

Elements of Art

Colour

Make a rainbow frieze inspired by
Godwit/Kuaka by Ralph Hotere

**City
Gallery
Wellington**
Te Whare Toi

Distance Learning Programme

Colour is one of the elements of art – line, shape, form, colour, space, value/tone, texture.

This activity focuses on colour and incorporates effects created with line and texture.



Today you will

Explore colour relationships to make a painting inspired by **Ralph Hotere's *Godwit/Kuaka***.

–

Create a composition of **vertical lines**.

–

Experiment with **interesting textures**.

–

Mix **analogous** colours to paint a section of the spectrum.

–

Arrange the finished artworks together to **create a frieze** that spans the spectrum.



Keywords/Terms

Spectrum

the rainbow of colours

–

Primary colours

red/whero

yellow/kōwhai

blue/kikorangi

–

Secondary colours

colours that are mixed
from primary colours

orange/karaka

green/kākāriki

purple/poroporo

Analogous colours

colours that are next to
each other on the colour
wheel

–

Complementary colours

colours that are opposite
each other on the colour
wheel

Vertical

up and down

–

Horizontal

side to side

–

Mottled

marked with spots
or patches



Materials

- A5 card
- paint brush or roller
- low tack masking tape
- acrylic paint
- paint palette or plate

Optional

- pre-cut thin strips of coloured or pre-painted paper
- glue stick

Note: Each student will need black plus 2 primary colours.

warm red and warm yellow to mix orange

–

cool yellow and cool blue to mix green

–

cool red and warm blue to mix purple



This method uses a 6 colour mixing system to get vibrant secondary colours (you can buy student acrylic colours in warm and cool primaries from your usual school supplier).

You can still make this artwork with a single red, yellow and blue if that's what you already have.

Set up

Divide the class into 3 groups.
Each group will be painting with
1 of the 3 colour families.

Group 1 will use **warm red**
and **warm yellow** to mix colours
in the **orange** family.

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Group 2 will use **cool yellow**
and **cool blue** to mix colours
in the **green** family.

–

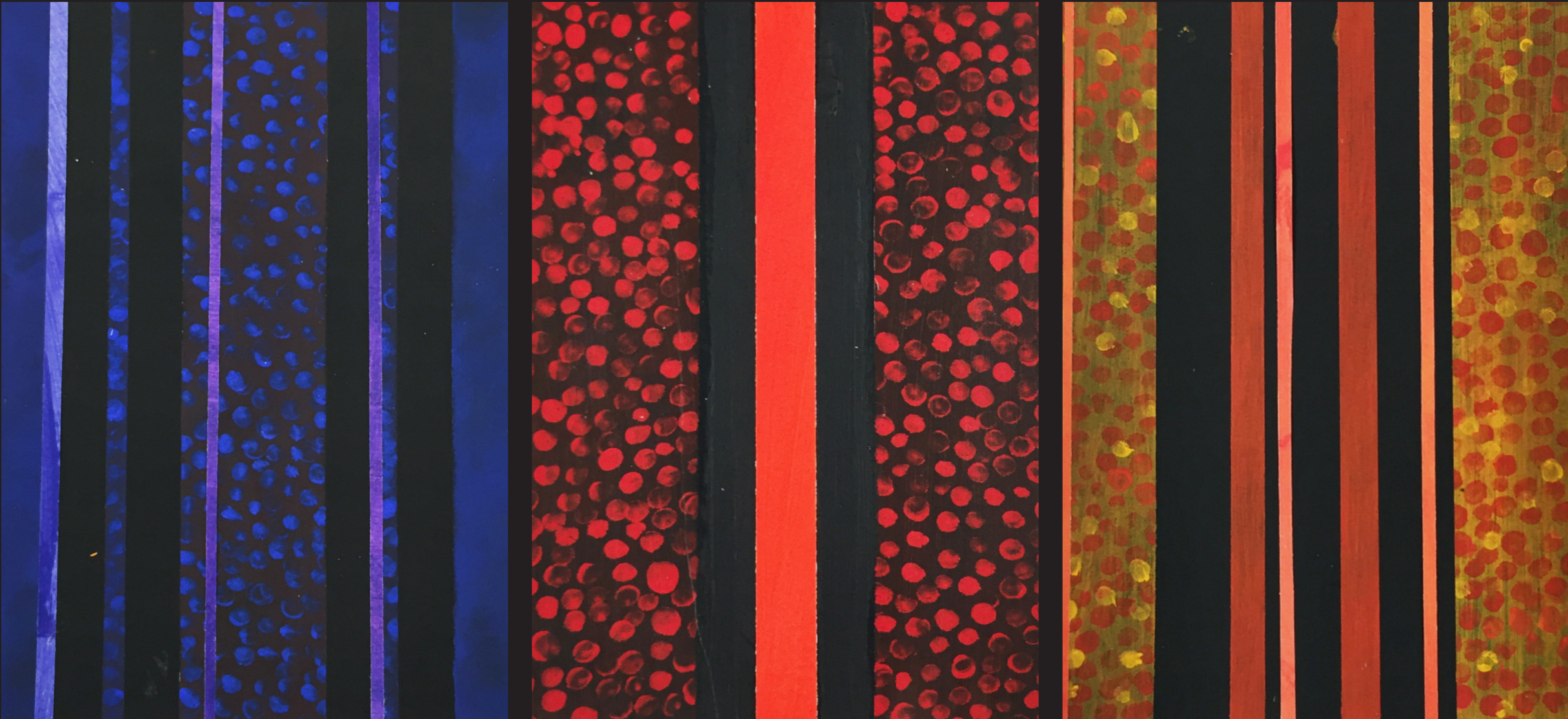
Group 3 will use **cool red**
and **warm blue** to mix colours
in the **purple** family.



