

# Elements of Art

# Line

Look and discuss  
*Blue Line Drawing*  
by Kerrie Poliness

# Today you will

Look closely at an artwork.

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Think about the process used to create *Blue Line Drawing*

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Learn about Australian artist Kerrie Poliness.

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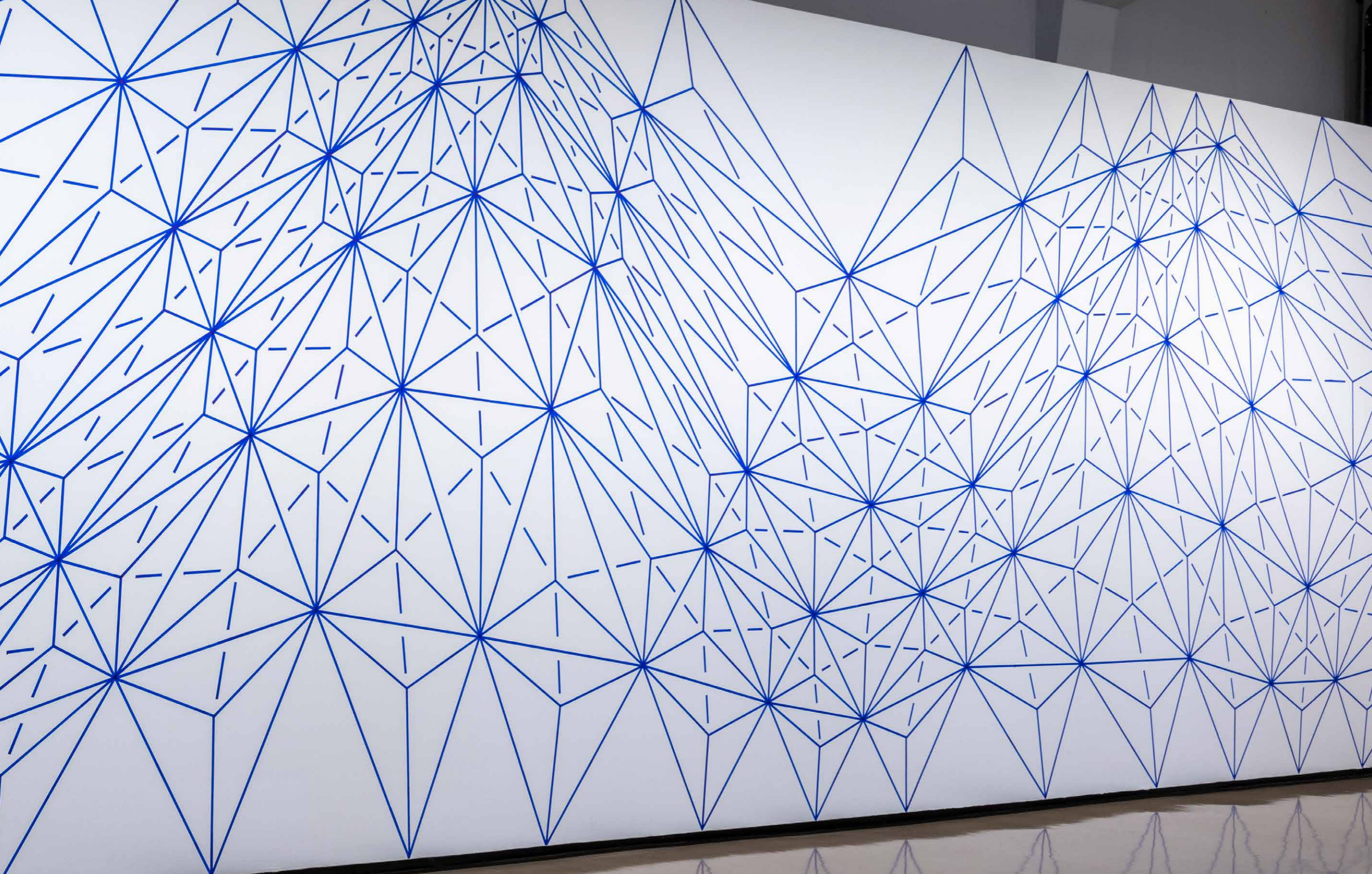
Discuss ideas about how and why an artwork is created.

