



IKON ACTIVITY PACK

KS2 (AGES 7–11)

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at school or home. They are inspired by Ikon's exhibition by Mali Morris titled *Calling*, which includes includes nearly 30 works from the last 25 years and documents a change in Morris' artistic practice.

Created by artist-educator Polly Brant, the packs include questions for thinking and talking about art in relation to other subjects, including global cultures and environments.

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MALI MORRIS



Mali Morris (b.1945, Wales) is an artist who has been making abstract paintings for over 50 years.

In her artworks, Morris layers colours of paint using different mark making tools, including sponges and paintbrushes. The build up of paint appears transparent and opaque, and colours are luminous. Creating various shapes, the artist builds geometric patterns within each painting.

Key words and themes: Shape, space, colour, layers, mark making, pattern, Abstract Expressionism, gesture (movement of a body part with meaning), transparent (can be seen through), opaque (cannot be seen through).

Methods: Painting, clearing (removing layers), layering.

Materials: Acrylic paint, paintbrushes, sponges.

Related artists: Gillian Ayres, Helen Frankenthaler, Henri Matisse.

TOOLS FOR MARK MAKING.

Look at the brushstrokes and marks made in *Lap (Maroon/Yellow)* (1998–2000). How do you think Morris has made these marks?

In Morris' paintings, capturing gesture is important. Can you imagine and act out some of the gestures Morris may have used to create shapes and marks in her paintings? Think about how you would move to paint a circle or a line.

Colour is also important in Morris' work; it forms connections through layering and pattern. She said "I wanted it to come to meet the eye, in a simple way, through other colours."¹ Looking at the artwork *Second Stradella* (2016) on the cover of this pack, discuss the relationship of the colours. For example, do they blend in, or do they make each other stand out? Use the colour wheel on page 4 to help you.

Activity: Tools for Mark Making

Using different tools, create your own layered painting inspired by Morris' work. Think about how the tools can be used to create different patterns and shapes.

You will need: Paint, paper, painting tools (for example: sponges, cardboard, lollipop sticks).



1) Gather your materials.



2) Select your painting tools and colours.

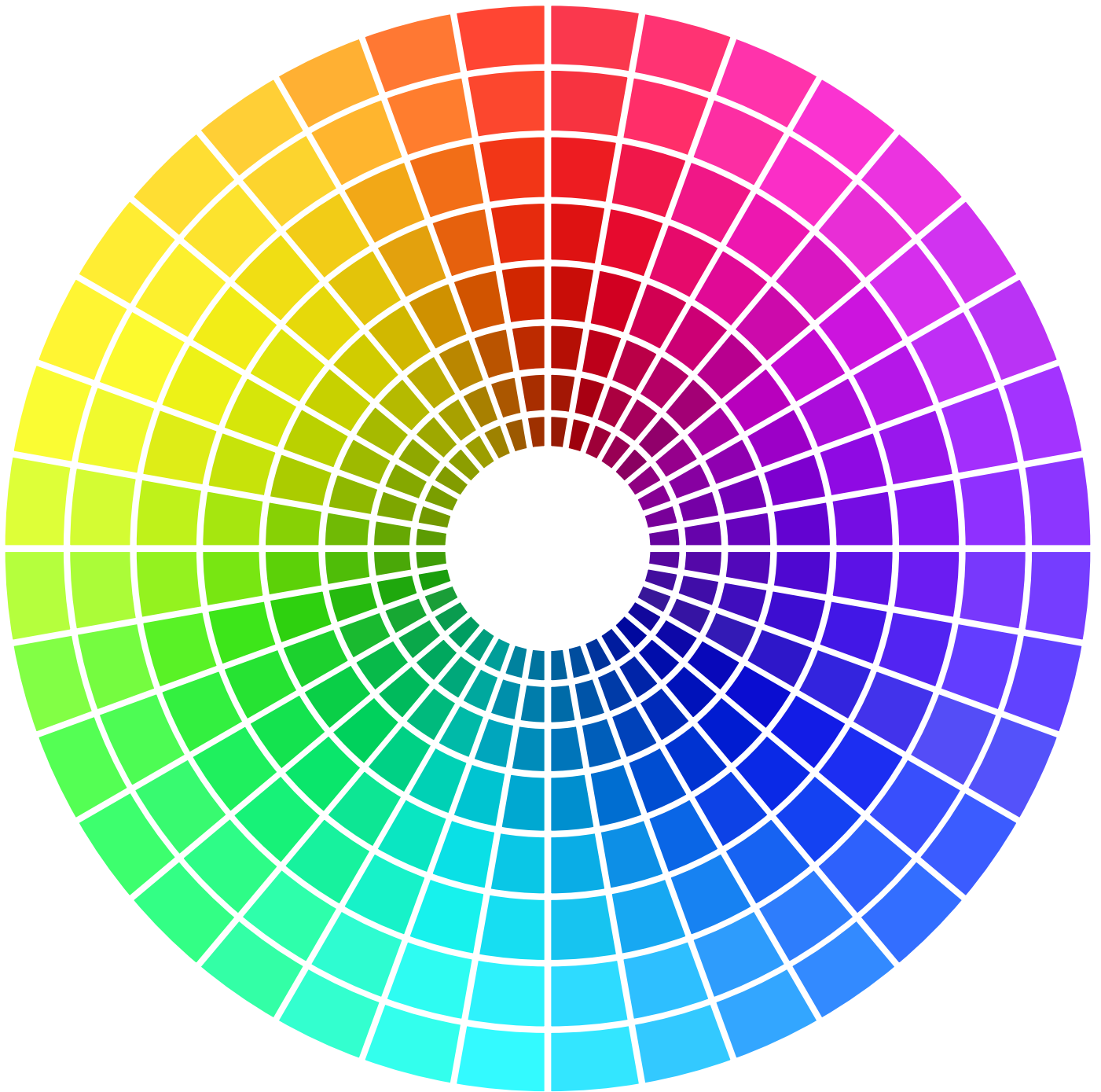


3) Use your tools to create patterns and layers.



4) Discuss how you made each mark and the relationships they have to each other.

1. Morris quoted in Karen Wilkin, 'Construction Through Seeing', *Introduction to Mali Morris: Paintings from Four Decades*, Poussin Gallery, 2005.



SCHOOLS AT IKON

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

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

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Cover: Mali Morris

Second Stradella (2016). Acrylic on canvas, 198 × 214 cm

Courtesy of Mali Morris

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

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