

Circles & Cylinders

School & Outreach Activity Pack, developed with artist Kate Munro
based on **EMPOWERING ART: Indigenous Creativity and Activism from North America's Northwest Coast**

INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS

In this pack you will find a selection of activities which you could do with your students in the galleries.

There are also ideas for things which are more suited to working outside, whilst visiting the Sainsbury Centre, or back in the classroom.

Start by exploring the galleries to study the artwork, and then get making your own.



Find out more about the works from the Sainsbury Centre's collections in the online catalogue:

<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/>

Some of the works are now also available as interactive 3D models:

<https://sketchfab.com/sainsbury-centre/models>

Share photographs of your creations scvgroupvisits@uea.ac.uk

Images:

Raven Bringing Light into the World, Robert Davidson, 1984.
Yellow Cedar wood.

Miniature pole, made from Cedar wood, by unknown Haida artist, c.1820-1880

Please Note

There are conditions of being able to work with materials and equipment in the galleries:

- Your students will need to be closely supervised at all times whilst participating in the activities.
- We advise that you divide students into small groups, each with an adult who can ensure the students use the materials and equipment appropriately.
- We ask that students sit on the floor to create their artwork, and refrain from leaning or resting anything on the display cases or plinths.
- Please do not touch any of the exhibits.
- Please be considerate to other gallery visitors, and do not block walkways or access to any of the exhibits.
- Scissors need to be especially carefully monitored, and only used by students whilst they are seated a safe distance from the exhibits.
- Please do not leave any rubbish in the galleries. Check the floor where you have been working before you leave.



Thank you.

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Exploring the Galleries

Take a look around the galleries to see the huge variety of artwork from the Northwest Coast of North America.

Notice how many circles and cylinders there are.

Some of the artwork is in the form of a circle or a cylinder. Sometimes it has circles or rounded shapes on it, or within it.

Why do you think there are so many cylindrical sculptures and circular pictures?



Dance As Though the Ancestors Are Watching, Sonny Assu, 2019
<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/50812>



'Soul Catcher' amulet, made from Bear bone, by unknown Tsimshian artist, c.1800-1820

These designs have been carefully planned so that all the elements fit together.

Notice how many of the smaller details are connected, often by a black *flowline*. This is the name given to the characteristic curvy line which is typically found in the pictures and sculptures from the Northwest Coast of North America.

Bear Mother Drum, Morgan Asoyuf, 2018, Elk hide drum, acrylic paint © Courtesy of the Artist



In the Eye of the Beholder (detail), Robert Davidson, 1993. Serigraph on paper

Sometimes the surface design is made up of circles and other rounded shapes.

Can you see any that look like eyes, or noses?

Notice how the features of people and animals are combined within the circular paintings and prints.

Sometimes they look squashed or stretched, to fill all of the space.

The drum in Morgan Asoyuf's photograph (below) is a good example of this.

How many faces can you see within the drum?



Circles

In this activity we will concentrate on circles.

How many round pictures can you find in the **Empowering Art** exhibition?

How many circles can you see within the sculptures?

To make your circular drawing, you will need:
A circle of paper or card;
A pencil, or graphite stick
A ruler & maybe a protractor or set-square;
Perhaps some coloured crayons;
& other drawing materials



Salish Vision, Susan A. Point, 2002, painted red cedar wood and copper metal
© Courtesy of the Artist
Comb made from caribou antler <https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/875>

Now it's time for you to create your own circular picture.

You could start by carefully folding a card circle in half.

Then use a ruler and pencil to help divide up the surface, and create a design which uses symmetry.

You might want to measure along the fold line to find the middle. Perhaps you could divide the circle into sections – like slices of pizza or cake, or create stripes, or arcs. Now fill all of the sections of your circle with shapes you can find in the galleries.

Try using your pencil or graphite stick in different ways – work with the end, or the side.

Try adding a curving, continuous 'flowline' to your picture to link up all the shapes.

If you are working outside, perhaps try working really big, or using other materials like chalks, pens, pastels or ink.



Circles

Take a circle of corrugated card, and divide it into sections, using a ruler, set-square or protractor. The ridged lines of the cardboard might be useful too.

Use these as guidelines to help you add stickers and tape to create a bold design, perhaps using facial features.