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See other examples of artworks made by this artist.

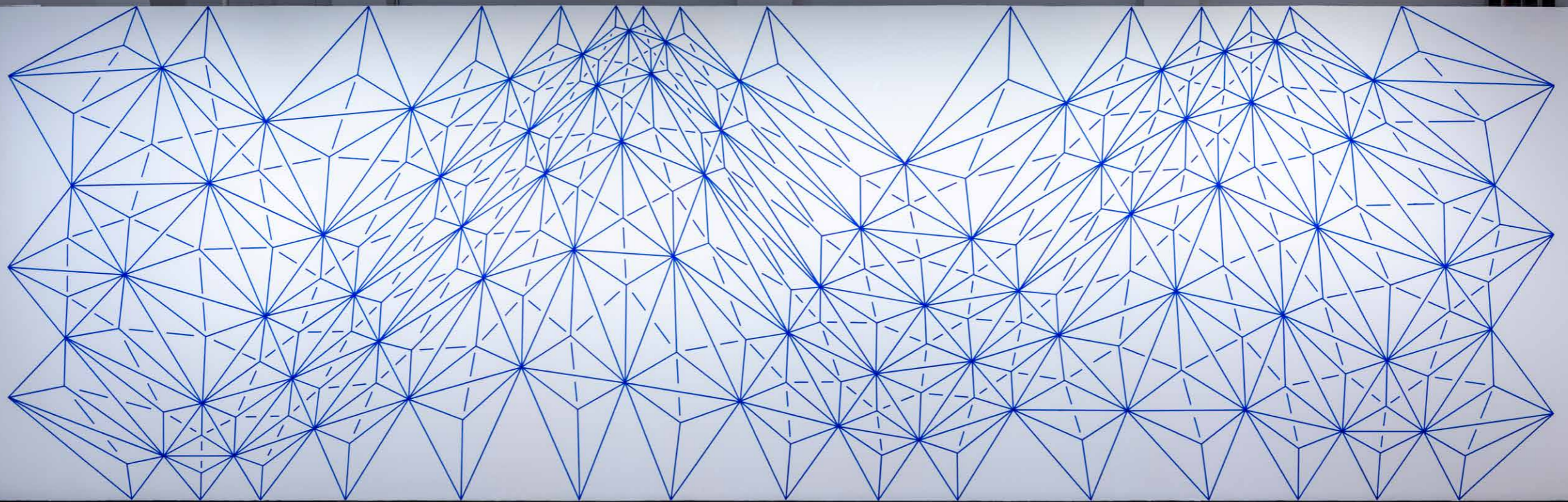






City Gallery Wellington  
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## Look and Discuss

What words would you use to describe these lines?

What shapes can you see?

How do the shapes change across the artwork?

What does it make you think of or imagine?

How do you think *Blue Wall Drawing* was made?



