



# IKON ACTIVITY PACK KS1

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. They are inspired by Ikon's exhibition by [Melati Suryodarmo](#).

Created by artist Liz Ord, 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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# MELATI SURYODARMO



Melati Suryodarmo (b. 1969, Surakarta) is one of Indonesia's most important living artists, known for her durational performances that last several hours, testing the limits of the mind and body.

Suryodarmo's artworks, including installations, films, sculpture, drawing and photography, explore themes of time, labour and identity.

**Key words and themes:** Identity, mindfulness, the body, performance.

**Method:** Performance art, installation, film, sculpture, drawing, photography.

**Related artists:** Marina Abramović, Janine Antoni, Ana Mendieta, Yoko Ono, Tino Sehgal, Lee Wen.

# LOOK AT PHOTOS OF SURYODARMO'S PERFORMANCE *I'M A GHOST IN MY OWN HOUSE* (2023).



**In this durational performance, Suryodarmo grinds blocks of charcoal with a stone rolling pin for 12 hours. As it turns into dust, charcoal symbolises the energy of life and the grinding action represents the passing of time.**

The photographs show the artist at the beginning, middle and end of the performance. What differences can you spot?

How would you feel doing the same action for 12 hours?

**The work reflects the artist's feelings on returning to Indonesia after living in Germany for 20 years.**

How might it feel to return to a place you've not been to for a very long time?

What does belonging mean to you?

How can we make sure that people feel 'at home' and welcome in our communities?

# PERFORMANCE DRAWINGS

Create a drawing with crayons taped to your fingers. Use expressive, dance-like movements to make marks on paper. Be performative – this activity is as much about the movements you are making as the marks you leave behind. Try this activity individually and then with a friend.

**You will need:** Crayons, tape, a large piece of paper, colour wheel (page 5).



- 1 Gather your materials and, using your colour wheel, decide which coloured crayons you will use to make your drawing. Try using complementary colours – these appear opposite each other on the colour wheel and look brighter when used side-by-side. For example, red and green.

- 2 Tape crayons onto your fingers – three on each hand. Ask somebody to help you do this.



- 3 Twirl your fingers over a large piece of paper and make marks. Experiment by using big and small movements. Try going slow and then fast.

- 4 Once you are happy with your drawing, remove the crayons from your fingers and look at your artwork. Can you see any patterns in your drawing? Ask your friends and family what they see and think about when they look at your artwork.

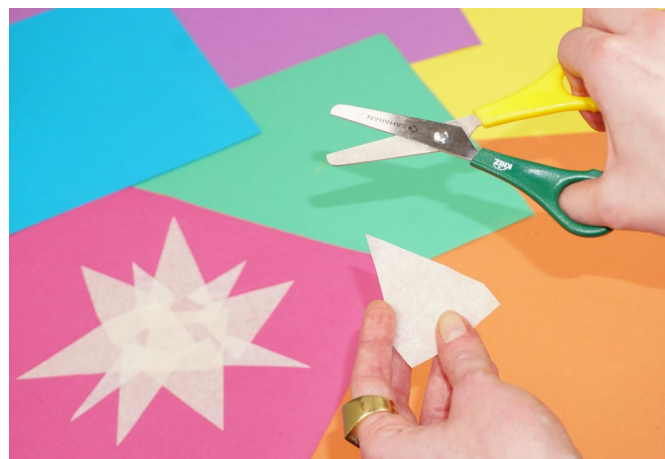
# MARK MAKING

Crush chalk onto paper – similar to how Suryodarmo grinds charcoal in her performance – to create bold and colourful artworks. Remember, performance is as much about the actions you are making as the final artwork you create.

