



Ikon Activity Pack

KS3

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 or via social media [@ikongallery](#) [#ikongallery](#).

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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 values, attitudes and beliefs, and how our morals and ethics shape our actions. Often, the artist's films feature animals that reflect human behaviour. Video works included in Ikon's exhibition highlight social matters including migration and the Covid-19 pandemic. They also reflect the artist's cultural heritage and the preconceptions that surfaced at the beginning of the pandemic.

Key words and themes: Human, animal, behaviour, culture, identity, migration.

Method: Film, photography, sound.

Materials: Camera, 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, as it attempts to integrate with the 'real' ducks.

Why do you think the artist has used a mechanical duck to represent an experience of migration?

How do you think somebody's experience of living in a new country will differ from somebody living in a country they were born in?

***De Anima* (2021) presents different points of view of the pandemic, including that of artist, the virus, and a dog. The artist's work often touches on political, controversial or unspoken topics.**

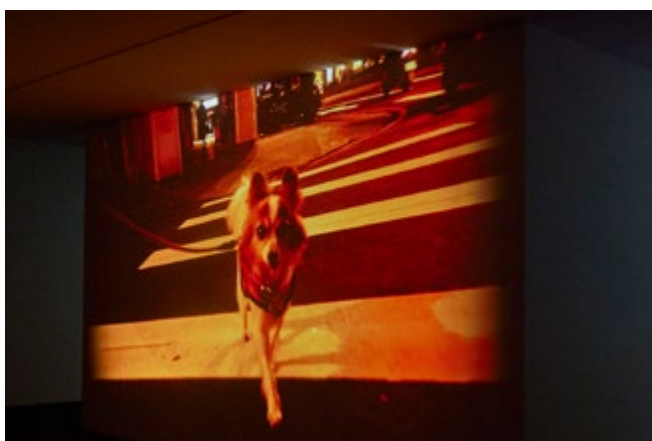
What difficulties do you think people from other countries have faced during the pandemic?

Do you think it is important for artists to highlight topics like these?

How does the artist communicate their point of view through the film?



De Anima (2021)



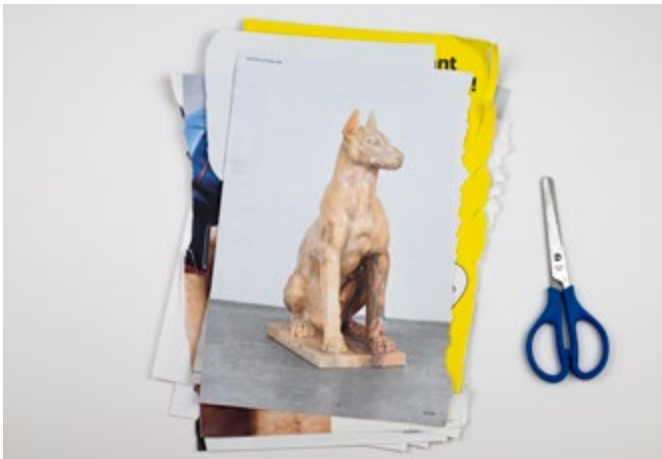
De Anima (2021)

Dear humans

Create a collage inspired by the animals in James T. Hong's films. Include a letter written from an animal's point of view about how humans may take better care of the environment.

You will need: Magazines, paper, glue, scissors, coloured pencils.

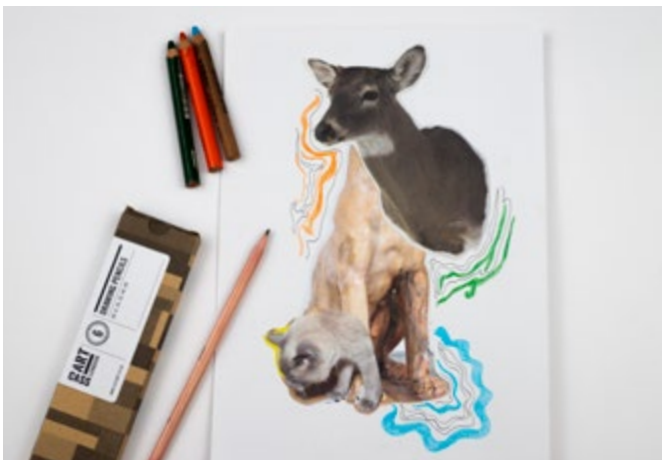
1. Look through old magazines and cut out a selection of animal images.



2. Arrange these on your paper to create a collage. Once you're happy with their placement, glue them down.



3. Around or over the top of your collage, write a letter from the perspective of the animal.



4. Add drawings and illustrations to your collage.



Betsy Bradley

Chasing Rainbows

Betsy Bradley creates large-scale, 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 a Japanese philosophy called Wabi Sabi, which helps us to appreciate the beauty of imperfections in nature.

Key words and themes: Colour, mark-making, dance, movement, impulse, light.

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)



Totem (2020)

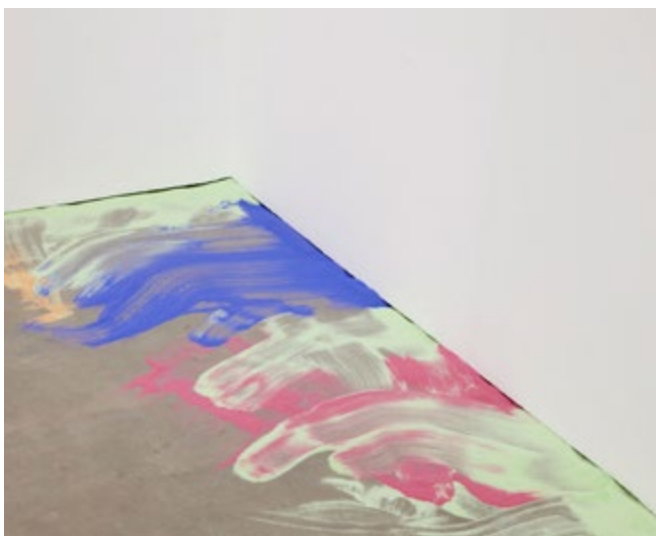
Take a [3D tour of the exhibition](#).

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

Betsy Bradley is inspired by Wabi Sabi, which teaches us about the simplicity and imperfect beauty in nature.

Look at the painting *Totem* (2020). What elements of Wabi Sabi can you see in the painting?

What can Wabi Sabi teach us about the way we look at nature?



Pure Shores (2021)

The artist uses her whole body to create work, describing painting as a "dance between herself and the paint".

How would you describe the techniques used to apply paint to the surface?

Do you think it's important for artists to experiment and be impulsive when making artworks? Or should artworks be carefully planned?



Fireworks (2021)

Stencil printing

Experiment with shapes and patterns inspired by the screen printing techniques used by Betsy Bradley when creating artworks.

You will need: Paper, pencil, craft knife, sponge, paint, masking tape, tray.

1. On two pieces of paper, draw shapes and patterns using a pencil. Make sure the first pattern is different from the second.



2. Cut out the shapes using a craft knife to create two stencils.



3. Place the first pattern on top of some paper and stick the corners down using masking tape. Using a sponge, dab paint over the stencil, applying it to the areas you've cut out. Remove the stencil and leave to dry.



4. Once dry, place your second pattern onto the same paper and repeat the process using a different colour paint. When you're happy with the result, remove the stencil and tape. Leave to dry.



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