



# Ikon Activity Pack KS4

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. Inspired by [Hew Locke's](#) work *Foreign Exchange*, Victoria Square, Summer 2022. presented by Birmingham 2022 Festival and commissioned by Ikon.

Created by artist [Monica Perez Vega](#), the packs 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](#).

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# Hew Locke

Hew Locke is a Guyanese-British artist based in London. He was born in Edinburgh, but grew up in Georgetown, Guyana. Locke became interested in statues as a child in Guyana, where he passed a sculpture of Queen Victoria every day on his way to school. He has been re-imagining historic statues for over twenty years, often using photographs which he then paints over and decorates.

**Key words and themes:** Empire, Commonwealth, history, identity, intervention, historical revisionism.

**Method:** Drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, photography.

**Materials:** Paint, fibreglass, found objects (including replica medals and bronze).

**Related artists:** Lubaina Himid, Keith Piper, Thomas J. Price, Marc Quinn.



Hew Locke, *Hinterland* (2013)



Hew Locke, Photo by Indra Khanna

**There are over eight hundred public statues of people in the United Kingdom. Statues provide a way to celebrate, remember and tell stories of historically significant figures. For example, a statue of Mary Seacole, a British-Jamaican pioneering nurse, was unveiled in 2016.**

Why do we have statues?

Do you think the meaning of statues stays the same or changes over time?

Who would you like to see a statue of?

How might you use technology to re-imagine and develop a new statue?

**There are many statues of Queen Victoria across the Commonwealth.**

Can you find images online?

Why do you think there are so many statues of Queen Victoria across the Commonwealth?

What message does her image convey?

How does the meaning change depending on where the statue is located? For example, in a park, in front of a justice court or in a museum.

What materials are the statues made from?

Why does Hew Locke adorn her, and other Victorian era statues, in gold chains, medals and other regalia?

**There is a statue of Queen Victoria in front of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The original statue was made in marble by Sir Thomas Brock in 1901 and recast in bronze by William Bloye in 1951. Look at the artwork *Foreign Exchange*.**

Why does the artist add a boat and smaller Victorias around the existing statue?

Why do you think the artist has titled the artwork *Foreign Exchange*?



*Foreign Exchange* by Hew Locke, a temporary public artwork presented by the Birmingham 2022 Festival and commissioned by Ikon. Photo by Shaun Fellows. Courtesy of Birmingham 2022 Festival and Ikon

# Re-imagining Queen Victoria

Hew Locke is interested in re-imagining public sculptures of historical figures. He does this by decorating them with materials including gold chains, medals and lace. Can you re-imagine Birmingham's statue of Queen Victoria by stitching 'gold chains' into an image of her statue? What else can you add to redecorate her image?

**You will need:** Queen Victoria line drawing print-out [page 5] (on cartridge or heavier paper), camera, cartridge paper or card, needle and metallic embroidery thread, paintbrush, watercolour paints, pot of water, pencil.

1. Search online or take a photograph of a Victorian era statue.



2. Create a line drawing from this photo (or use the template provided) onto cartridge paper or heavier card.



3. Stitch into your drawing with metallic embroidery thread to reimagine the figure adorned in elaborate regalia.



4. Illustrate the background with a cityscape, imagery and/or patterns inspired by the Commonwealth.



# I am Victoria

Create a self-portrait of yourself, resembling the image of Queen Victoria, using printing techniques.

**You will need:** Camera, printer, A4 paper, cartridge paper, printing ink and roller, pencil, crown prop.

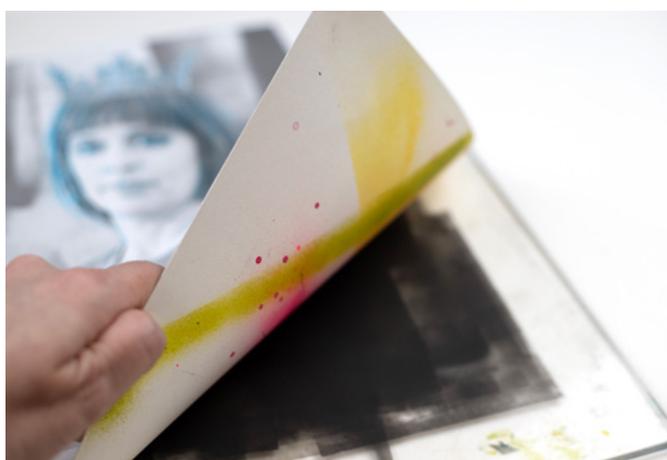
**1.** Paint an abstract background using vibrant colours and different patterns. Set aside to dry.



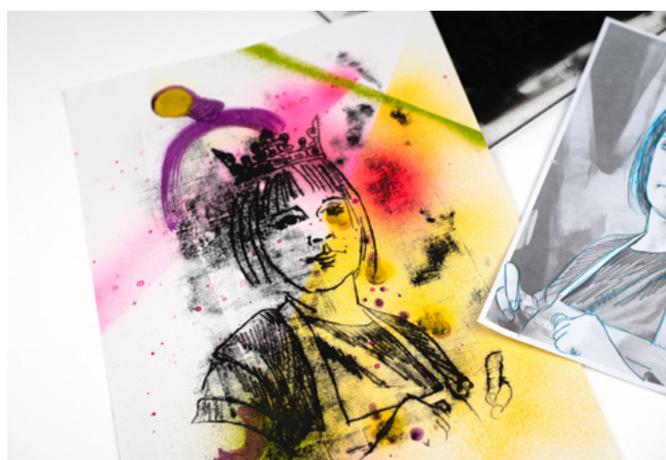
**2.** Can you find or borrow a crown, or try making your own out of paper or other recycled materials? Take a black and white photograph of yourself wearing a crown and print onto A4 paper.



**3.** Roll out black printing ink onto a clean flat surface. Use a sheet of newspaper or tissue to absorb excess ink.



**4.** Place your abstract background face down onto the ink surface with your photograph taped on top. Draw over your photograph with a pencil to make the transfer print.





# 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](mailto:learning@ikon-gallery.org)

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