

Active Planet—Volcanic art

Monday—we will be looking at the work of two artists (Frank Bowling and Jackson Pollock).

Your task today is to write a profile of one of the artists.

There is information in this pack on each artist and there are also helpful videos which show you the process that each artist goes through to create their artwork:

Jackson Pollock https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EncR_TOfaKM

Frank Bowling <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/frank-bowling-792/how-paint-bowling>

(NB—do not use ammonia)

Wednesday

Your task today is to create your own version of the artwork we have looked at this week.

You have a few options:

- 1) Your own Jackson Pollock drip painting.
- 2) Your own Frank Bowling drip painting (without ammonia!)
- 3) Your own warm and cool colours volcano picture

No paint? No problem!

You can create a digital version of a Pollock or Bowling painting in Purple Mash—Art—2Paint A Picture, and then choose 'Splash' or 'Wet paint' (you can't mix them, it is one or the other) and then experiment with different line sizes and colours. Don't forget to save your master pieces in your work folder.

Offline version

Using a pencil or felt tip pen, you could create your own version of a black and white Pollock artwork.



Fact File

Name: _____

Place of birth: _____

Where they work: _____

Artwork includes: _____

Awards: _____

Work we have studied: _____

Mediums used: _____



Frank Bowling – Artist Study

You are going to write a fact file about the artist Frank Bowling. You can use the PowerPoint, this support sheet and lesson notes to help you write about this artist. When writing, remember to write in full sentences.

About Frank Bowling

Born 26th of February 1934 in Guyana (South America).

Moved to London at the age of 19.

Won a scholarship to attend Royal School of Art.

Graduated from the Royal School of Art in 1962 with a silver medal.



Artwork includes: Rockintored, Fishes, Spreadout Ron Kitaj

Sacha Jason Guyana Dreams

[Frank Bowling - Works | Hales Gallery](#)

Medium: different types of paint (acrylic/spray).

Style: Abstract Expressionism — This style means that the artwork focuses on the use of colour and using brushstrokes to make paintings seem spontaneous and unplanned.

Sentence Starters

Interestingly,	In 2008,
In the USA,	Amazingly,
As an artist,	When growing up,

Word Bank

Abstract	painting	spontaneous	
New York	canvas	legacy	beautiful
National Gallery	expression	exquisite	

Awards

Awarded and OBE in 2008 by the British Queen.

In 2005, Bowling became the first Black artist to be elected as a Royal Academician at the Royal Academy.

Family

Frank Bowling was born Richard Sheridan Patrick Michael Aloysius Franklin (Frank) Bowling on 26th February 1934. He was born in what was then called British Guiana but is now called Guyana, in South America.

Frank's mother was a seamstress and milliner (which means she made hats). She set up her own dressmaking shop and the family lived above it. Frank helped out in the shop when he wasn't at school.

When he was 19 years old, Frank moved to London to live with his uncle. Bowling signed up to national service and joined the Royal Air Force (RAF). It was during this time that his life took a different path.



Did You Know...?

After the Second World War, young men had to sign up to the army, RAF or navy for at least two years in case war broke out again.

The Study of Art

Bowling made friends with an aspiring artist, Keith Critchlow. Critchlow took Bowling to see art in the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery. These visits sparked Bowling's interest in the artwork of British artists, such as Constable, Turner and Gainsborough.

Critchlow also painted Bowling's portrait and would position a large mirror opposite the painting so that Bowling could see the portrait take shape as it was painted.

Bowling decided he wanted to study art so he studied at three different art schools before winning a scholarship to attend the Royal School of Art (RSA).



