



Ikon Activity Pack KS3

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. Inspired by Ikon's exhibition by [Carlo Crivelli](#).

Created by artist [Farwa Moledina](#), 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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Carlo Crivelli

Born in Venice, Italy, c.1430, Carlo Crivelli painted Christian subjects, including scenes from the Bible. He played with the idea of paintings as windows onto the world, often including plants, flowers and animals as symbols. He used a system of perspective to represent objects in three-dimensional space, painted to appear solid and real, on a two-dimensional surface. His work is an example of trompe-l'oeil – a French word that translates as 'tricking the eye'. Crivelli was part of the Italian Renaissance – another French word meaning 'rebirth' – a period in art history between the Middle Ages and modern times.

Key words and themes: Renaissance, Gothic, painting, geometry, perspective, trompe-l'oeil (optical illusion), sculptural relief, symbolism, figurative, symmetry, background, middleground, foreground

Method: Painting.

Materials: Tempera, panel, gold leaf.

Related artists: Antonio Vivarini, Bartolomeo Vivarini, Michaelangelo, Titian, Giovanni Bellini, Giotto, Susan Collis, Audrey Flack



Installation view, Carlo Crivelli, *Shadows on the Sky* (2022), Ikon Gallery



Madonna and Child (1482)

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

Look at *Madonna and Child*.

Can you describe the following?

- The landscape
- The clothing
- The objects

What do you think the following objects represent?

- Apple
- Flower
- Fly

This is a 'devotional painting'. What do you think that means?

Can you think of an equivalent female icon in different culture/ faith?

Perspective is the illusion of three-dimension space on a two-dimensional surface. Renaissance artists experimented with perspectival techniques to give a sense of pictorial depth, often involving a foreground, middle ground and background.

Look at *The Vision of the Blessed Gabriele*.

What objects does Crivelli use to give the painting perspective?

What objects can you see in the foreground, middle ground and background?

Are the objects to scale with each other e.g. the trees and the man?

What is unusual about the use of perspective in this painting?



The Vision of the Blessed Gabriele (c. 1489)



Crivelli's paintings include elements intended to trick the eye.

Look at the objects in the foreground of *The Annunciation, with Saint Emidius*.

Do they occupy the space of the picture or the space of the viewer?

What are the different worlds/ realms in Crivelli's paintings?

The Annunciation, with Saint Emidius (1486)

Tempera painting

Crivelli used tempera paint which is made when pigment is mixed with a substance like egg yolk or oil. Use ground pigment, mixed with egg yolk to make tempera paint. Paint into your drawing using this mixture.

You will need: Egg, pigment (spices, make-up or chalk), bowl, paintbrush, palette, tissues, eraser, spoon.

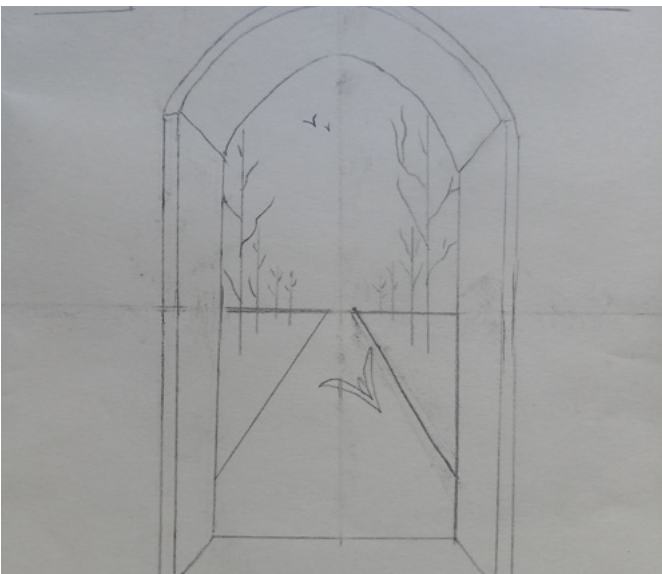
1. Separate the egg. An easy way to do this is to use a straining spoon. Place the egg yolk into your bowl and mix using your spoon.



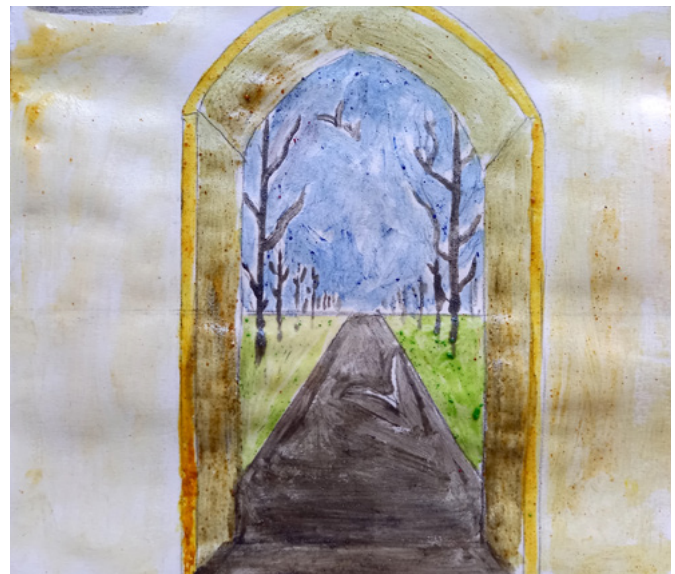
2. Ground your pigment using the back of your spoon and mix into your egg mixture. An egg tray makes a good palette.



