

# IKON ACTIVITY PACK KS3

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. They are inspired by Ikon's exhibition *Horror in the Modernist Block*, which includes artworks by 20 artists exploring the relationship between architecture and horror.

Created by artist Sebas Hau from [ITZATNA Arts](https://www.itzatnaarts.com), the packs include questions for thinking and talking about art in relation to other subjects, including global cultures and environments.

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

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# EXPLORE ARTWORKS BY FIRENZE LAI



Firenze Lai (born 1984, Hong Kong) is a visual artist living and working in London, UK. Her artworks explore how the human mind and body adapt and react to different situations and architecture. Figures, urban interiors and outdoor spaces feature in Lai's paintings. These artworks signify how people respond to overcrowded cities and an uncertain modern world.

**Key term:** Modernist architecture is a term used to describe a type of architecture designed and built during the 20th century and that is minimal in style.

**Key words and themes:** Urban environments, figures, human relationships, collectiveness, social experience, psychology.

**Method:** Painting, drawing, illustration.

**Related artists:** Francis Bacon, Zhang Enli, Lubaina Himid, Karim Kal.

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

# LOOK AT THE ARTWORK

## *UNION* (2022)



Notice how Firenze Lai has painted the room the figures are standing in. The artist has used 'linear perspective' to create an illusion of depth on a flat surface. Parallel lines get closer the further they move away from the viewer. The point at which they meet is called the 'vanishing point'.

Can you identify the 'perspective lines' in the painting? How many are there?

Can you identify the 'vanishing point'?

How would you describe the figures and the space they are standing in?

What colours has the artist used? Why do you think they have used these colours?

# LOOK AT THE ARTWORKS

## *SYSTEM #1* (2019)

## *INFORMATION CENTRE* (2018)



Notice how Firenze Lai has painted the figures, deliberately making them 'out of proportion', which means they have not been drawn to a realistic scale.

Firenze Lai  
*System #1* (2019)  
Oil on canvas, 100 × 80 cm  
Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space



What shapes has the artist used to represent different parts of the body?

What do you think the yellow shapes around the seated figure represent?

How do you think the people in the paintings feel? How might their surroundings be affecting their mood?

How do Lai's paintings make you feel?

Firenze Lai  
*Information Centre* (2018)  
Oil on canvas, 110 × 110 cm  
Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space

# RESPONSE

## *PERSPECTIVE SPACES*

Create a drawing of an interior or exterior space using linear perspective.

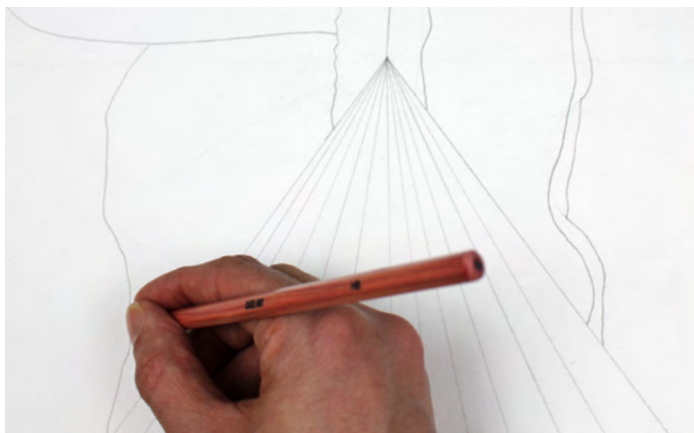
**You will need:** A4 paper or card, pencil, pen, ruler, paint, paintbrush.



- 1 Use a ruler to draw a horizontal line across the width, and near to the top, of your paper or card. Use a pencil to mark a dot on this 'horizon' line. This will become the 'vanishing point'.



- 2 Place your ruler at an angle and draw lines that extend from your 'vanishing point' to the bottom of your paper. These are your 'perspective lines'.



- 3 Create three or four perspective lines that extend from your vanishing point. Then, draw a square within your perspective lines so the top and bottom lines of the square are parallel to the 'horizon lines'. Make lines that are perpendicular to the 'horizon line' to connect the sides of your box.



- 4 Paint your room. Choose different colours for the floor, walls, ceiling or roof. Think about where you want the lighter and darker areas of your painted room to be.

# RESPONSE

## *FIGURES AS SUBJECTS*

**Draw, paint and cut out figures and arrange them in your perspective space.**

**You will need:** Paper or card, pencil, paint, scissors, glue.



- 1 Using a pencil, draw a figure – or the outline of a person – onto paper or card. Think about the proportions of your figure. Experiment with making the proportions of your figure bigger or smaller and less realistic.



- 2 Draw more figures onto your paper or card. Now, paint your figures. Try using similar colours to Frieze Lai's paintings.



- 3 Using scissors, cut out your painted figures and place them onto the space you created as part of the first activity. Think about where the figures should be positioned in your artwork.



- 4 Glue the figures onto your painting. Display your artwork at home or in your classroom and ask your family and friends what they see and think about when they look at it.

# SCHOOLS AT IKON

Ikon welcomes school groups and offers free online resources, activity packs, tours and workshops.

**VIEW SCHOOLS OFFER**



**Ikon Gallery**  
**1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace**  
**Birmingham B1 2HS**  
**+44 (0) 121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org**

Open Wednesday–Sunday, 11am–5pm  
Free entry, donations welcome

Stay in touch

   @ikongallery

Please consider [making a donation](#) for this free resource. Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do.

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