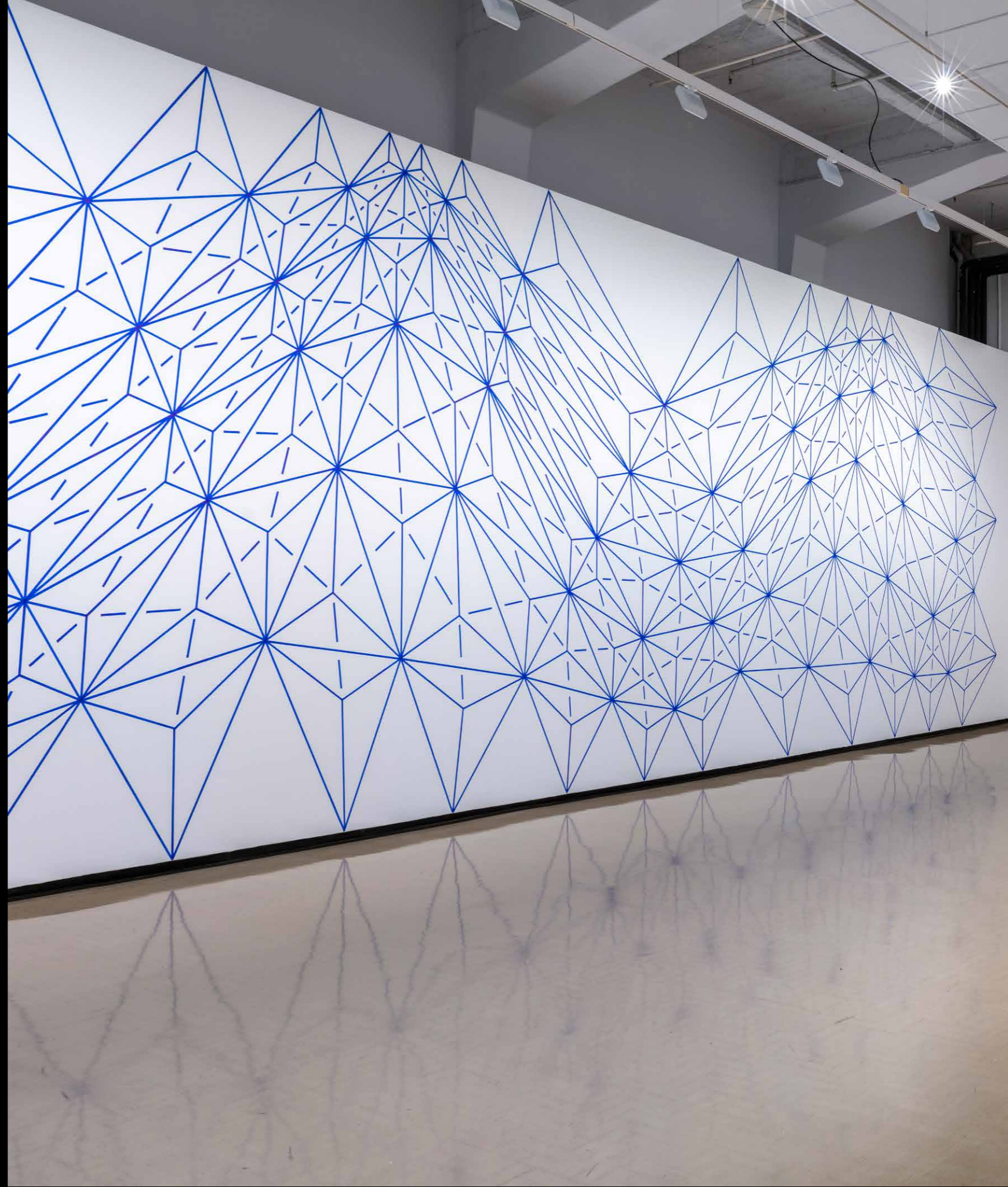


## Look and Discuss

*Blue Line Drawing* was made from a set of instructions invented by artist Kerrie Poliness.

Can you guess the instructions people had to follow?

Where do you think they started?



**Putting in  
the time**

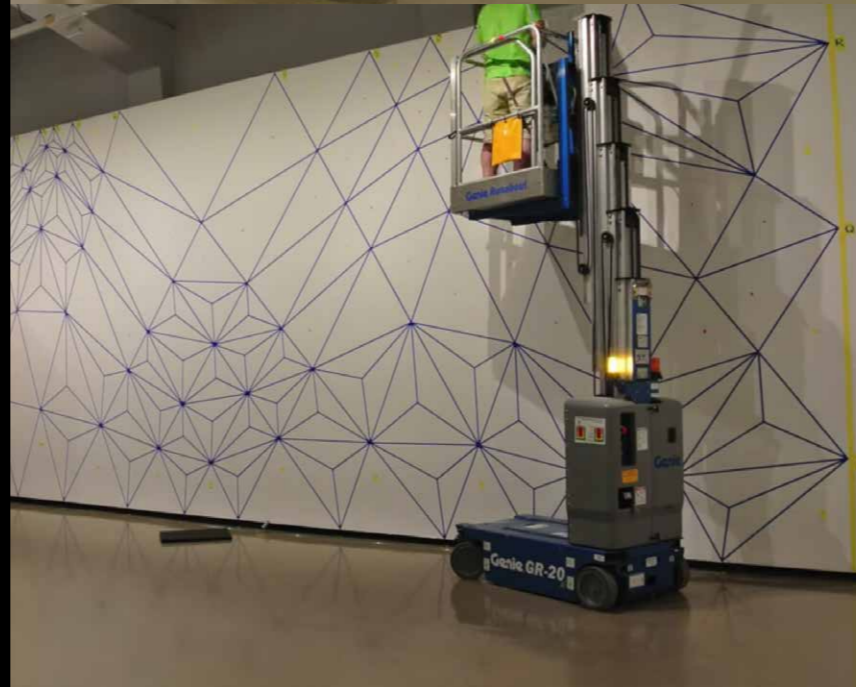
**How long  
do you think  
it took to  
make this  
artwork?**





