

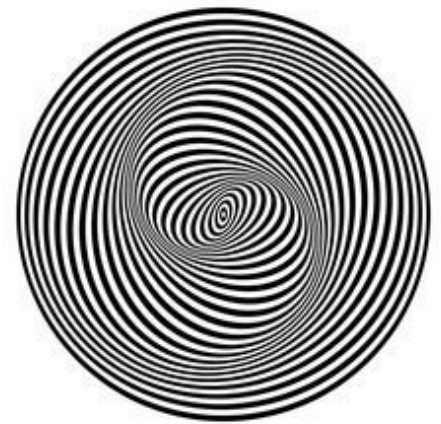


With so many families learning from home at the moment, we have put together some activity ideas for families to look at, based on our museum collection.

Have fun and remember that if you need any extra help, our museum learning team are only an email away and are happy to help in any way they can!

What is Op Art?

‘Op Art’ is short for ‘Optical Art’. It is a style of art that creates an optical illusion. Optical illusions can trick our eyes into seeing things that aren’t real. This type of art uses shapes, patterns and colour to make us think we are seeing things moving or fading.



Something that looks simple at first can be more complicated than you think. Shades of light and dark can be added to the colours and patterns to make it seem as though 2D flat images are actually 3D and make it look as though shapes are sticking out of the picture.

Things to think about

What can you see happening in these pictures?

Do they make your eyes feel funny?

Can you see movement in any of the pictures?





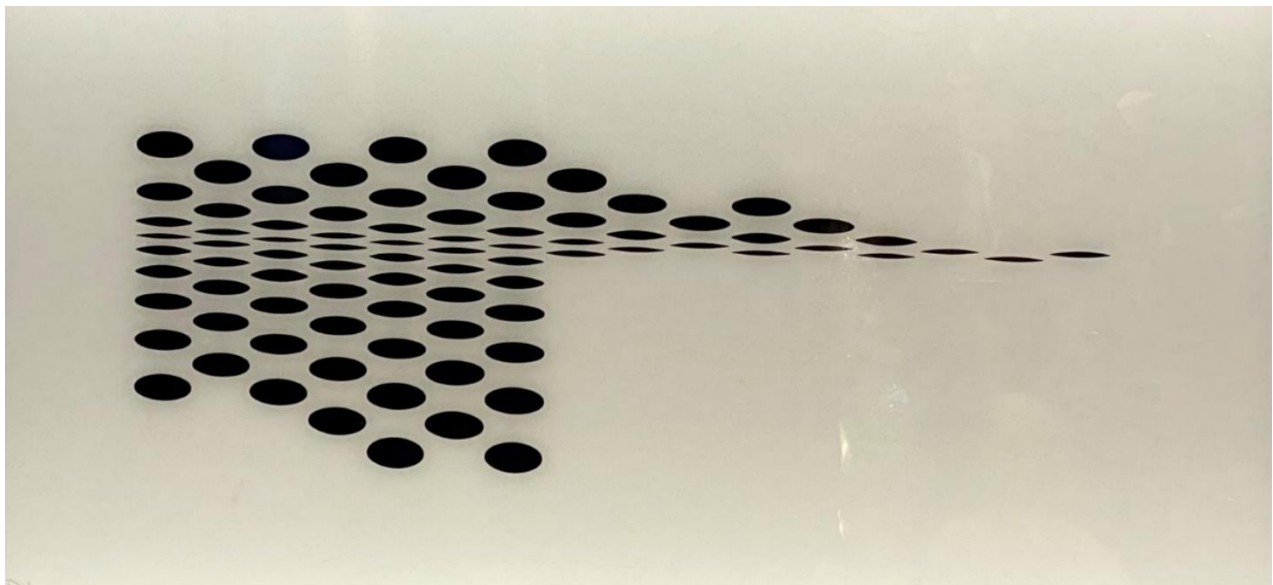
Op art started in the 1960s and quickly became very popular. Op art style black and white patterns quickly became part of the fashion of the era.

Bridget Riley is one of the most famous op art artists. She was born in London in 1931 and studied at the Royal College of Art during the 1950's. She experimented with different art forms before developing the style she is most known for.

Riley's first op art paintings were in black and white. As time went on, she began experimenting with colours, inspired by her travels to different countries around the world.

Preston Park Museum has four paintings by Bridget Riley in our museum collection. Below you can see a painting from our collection that she painted in 1965.

Can you see it moving? Does it look different at different angles?



Untitled Fragment 7 by Bridget Riley, 1965

Challenge: Can you recreate the Bridget Riley painting above yourself using a black pencil and white paper?

Choose three coloured pencils and add some colour to your drawing. You could add colourful shadows, shapes or lines. How does it change the picture? Does it change the way the picture makes you feel?



Look at this colourful op art! It looks like a hand is coming out of the picture. Curved lines create the 3D effect.

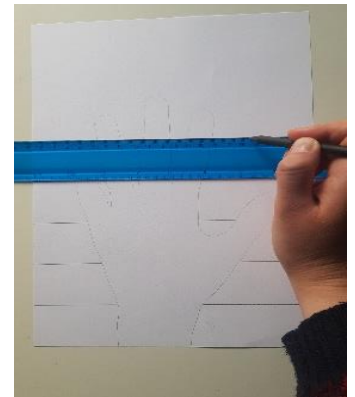
Why don't you create your own op art yourself following the instructions below?

If you would like to share your finished artwork we would love to see pictures on our social media pages!



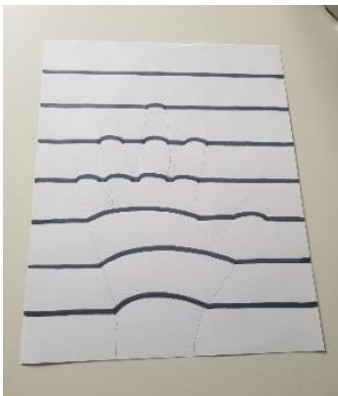
Step One

Trace the outline of your hand lightly with a pencil.



Step Two

Draw straight horizontal lines using a ruler, leaving your hand outline blank.



Step Three

Connect the straight lines using curved ones. Trace the lines using a black felt tip.



Step Four

Chose five more colours and repeat until your paper is filled with coloured lines.