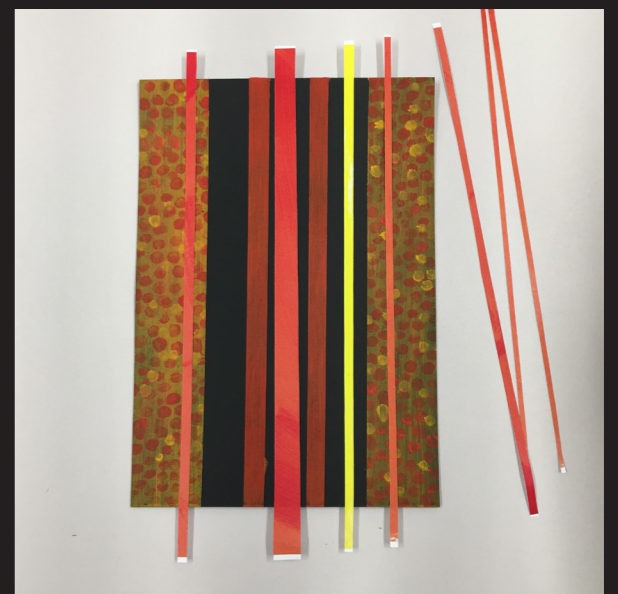
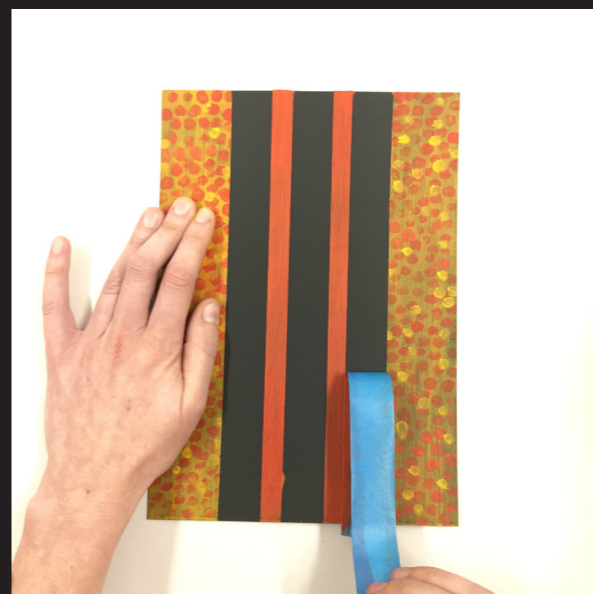
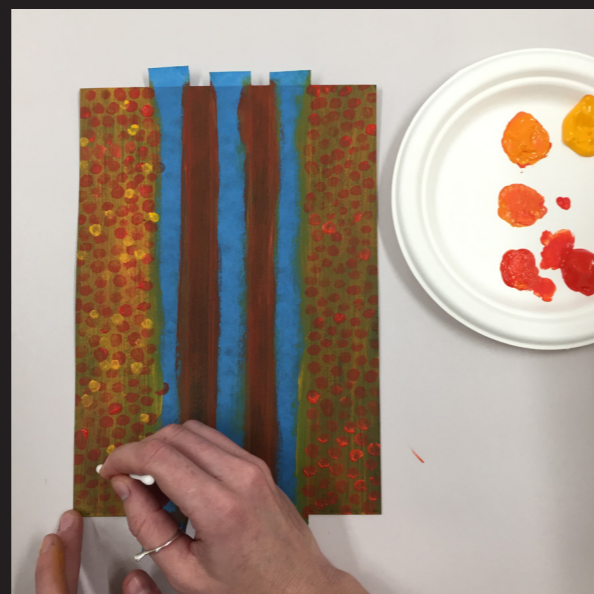
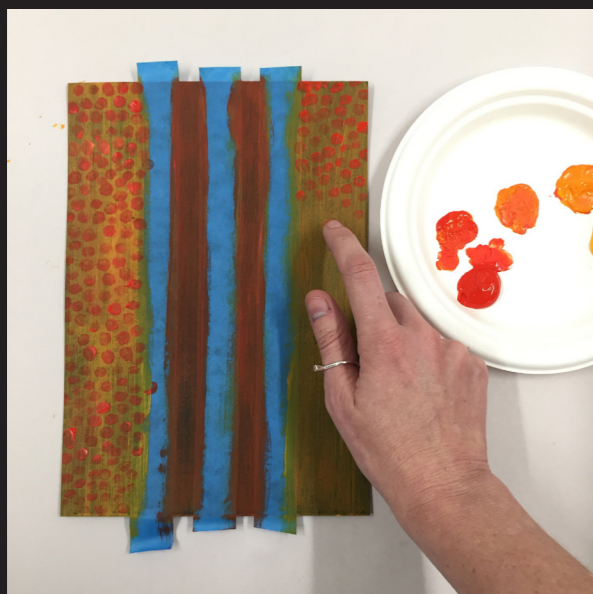
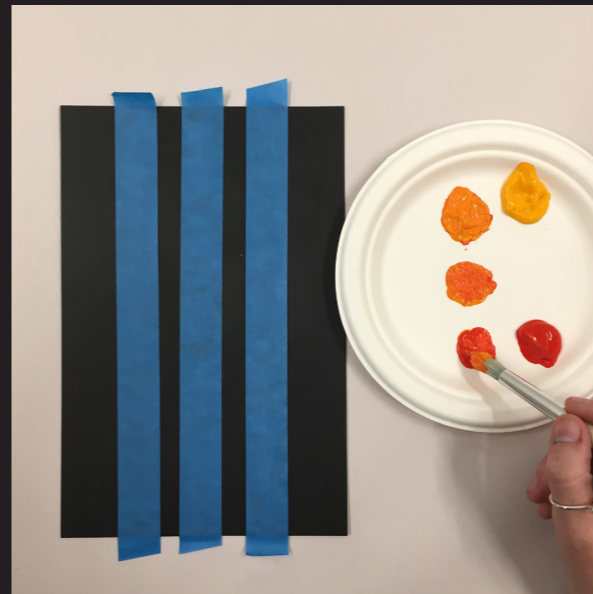