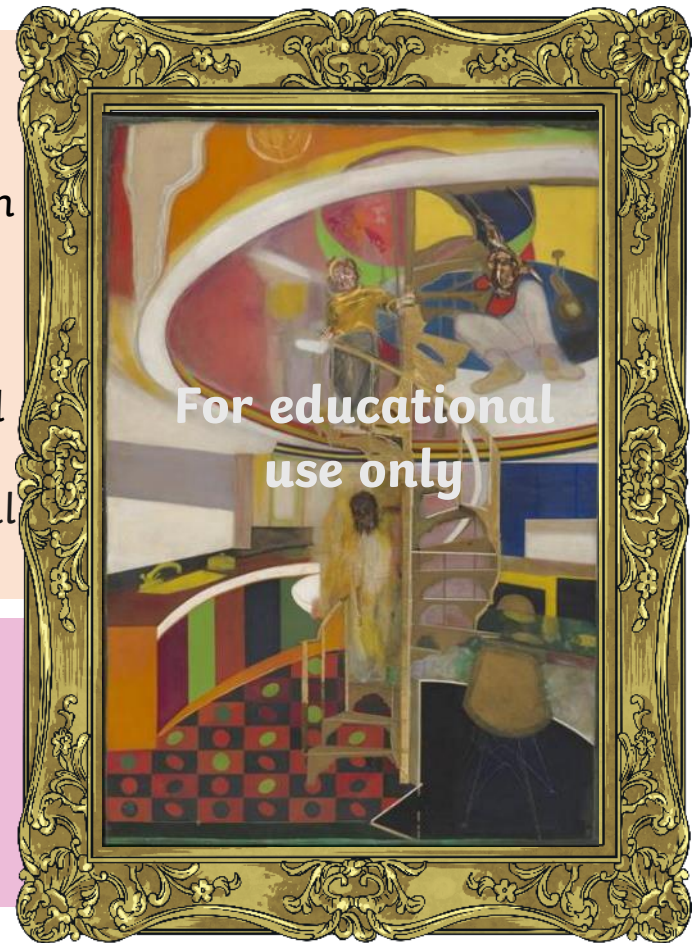
Bowling graduated from the RSA in 1962 with a silver medal, with his fellow student and friend, David Hockney, gaining the gold.

Changing Art

At the beginning of his art career, Bowling painted pictures of figures - people in different poses.

However, a few years later, Bowling had a discussion with other artists about geometry, architecture and colour. His artwork took on a different style as he worked on paintings which became more abstract, full of colour, shape and personal memories. This led to the painting, *Mirror* (1966). It is a very large painting, measuring over approximately 3 metres tall and 2 metres wide.

Bowling moved to New York to continue his exploration of paint and art. He lived with other artists, including Mark Rothko and Andy Warhol. It was while he was in the United States, that Bowling developed his map paintings.



Mirror

Map Paintings

Bowling began to see the beauty in maps. He projected maps onto walls and canvases, making them enlarged. Using spray paint and stencils, among other materials, Bowling produced huge paintings based on spending his early life in Guyana.

He continued his experimentation in creating abstract art and developed a device which tilted. He would then pour paint onto the canvas and the tilting movement enabled him to produce different effects. These became known as 'poured paintings'.

'It was spilling, dripping, rushing,' says Bowling. 'It's a process of a ground all over, the canvas tacked to the wall, the pouring and throwing and spilling and dripping takes place, then the material is allowed to settle, and once it starts drying you sort of pull it back up the wall, so that it can be completely dried out.'



Rush Green

Sculptural Paintings

After teaching art for a few years in London, Bowling returned to the USA and developed a style of painting which included elements of sculpture.

He began to include objects, materials and thick acrylic gel to create his paintings. He has occasionally stuck objects, such as shells and plastic toys, into the actual paintings.

Here is an abstract painting named after one of Bowling's three sons, Sacha Jason.