# Watch

Watch this timelapse  
video of *Blue Line*  
Drawing being installed  
at City Gallery Wellington  
in November 2019



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# About the Artist

Kerrie Poliness was born in Australia in 1962.

She lives and works in Melbourne.

Poliness contributed to a resurgence of abstract art in Melbourne in the late 1980s.

She has an interest in the formal possibilities of repeated diamonds, diagonals and rectangles.

She likes to find subtle variations and irregularities within repeated shapes.

She is known for her rule-based paintings and drawings.

She enjoys the DIY nature of her art, and the fact that virtually anyone could make her work.



Kerrie Poliness

Picture by Grant Nowell



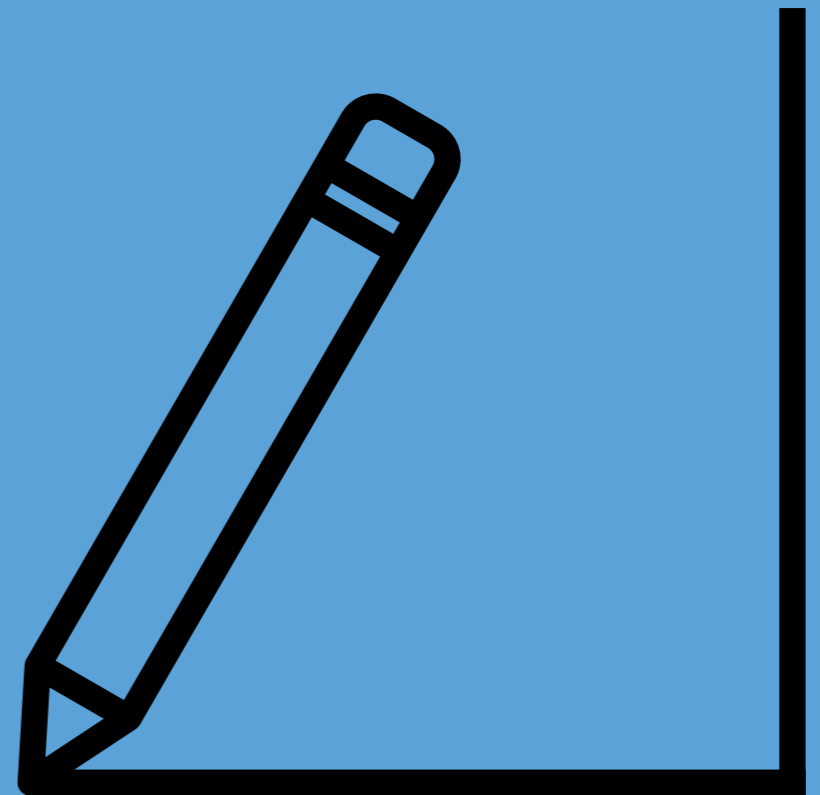


# **Kerrie Poliness says to recreate her work all you need is:**

**The ability to understand the instructions in the books;**

**The ability to guess half of something; and**

**The ability to make accurate measurements, to draw lines while using a straight edge as a guide and to balance on a ladder.**



**‘Since 1989 Kerrie Poliness has been working on a series of abstract wall drawings created by random and often unknown collaborators. Following a detailed instruction book that accompanies the work, her collaborators are instructed, step-by-step, how to ‘draw on the wall’”**





**What do you think  
about this idea?**

**Artworks  
belong to  
the artist  
who made  
them.**



# Same, same but different

Kerrie Poliness often invites different people in different places to follow the same instructions to make an artwork...

but each time it looks slightly different.

–

Are the finished drawings all the same artwork or different artworks?

