, dance, movement, everyday, environment.

**Method:** Painting, sculpture, printmaking.

**Materials:** Paint, fabric, canvas, wood, found objects.

**Related artists:** Claire Barclay, Bernice Bing, Giorgio Griffa, Masahiro Suda, Alexis Teplin, Lee Ufan.



Installation view, Betsy Bradley, *Chasing Rainbows* (2021)



*Surfing Between Dreams* (2021)

Take a [3D tour of the exhibition](#).

Watch the film [Introducing Betsy Bradley](#).



*Boogie Wall* (2021)

**Betsy Bradley uses different tools, objects and paintbrushes to create marks in her works.**

What different household objects could you use instead of a paintbrush?

What different materials could you use for a surface to paint on?



*Fireworks* (2021)

**The artist uses dance-like movements to apply paint to the surface of her work.**

Look at *Fireworks* (2021). How do you think the artist has made this artwork? What movements has she used?

The artist made this work in her garden. What environment might you use?

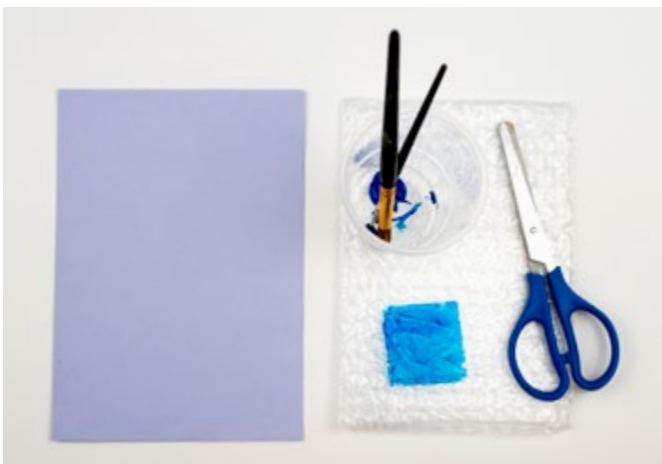
How do you think creating art in different places will affect what you make?

# Abstract painting

Create a painting using household objects, inspired by the way Betsy Bradley creates artworks.

**You will need:** Coloured paper, paint, paintbrush, bubble wrap, cotton buds, buttons, beads or anything else you can find.

1. Cut a piece of bubble wrap into a shape and apply paint evenly onto it using a paintbrush.



2. Press the bubble wrap onto your paper like a stamp so the paint transfers to the paper. Continue doing this in different areas of the paper.



3. Choose a bead or button, paint and stamp with it in the same way.



4. Finally dip a cotton bud into paint and brush it onto the paper. You can also include dots. Let your artwork dry.



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