



IKON ACTIVITY PACK

KS3

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.

EXPLORE SURYODARMO'S PERFORMANCE *EXERGIE-BUTTER* DANCE (2000).



During the performance, Melati Suryodarmo slowly dances on blocks of butter. Her movements squash the butter, causing her to slip, fall and lift herself up repeatedly. The artist makes hand gestures in the style of Javanese dance – an art form created and inspired by Javanese culture in Indonesia.

What might it feel like to dance on butter?

Why do you think the artist is dancing on butter?

Can you describe the different types of movement the artist makes?

Suryodarmo explores how it feels to lose control of her body, as well as human strength and resilience in everyday life. Resilience is the ability to work through something that is difficult or challenging in life.

How do you think the artist feels when she falls?

Why do you think she repeatedly lifts herself up after falling down? What might this symbolise?

Can you think of a time when you had to work through something difficult? How did it feel and what did you learn?

Melati Suryodarmo, *Exergie-Butter Dance* (2000), performed at VideoBrasil 15, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2005). Photo credit: Isabell Matthaeus. Image courtesy of the artist.

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Performances often involve repeated actions. Create a performance map – a guide you can use during a performance which includes your own ideas and instructions. With a partner, write instructions for each other to follow. Include actions that will encourage you both to reflect on your actions and emotions during the performance.

For example:

1. Walk to a window
2. Imagine everyone you know is outside of it. Wave to them!
3. Spin around on the spot
4. Reach into your pocket
5. Imagine you find a daisy
6. Pluck its petals one by one
7. Gather the petals and throw them in the air
8. Reach into your other pocket – you find a birthday memory. Close your eyes. Remember it.

You will need: A partner, a large sheet of paper, pencil or pen, ruler.



- 1 Gather and set-up your materials. Discuss the activity with a partner. You might want to choose a theme, such as 'birthdays' or 'exploring'.



- 2 Fold a large sheet of paper in half like a booklet, and make lines to write on with a pencil and ruler.



- 3 Come up with performance instructions and write them down.

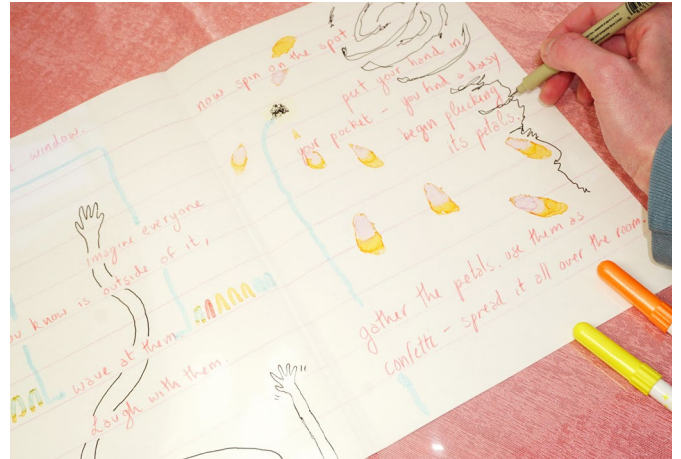
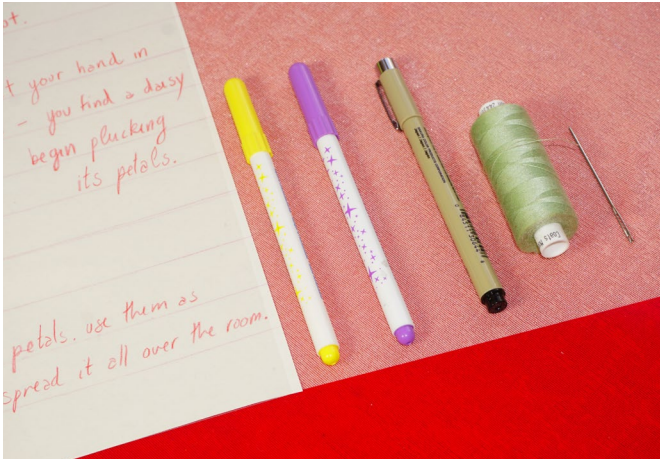


- 4 Take turns performing your instructions.

PERFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

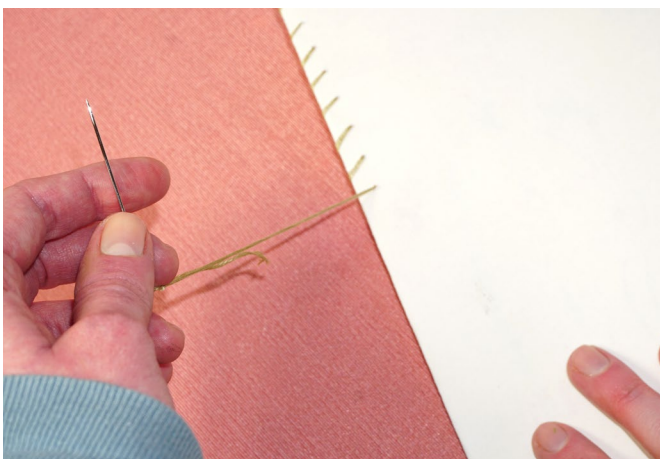
Documenting performance art is important so it can be remembered, recorded and shared with others. As your partner performs instructions from Part 1, document their actions by drawing them. You could collage your drawings onto the performance instructions and create a 'zine' about performance art. Zines are small publications, and a good way to publish your artwork.

You will need: Paper, pencil, marker, needle, thread, performance instructions from Part 1 of the activity.



- 1 Gather your materials and your performance instructions from Part 1.

- 2 Draw illustrations of your partner's movements onto your performance instructions, or on a separate piece of paper. Try focusing on details like their hand waving, or an imaginary object they carried.



- 3 Assemble your performance instructions and drawings and fold them into a booklet. Using a needle and thread, stitch the pages together to bind them. Try to keep your stitches evenly spaced. Tie a knot in each end of the thread so it doesn't unravel.

- 4 Once you have bound your performance zine, illustrate the front cover and add the title of the performance.

SCHOOLS AT IKON

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

VIEW SCHOOLS OFFER



Ikon Gallery
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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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