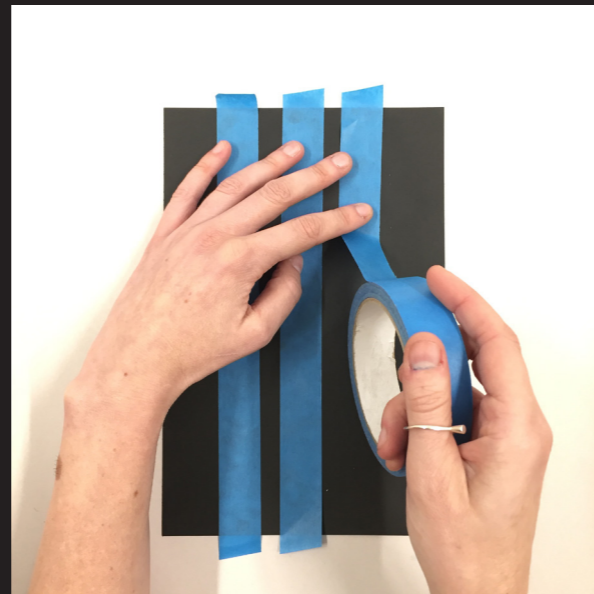
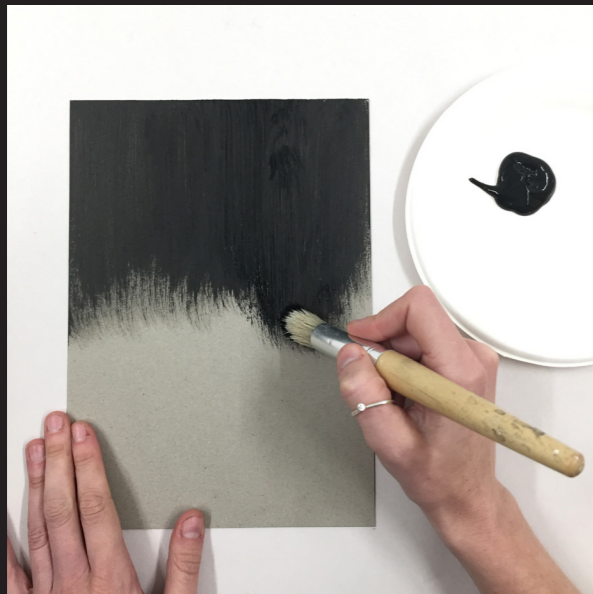
Tip: Students will paint a black background that needs time to dry. Paint the day before or use a hairdryer to dry it thoroughly.

