



IKON ACTIVITY PACK

KS2

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

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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 SWEET DREAMS SWEET (2023), IKON GALLERY.



***Sweet Dreams Sweet (2023)* is a delegated performance, in which other artists perform on behalf of Melati Suryodarmo. In this work, performers wear white costumes and in pairs they walk, lie down, sit and dip their feet into buckets of water coloured with blue dye. These actions symbolise tensions between individual and collective identity for women in Indonesia and around the world.**

Can you describe the different movements made by the performers?

Why do you think they are wearing white costumes?

Why do you think they are dipping their feet into buckets of water coloured with blue dye?

Collaboration is the act of working with others to produce something. Think about the last time you worked collaboratively – perhaps while cooking, playing sport or completing schoolwork.

Can you think of any times you have collaborated with members of your home or school community?

Do you find it easy or difficult to collaborate? Why might this be?

What rules can you come up with for good collaboration? For example, respect others.

Melati Suryodarmo, *Sweet Dreams Sweet*.
Performed at Ikon Gallery (2023). Images courtesy Ikon.
Photographer Tod Jones.

WORKING TOGETHER, BECOMING ONE.

Performance artists sometimes follow a plan but leave space to improvise. Improvisation is the act of doing something without planning beforehand. Explore improvisation during this collaborative exercise. Consider different words you might explore through movement, for example, softness, curiosity.

You will need: A partner, string or rope, jug of water, cup.



1 Gather and set-up your materials. Discuss the activity with a partner. Are you both ok with physical touch? As this activity is performed in silence, it's important to understand each other's boundaries.

2 Each person holds on to the end of a short piece of string or rope. Begin by mimicking each other's movements. Do this without speaking, moving slowly and observing the way that your partner moves. As you do this, try moving from one side of a room to another.



3 Try a different action. Together, can you fill a cup with water from a jug? Remember to match the pace of your partner.

4 As an additional challenge, together, can you carry the cup of water from one side of a room to another? Make sure you keep your attention on the pace of your partner, and the movements they are making.

CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION

Documenting performance art is important so that it can be remembered, recorded and shared with others. It is usually photographed or filmed which sometimes becomes an artwork itself and is shown in galleries and museums. Document movement using acetate as a filter.

You will need: A partner, a sheet of acetate, scissors, tape or glue, a device with a camera.



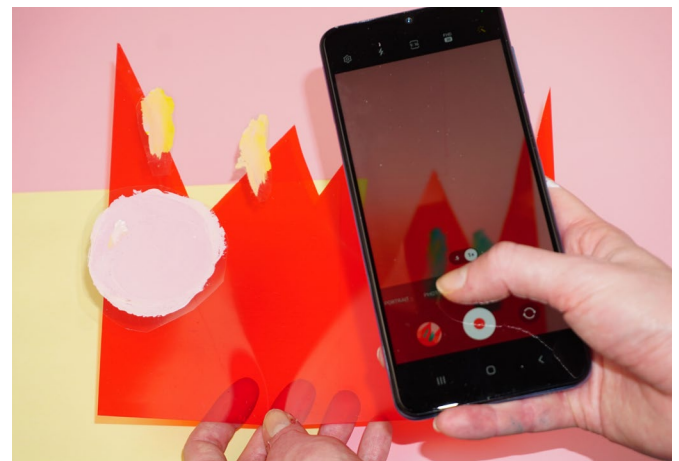
1 Gather your materials.



2 Using scissors, cut different shapes out of a sheet of acetate.



3 Tape or glue shapes together to create a filter to hold in front of a camera.



4 As you hold your filter in front of your camera, ask a partner to make a repetitive movement, for example, clapping, walking or twirling. Photograph or film their movements and observe how the filter changes the way you might view their movements. You can keep the filter still or move it around. Ask your partner what they see and think about when they look at your photographs or film.

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

Taking part in the activities in this pack can contribute towards achieving an Arts Award certificate. For more information visit: www.artsaward.org.uk or contact Ikon's Education Team at 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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