



Ikon Activity Pack KS2

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. Inspired by Ikon's showcase by [Vanley Burke](#).

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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Vanley Burke

Ikon Gallery, Migrant Voice and University of Birmingham worked with artist Vanley Burke to photograph people who were born overseas and currently live in Birmingham, the UK's second biggest city. The people were portrayed by the artist in their homes, parks and places of work. They were also interviewed by researchers about the help and support they received to settle into their new communities. The photographs were exhibited at Ikon Gallery, where they were seen by visitors who were asked questions about their own experience and understanding of migration.

Key words: Migration, city, community, diversity

Art form: Photography, portraiture, storytelling, documentary

Materials: Vanley Burke is a British artist who was born in Jamaica in 1951. For his 10th birthday, he was sent a camera by his mother who moved to the UK while he remained with his aunt in Jamaica. At the age of 14 he joined his parents, taking his camera with him. For more than fifty years, Burke has photographed people arriving and settling in this country.



Collette and her children (2021)



Nas delivered (2021)



Kurdy fighting back (2021)

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

Look at the photograph *Kurdy fighting back (2021)*

Vanley Burke likes to photograph in black and white rather than colour. This makes his work seem more factual, like he is documenting a real event.

What do Kurdy's clothes tell you about him?

From his facial expression, what do you think Kurdy is feeling in that moment?

In your own words, what do you think 'fighting back' means?

Kurdy left his country to pursue his dream of becoming a professional fighter. Do you know someone who has left their country to follow their dream?

Do you think everyone can achieve their dreams in the UK?



Vanley Burke's portrait of Kurdy is included in an exhibition titled *A Gift to Birmingham*.

Can you spot the 'gifts' people are giving to Birmingham?

Does a 'gift' need to be object? Can it be a story, song or skill?

In your own words, can you describe what a migrant is?

Using the glossary can you describe the difference between a migrant, refugee and asylum seeker?



Top left: *Nas delivered (2021)*

Top right: *Mashkura (2021)*

Bottom left: *Zarah with her mother Lufta at Saathi House (2021)*

Bottom right: *Kurdy fighting back (2021)*

What does it mean to be part of a diverse community?

When do you see people from different communities coming together?

What's the best way to protect people's differences?

Why might some people be threatened by different races, religions and cultures?



Sundus (2021)

Group exercise

In a group of four, decide who is:

The interviewer – the person who asks the storyteller three questions about their experience of travelling or living in Birmingham/UK.

The storyteller – the person who answers the interviewer's three questions about their experience of travelling or living in Birmingham/UK.

The artist – the person who captures the story in writing, drawing, photography or film.

The facilitator – the person who helps the interviewer, storyteller and artist and considers ways of sharing the artwork with the wider school community.

Origami Swallow Stories

Vanley Burke creates stories through his photographs that offer a glimpse into people's lives. Work collaboratively with storytelling and origami to create a 3D paper swallow that reveals your life journey.

You will need: A camera or phone, scissors, printer, two coloured pens.

1. Take a picture of yourself in the style of Vanley Burke's portraits and print it in black and white. Cut the paper into a square that is roughly 20 x 20cm.



2. Turn the picture over. Write your name and three words to describe yourself. Then ask another person in the room to do the same on your piece of paper.



3. With the writing facing you, fold the paper in half from the top to the bottom corner. You should have an upside-down triangle.



4. Fold part of the top down so that the edge is about halfway down. Don't make this flap too thin because this will become the wings.



5. Turn the paper over. Take the bottom corner of the top layer and fold it up like this.



6. Fold the piece in half from the left over to the right side.



7. Now fold that same flap back to make one of the wings.



8. Fold the other wing back also.



9. Push the top corner of the head in to create a beak.



10. Display all your origami birds together either on a board or table.



Glossary

Refugee

A refugee is a person who has left their country because they are at risk there.

Asylum Seeker

An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is asking for protection in another country. They have to wait to be legally recognised as a refugee.

Migrant

A person who has moved from the country they were born in to another.

Diversity

People from a range of different backgrounds, lifestyles and interests.

Social change

Social change is the way human interactions and relationships transform culture and organisations.

Community

A group of people that come together and share similar interests.

A Gift to Birmingham has been commissioned as part of the 'Non-formal Intercommunal Education in Birmingham (NICE-B)' project funded by the ESRC-IAA and led by Dr Reza Gholami, Deputy Director of the Centre for Research in Race and Education, [University of Birmingham](#).

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