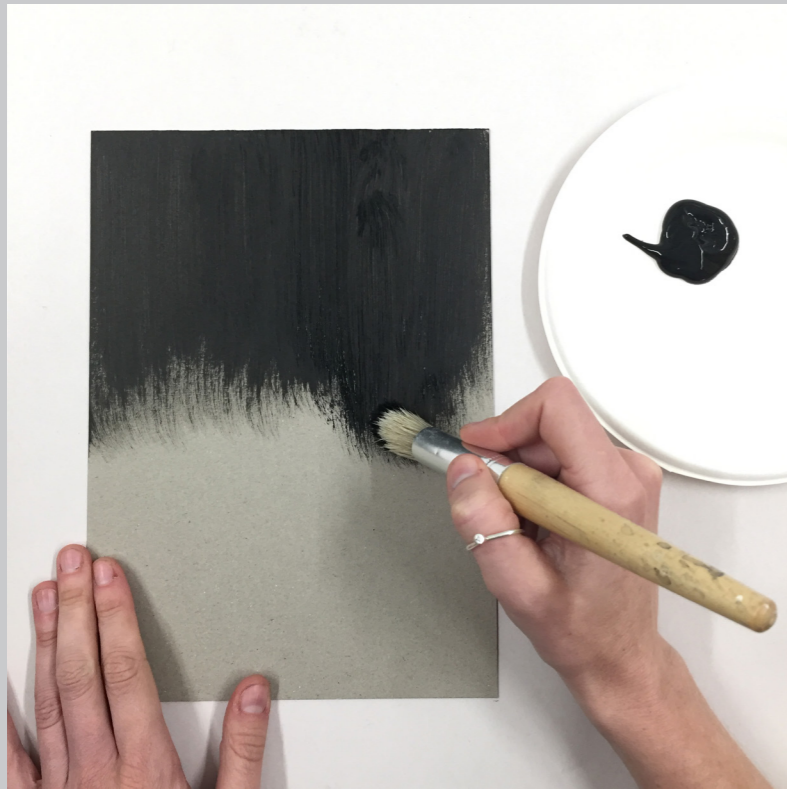


Rainbow Frieze



Step by Step

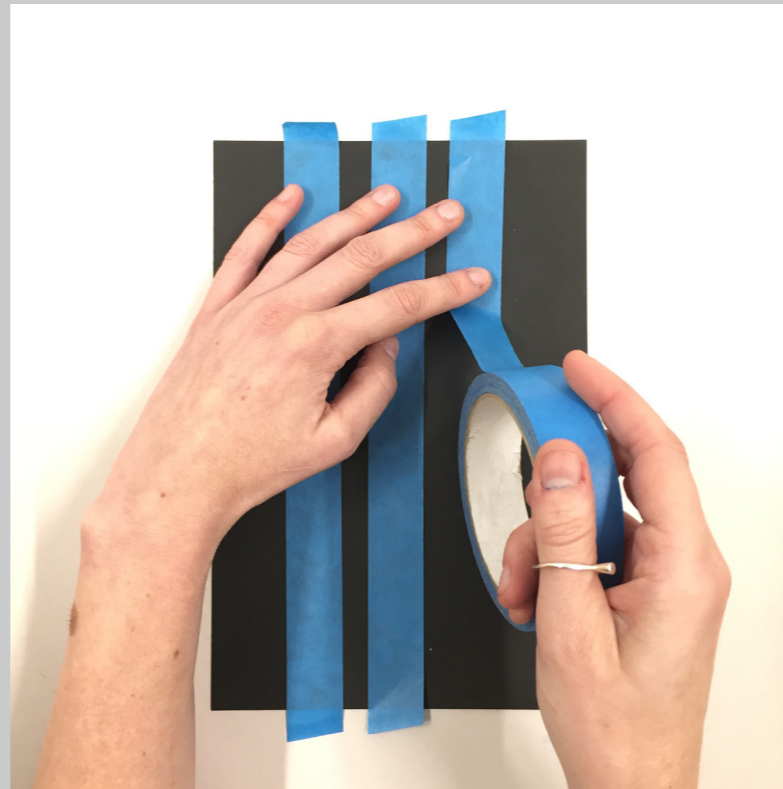




Paint card with an even black background.

Brush out any blobs of paint.

Dry completely.



