

*Living Colour*  
30 May - 1 September '19  
Activity Sheet



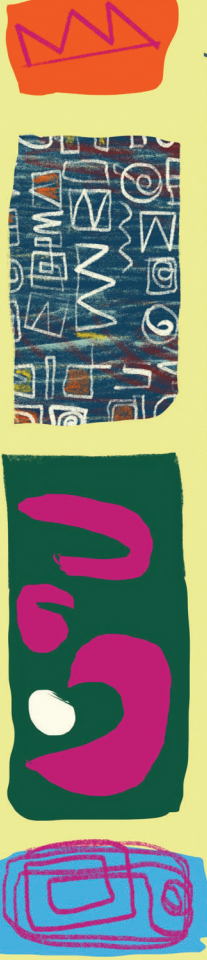
*Lee Krasner*

**barbican**

*Krasner's Materials and styles*

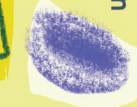
*Krasner's Colours and Shapes*

As you might have noticed, Krasner loved the power and energy of colour. Krasner made artworks that make you feel different things when you look at them by using lots of shapes and colours. Below are some of the swirling, blocky, or angular colours and shapes that you can find in Krasner's artworks.



Can you see any of these colours or shapes in the exhibition? How do they make you feel?

Feeling inspired? Why not use some of these colours and shapes in an artwork at home? You could make a painting, or cut up some paper and make a collage.



Why not inspire yourself with some of your favourite music? Lee Krasner was a big music fan and loved to listen to jazz!



If you would like to discover more about the Barbican why not go exploring in our do-it-yourself adventure trail for families. Pick up a free trail kit for The Big Barbican Adventure from our information desk (Mezzanine Level).

Design and illustration by Gwen Millward.

Together, we can inspire people of all ages to discover and love the arts. Donate today and share what you love about the Barbican with a new generation. Text "BARB99" £2 to 70070.

The Barbican Centre Trust Ltd is a registered charity (no.294282).

*Living Colour* is a "retrospective" exhibition. Retrospective means 'looking back', so this exhibition looks back at the career of the American artist Lee Krasner. She was making work for more than 45 years - so there is lots of art to see! Use this Activity Sheet to explore the amazing work of the pioneering Abstract Expressionist artist Lee Krasner.

Lee Krasner used lots of different materials to make her artworks, and applied these in different ways. She even used her fingers to apply paint to the canvas sometimes! As you go around the exhibition, circle the materials you can see in Krasner's works.



Krasner lived near the beach in Long Island, USA, and loved collecting shells to display in her home. What materials do you have near your home that you could use to make artworks? Write down or sketch some materials in this box: You can use these ideas to make an artwork when you get home... (look to the final page of this Activity Sheet for more on this!)

Lee Krasner experimented with lots of different styles and techniques in her career, you can see some of these examples below. Circle the different styles when you see examples of them in the exhibition.



Abstract Expressionist Paintings

Life Drawing

Collage

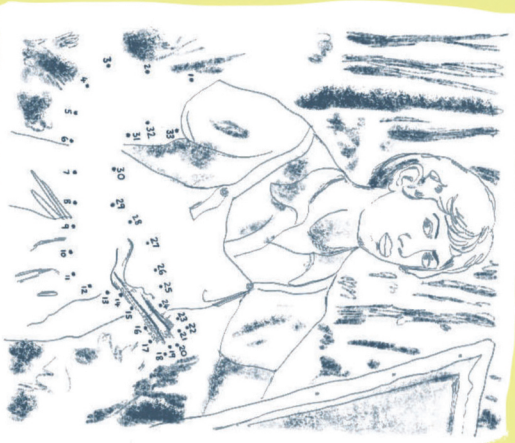
Cubism

Which style do you like the most? Why not use this space to try one of these out (or you can even invent your own!)?

*Good*



## Bring Lee Krasner to Life!



Lee Krasner was a very important artist who lived during the 20th century, but not everybody has heard of her. This exhibition wants to make more people aware of who she was, and how important she still is.

So why not help us by completing this dot-to-dot and bring her image to life!

Can you find this portrait of Lee?



Ring some of the words below that you would use to describe Krasner in this self-portrait?

**STRONG COMPOSED ACTIVE STERN PEACEFUL TOUGH ARTIST**

Draw your own face below and imagine yourself as a great artist!



## The Radical Lee Krasner

Lee Krasner was known for having a strong personality, and was firm in her beliefs. This wasn't always expected of women in the mid-20th century so it took a lot of guts to stand up for things she believed in.

Krasner was involved in a number of protests in her lifetime, defending artists' rights and protesting against museums.

Krasner was never afraid to stand up for herself. While studying, a stuffy teacher once reported that Krasner was "always a bother... insists upon having her own way, despite school rules."

Write down below why you think it's important that people stand up for themselves and their values:



Krasner once described herself the following way:

*"I was a woman, Jewish, a widow...a good painter, thank you, and a little too independent!"*

How would you describe yourself in one sentence?



## Re-name a Famous Painting!

Lee Krasner would sometimes ask her friends, or even her friends' children, to title her paintings. Find the painting *Happy Lady* in the Lower Gallery (ask a Barbican staff member for help if you need it). This was named by her friend's daughter, Frances, who saw it and said, "Don't you see she's dancing?" Look around you for a painting that grabs your attention. Without looking at its name, try and come up with your own title. Write below what it is and why you chose this name for the painting.



## Complete a Famous Abstract Painting

Lee Krasner is famous for being one of the first and most important artists to make Abstract Expressionist art. Abstract Expressionism describes artworks that include shapes or lines rather than showing life-like objects, but together these shapes and colours express an inner feeling. Paintings like Krasner's might make you feel warm, or cold, or even excited!

Let's take a closer look at an Abstract Expressionist painting. Find the painting *Palingenesis* (which means "re-birth") in the Lower Gallery. (Ask a Barbican staff member if you can't find it!) Flip your Activity sheet sideways and use your green pencil to finish off the rest of the painting.

Write down some words that this painting makes you think of when you look at it.

