

IKON ACTIVITY PACK

KS3 (AGES 11–14)

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.

Share your creations via social media @ikongallery #ikongallery or with education@ikon-gallery.org
Please consider making a donation for this free resource.

IKON



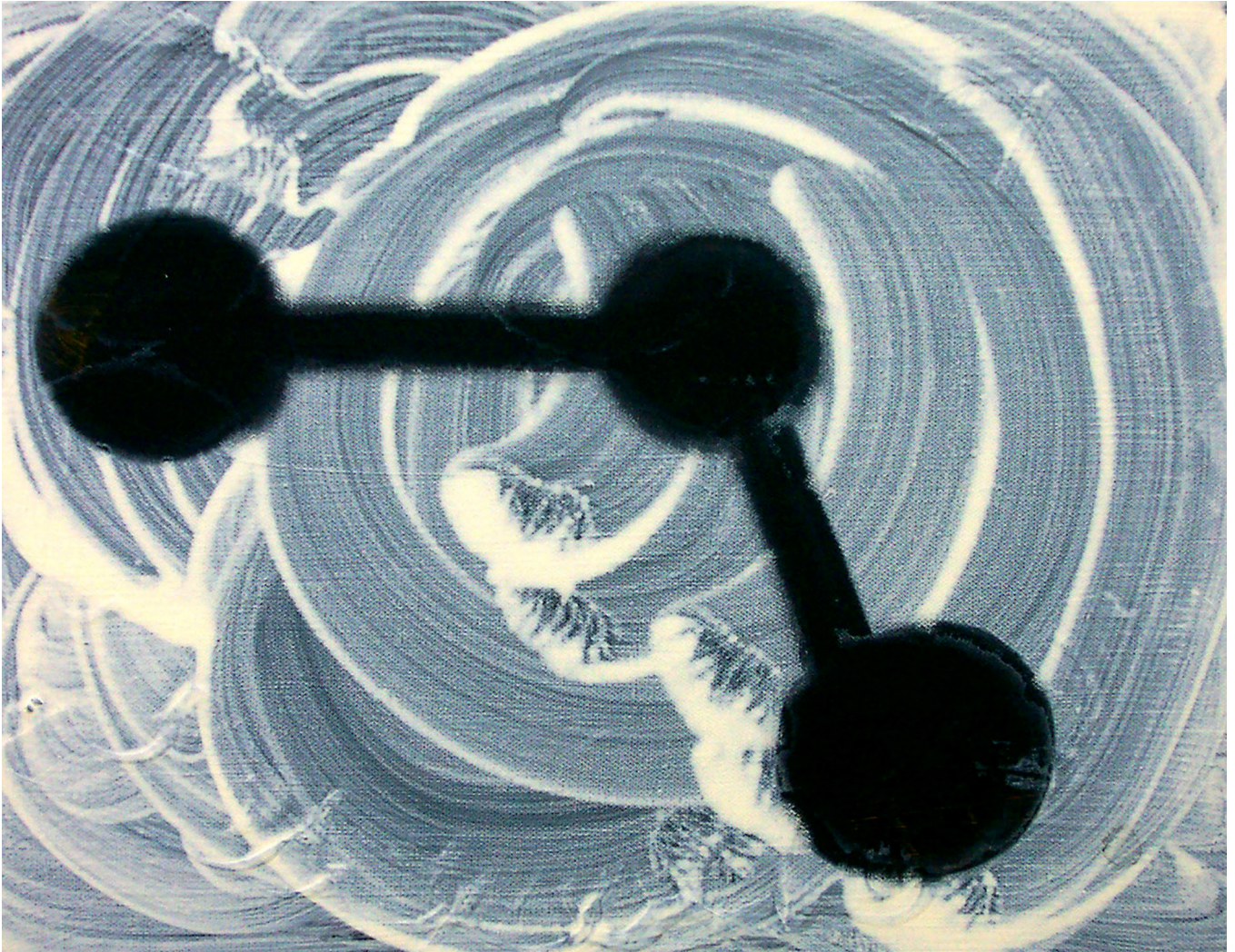
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MALI MORRIS



Mali Morris (b. 1945, Wales) is a painter who has been exploring the possibilities of abstract painting 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.

Morris' early works resonate with art movements through history including Abstract Expressionism – a term used to describe paintings that use gestural brush strokes or mark making.

Key words and themes: Shape, space, colour, layers, mark making, pattern, Abstract Expressionism, gesture, transparent, opaque.

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

Materials: Acrylic paint, paintbrushes, sponges.

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

EXPLORE COLOUR, MOVEMENT AND POSSIBILITIES

How does Morris layer paint to create opacity, transparency and depth in her work?

Morris is interested in mark making through touch and the possibilities of colour. She observes "Touch moves the eye around at a different pace from gesture. It's slower, and pictorial space seems to open up. That suggested new possibilities for how colour might work."¹ Look at the artwork *Flotilla* (2007). How do your eyes move around it? Do you notice the colours or shapes in different ways?

Morris' *Banners* are hanging on the front of Ikon Gallery and in local art schools. This is to raise awareness of art education and celebrate the creative arts. Why do you think it is important for art to be taught in schools?

Activity: Collage Banners

Design your own banner inspired by Morris' paintings, celebrating art and creativity. Where would you display your banner?

You will need: Pencil, things to draw around, a selection of different types of paper, glue.



1) Gather your materials.



2) Cut and glue different shapes onto a coloured background, layering different types of papers.



3) Fold the paper in half and cut a length of string to hang them from.



4) Find somewhere to hang your banners. Discuss why you have chosen that location.

1. Mali Morris interviewed by the poet Tamar Yoseloff, *Art World Magazine*, August/September 2008

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

Stay in touch

      @ikongallery

Cover: Mali Morris
Flotilla (2007). Acrylic on canvas, 170 × 189 cm
Image courtesy the artist
Collection of Stewarts

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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