**You will need:** Masking tape, scissors, chalk, a piece of paper, colour wheel (page 5), setting spray.



1 Gather your materials.



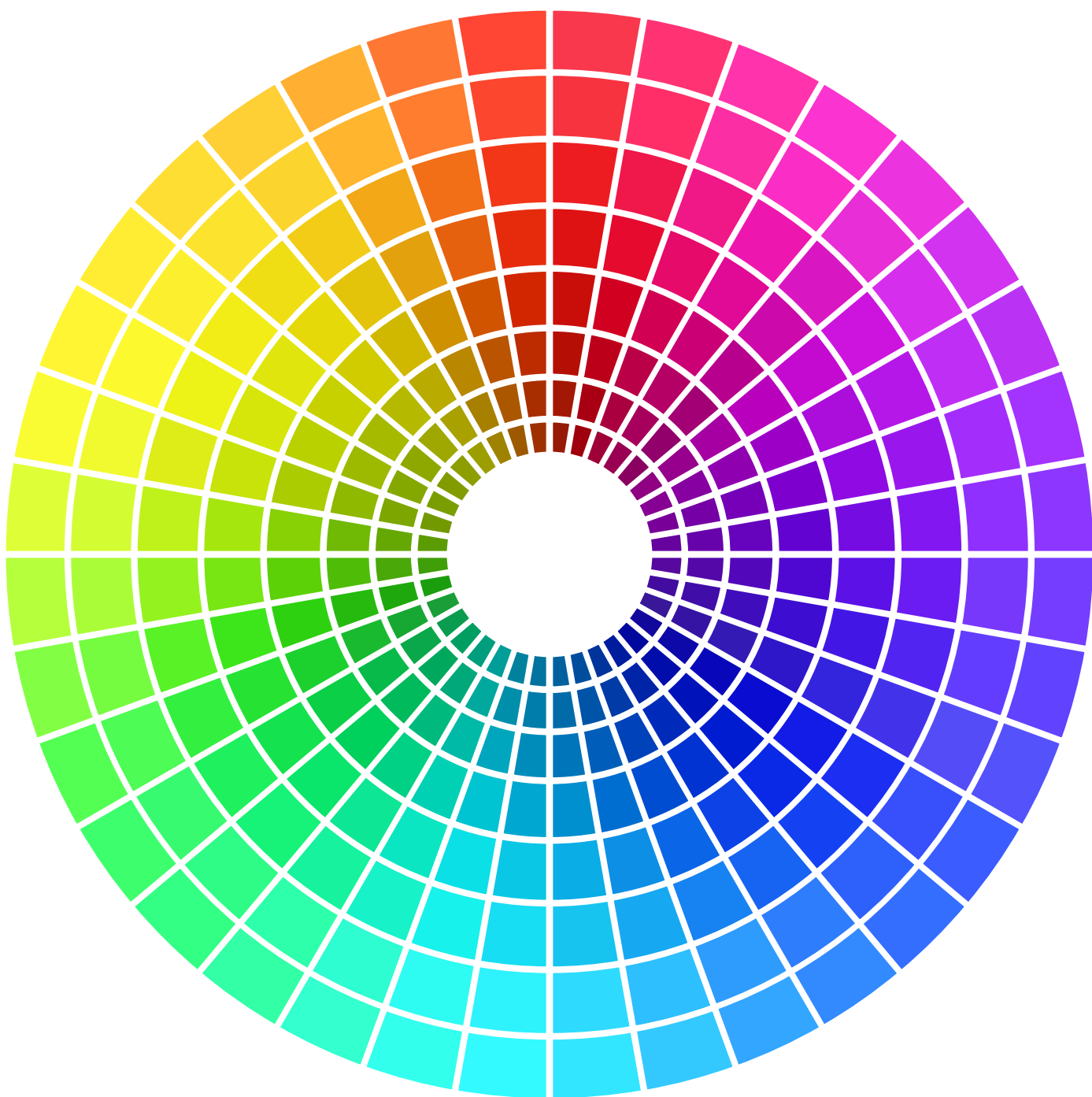
2 Cut different shapes out of masking tape and stick them onto a piece of paper creating different shapes and patterns.



3 Using your fingers, or a utensil, crush chalk into the paper. Be creative and expressive with your mark making.



4 Peel the tape away to reveal your design! You can use setting spray to stop your work from smudging. Ask your friends and family what they see and think about when they look at your artwork.



# 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](http://ikon-gallery.org)

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

Stay in touch

      @ikongallery

Taking part in the activities in this pack can contribute towards achieving an Arts Award certificate. For more information visit: [www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk) or contact Ikon's Education Team at [education@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:education@ikon-gallery.org)

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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