Explain your reasons.



Kerrie Poliness often invites groups of people to make her artworks.

–

“The drawings are site specific and are different in each location they appear.”

If other people make the artwork, who is the artist?

Explain your reasons.





**What do you think  
about this idea?**

**Art can  
be made by  
chance**

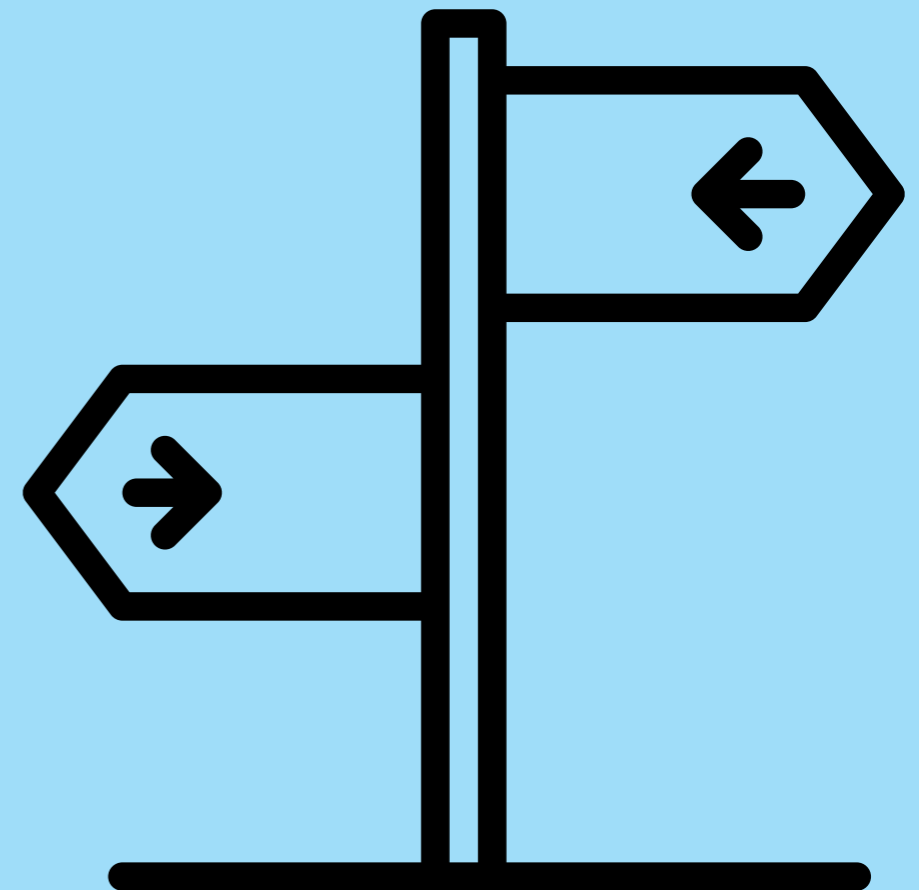


# A mistake isn't always wrong

When other people follow Kerrie's instructions to make an artwork, they sometimes misread or misunderstand the instructions or make mistakes. So, there is an element of chance to how the finished artwork looks.

**The artist is not always in control.**

**Tip from Kerrie:** If you make a mistake while following her instructions, don't worry about it, embrace it as a unique part of your creation!





# Control

**How much control does an artist need to have over their artwork?**

–

Explain your reasons.

**Consider this question on a scale from 1–3**

**1**

No control whatsoever

–

**2**

The artist has some control over the artwork but some of the artwork is determined by chance

–

**3**

The artist has complete control over every aspect of how the artwork looks



**What do you think  
about this idea?**

**Art is a  
physical  
object made  
by an  
artist.**



# What is art?

If you wanted to buy an artwork by Kerrie Poliness, you would have to buy one of her instruction books and create the artwork yourself.

**Is the artwork:**

the drawing, the instruction book or the artist's idea?

—

Explain your reasons.





# Find out more

Follow these links to see  
a range of other work by  
Kerrie Poliness.

[Black O](#)

[Red Wall Matter  
Drawing 2](#)

[OMG](#)

[OMG at Anna Schwartz  
Gallery](#)

[Selected works](#)



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Te Whare Toi