3. Erase your guidelines from your drawing.



4. Paint! The more yolk you add, the lighter your paint colour will be.

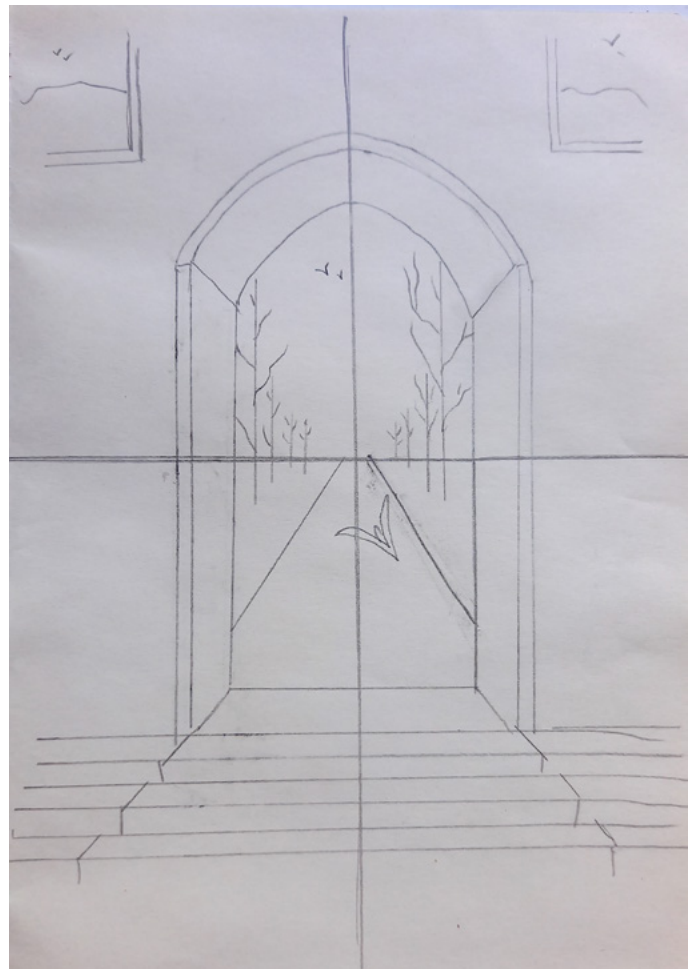
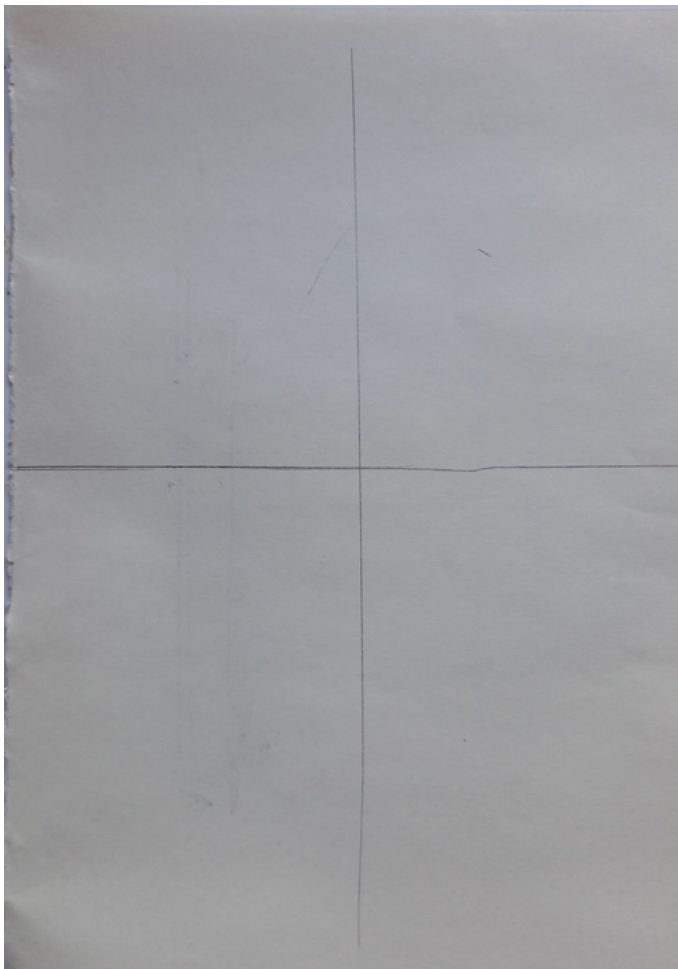


Geometry and Perspective

Make a painting inspired by Crivelli's use of linear perspective, geometry, symmetry and straight lines. Use lines and shapes to add perspective to the work.

You will need: Paper, ruler, pencil.

1. Start by dividing your page equally into four sections. Do this by drawing a vertical line and a horizontal line halfway through the page.
 2. Using the horizontal line as your horizon line, make a drawing that is symmetrical and has straight lines.
 3. Thinking about background, middleground and foreground, try and add perspective to your drawing.
- Notice how the birds and trees are larger the closer they are to the viewer.
 - Here linear perspective has been used.



Glossary

Background

The background of a scene is the furthest away. Objects in the background are meant to appear further away so they are much smaller, less colourful and include less detail than objects that are close to the viewer.

Middleground

The middleground is the space between the background and foreground.

Foreground

The foreground of a landscape is generally closer to the bottom of the painting. As this part of the scene is closest to the viewer, the objects appear to be larger and more colourful.

Symmetry

Something is symmetrical when it is the same on both sides.

Horizon line

The horizon line is the place where the sky meets the land.

Vanishing point

The point at which the parallel lines in linear perspective meet, normally at the horizon.

Linear perspective

Linear perspective is a technique used by artists to create an illusion of depth on a flat surface. If you look along a straight road, the furthest edges of the road look as if they are coming together. Parallel lines get closer the further they move away from the viewer.

Share your artworks

We invite everyone to exhibit their artworks in their homes or classrooms and share them with us on social media #ikongallery or email learning@ikon-gallery.org

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