To make your circular collage, you will need:

- A circle of corrugated card;
- A pencil,
- A ruler & set-square or protractor;
- Some coloured pens or crayons;
- Coloured paper or sticky vinyl,
- tape & stickers;
- Scissors.

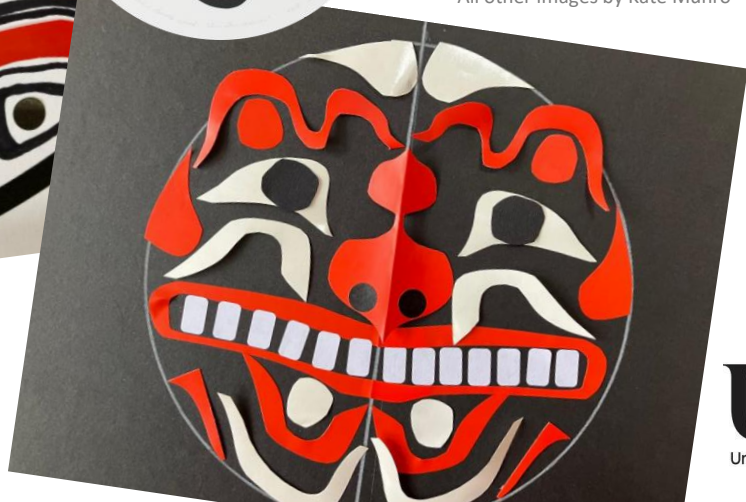


You might choose to make your collage symmetrical. It may have mirror symmetry or rotational symmetry.

You could fold a piece of coloured paper or sticky vinyl in half, to cut pairs of symmetrical shapes two at a time.



Image (left) *Twin Thunderbirds* (detail), Susan A. Point, 1981, silkscreen on paper © Courtesy of the Artist.
All other images by Kate Munro



Try using different coloured paper or card.

Cylinders

In this activity you will make a 3D artwork inspired by the carved totem poles and other objects from the Northwest Coast of North America.

Explore the **Empowering Art** exhibition to see how many cylinder-like forms you can find.

There are things which have been carved from trees and antlers with elaborate decorations which wrap around the surface.

Notice how many of these are also symmetrical.

Take a cardboard tube and a pencil and have a go at drawing a design inspired by the exhibition, which curves around the surface.

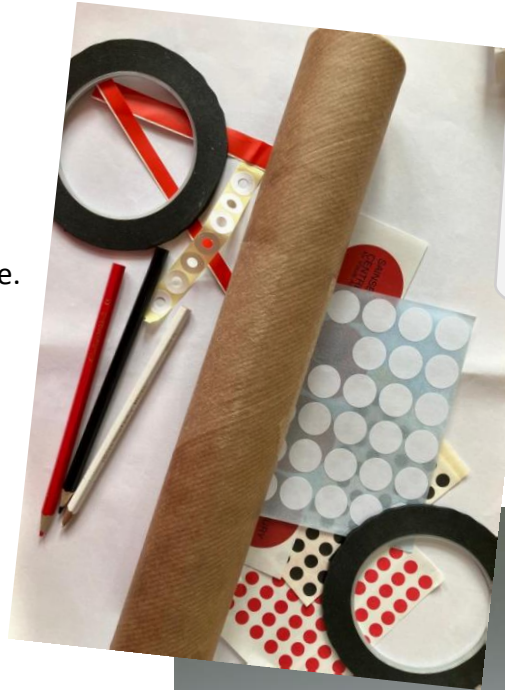
You could use human or animal features, or other shapes inspired by the natural world.

Use some of the coloured tape and stickers to highlight some of the shapes in your design.

Try standing your tube alongside ones made by your classmates to make a forest-like display.

Add a mini figure to the scene to help you imagine your model as a huge totem pole.

Or make a huge version at school or home with a reclaimed cardboard carpet tube.



To make your cylinder artwork, you will need:

A cardboard tube;
A pencil,
Some coloured crayons;
Coloured tape;
Sticky shapes;
A mini figure;
and maybe some scissors.



Club, made from abalone shell and caribou antler
<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/120>

Totem pole, Robert Davidson, 2007. Painted red cedar wood

Other images, by Kate Munro