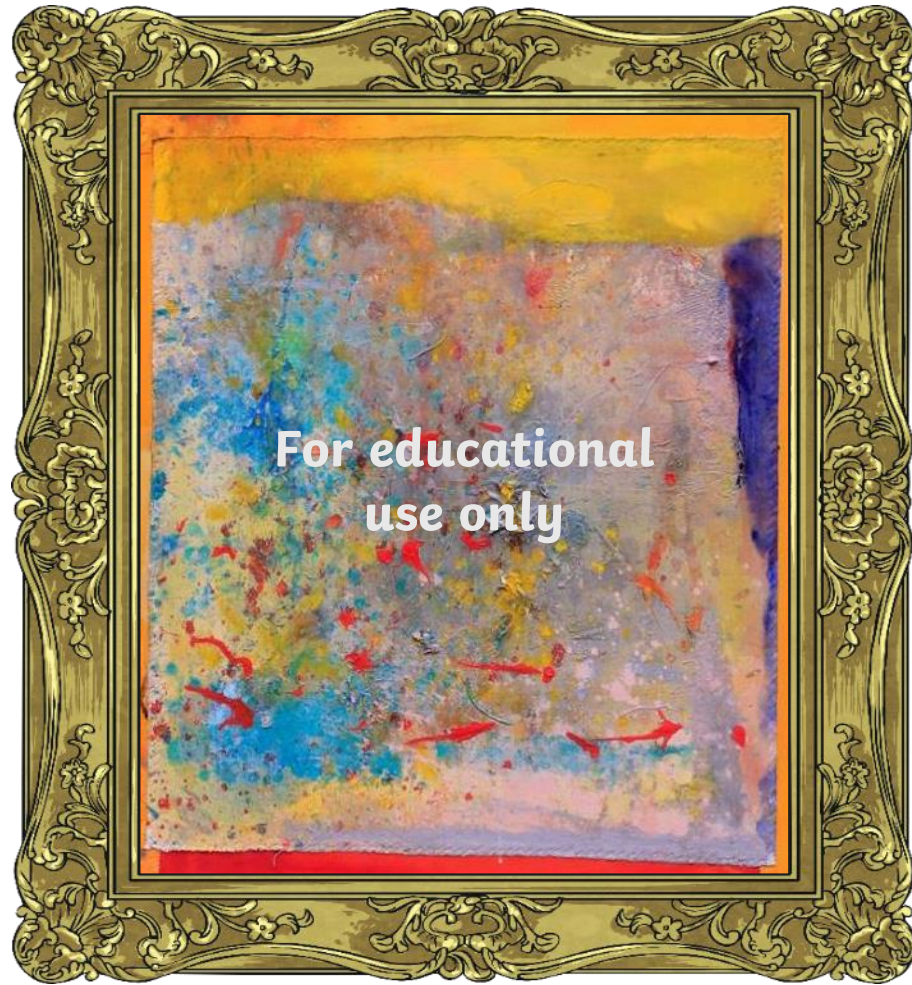


Sacha Jason Guyana Dreams

Spreadout Ron Kitaj



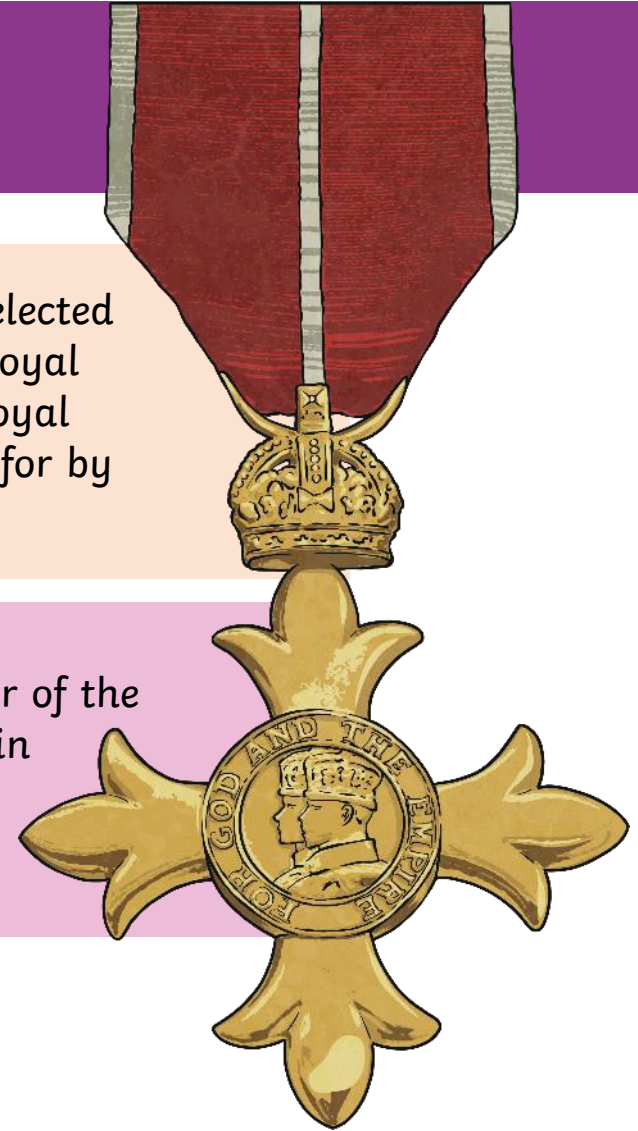
Fishes



Honours

In 2005, Bowling became the first Black artist to be elected as a Royal Academician at the Royal Academy. The Royal Academy is similar to an art gallery or museum. A Royal Academician must be a practising artist and is voted for by fellow artists.

In 2008, Frank Bowling was presented with the Order of the British Empire, or an OBE, which The Queen awards in recognition of someone's contribution to a particular area, such as the arts.



Paintings

Frank Bowling often names his paintings after friends and places that have meant something to him. He says his paintings are like diaries and he is reminded of those experiences when he looks at the paintings.

'I don't have any pre-planned idea about how I'm going to make a painting.'

- Frank Bowling



Jackson Pollock

Pollock is a famous American artist who invented a new way of painting called *Action painting*. He dripped paint onto a large canvas on the floor. It was called Action painting because Pollock would move very quickly across the painting, dribbling the paint in long, wobbly lines.

Sometimes he threw the paint onto the canvas and some of his paintings still have footprints on them where he stepped in the paint. He used to paint in a tool shed where he could lay his canvas on the floor, and drip and splatter paint across it without worrying about ruining the walls or floor.



Pollock was born in 1912 in Cody, Wyoming in America. He was the youngest of five brothers. His mother encouraged her sons to be artists and three of them took her advice and did become artists. So, when Jackson was eighteen, he moved to New York and trained as a mural painter. This meant he was used to working on a very large scale and so the idea of painting on a big canvas didn't scare him at all.

In 1943 a very rich art collector called Peggy Guggenheim asked him to make a mural for her. Pollock was so excited that he ripped down a wall in his house so that he could fit a 20 foot canvas inside. Peggy was very pleased with the painting and she gave him an exhibition at her gallery.

Pollock was a member of the Abstract Expressionist group, these were young New York artists who made paintings that didn't look like anything. Instead, they tried to show emotions, like happiness or anger.

Jackson Pollock died in 1956 but his work continues to inspire artists from all over the world to experiment and invent other ways of painting.





Lavender Mist, painted in 1950, is one example of Pollock's drip paintings. He didn't buy his oil paint in tubes the way most artists do. Instead, he used gallons of house paint to cover the canvas. In the corner he left his handprints as a signature, just like the cave painters did. What's really cool about this painting is that Pollock didn't use any lavender paint. The colours he chose blend together in your eye to make you think that you see lavender.



This painting is called *Summertime*, which was painted in 1948. It was made at a happy time in Pollock's life when he had just moved to a farmhouse in the countryside with his wife.



This painting is called *Yellow Islands*, which was painted in 1947. Pollock said 'When I am painting I am not much aware of what is taking place'

Colour

Colour is one of the 8 visual elements of art.

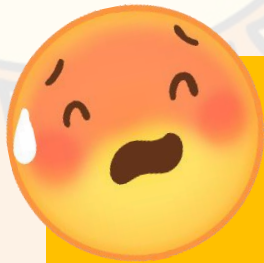
The visual elements are what artists use to create unique pieces.

Colour has the greatest influence on our emotions.

How does colour make you feel?
Do you like things to be colourful or plain?

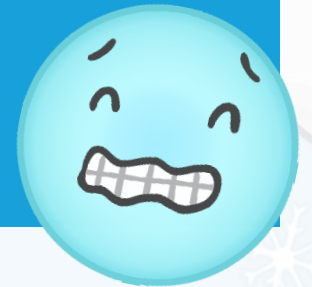
Warm or Cool?

Colours can be sorted into two categories: warm or cool.



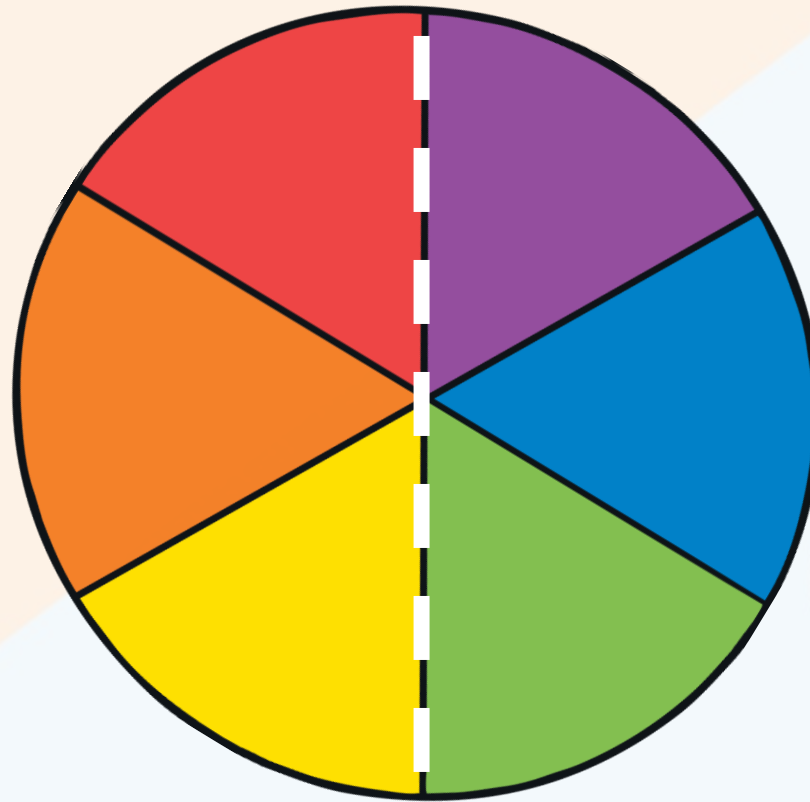
Which colours do you think about when you hear the word 'warm'?

Which colours do you think about when you hear the word 'cool'?



Colour Wheel

Warm



Cool

Let's create our own versions...



Warm and cool volcanoes