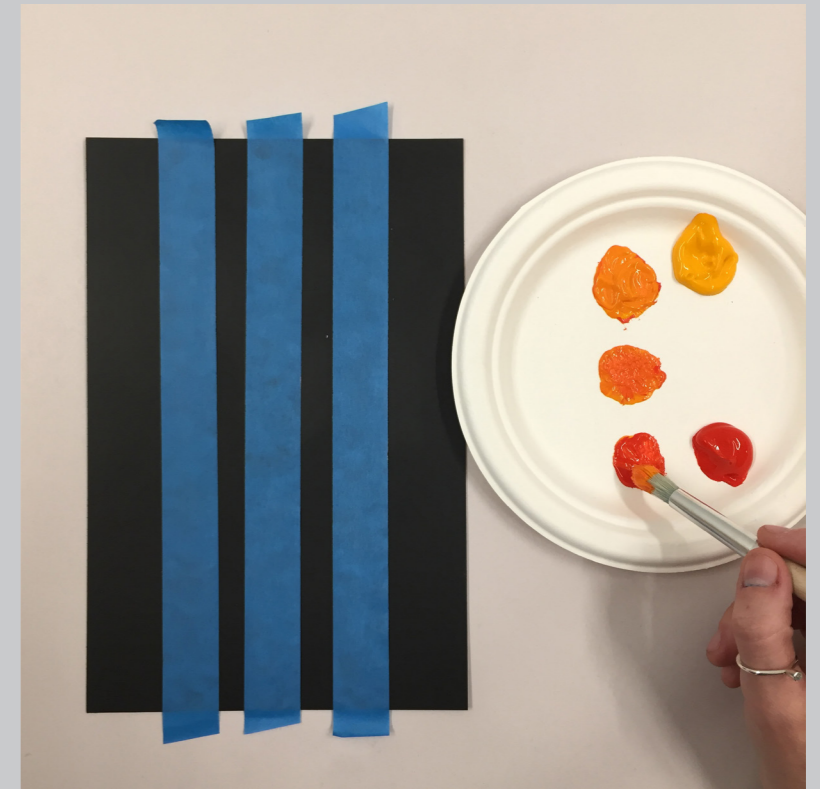
Stick vertical strips of masking tape onto the black surface.

Stick the tape wherever you want a neat black line of paint to show in your finished work.

Lots of tape = lots of black in the finished painting.

You could try a symmetrical composition, build up a rhythm of lines or overlap the tape to create a thicker line.

At the end, peel off the tape to reveal the black background underneath.



Mix 2 primary colours to create a secondary colour.

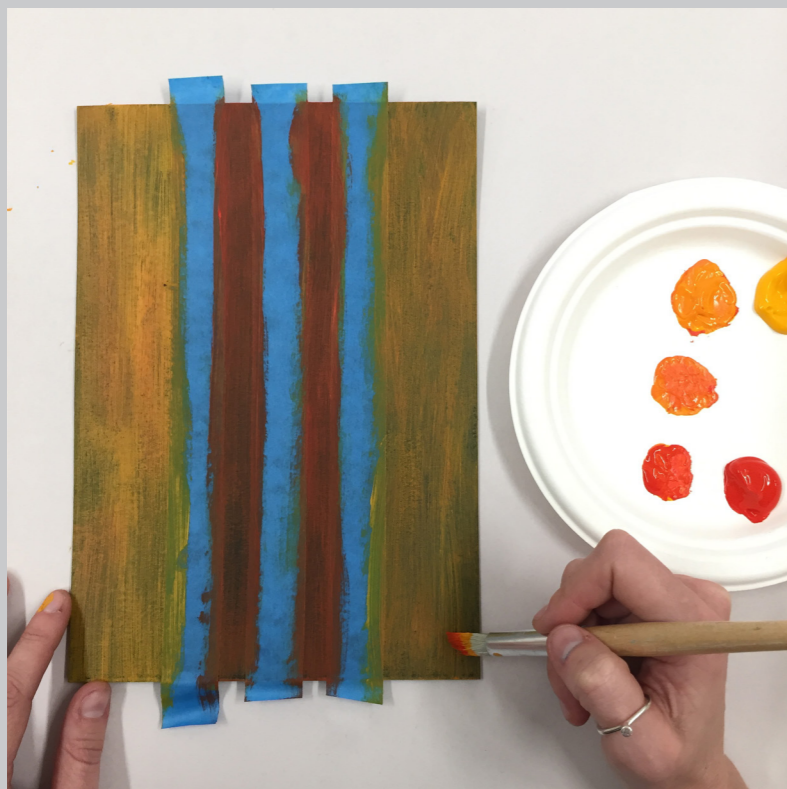
Yellow and red = orange

Yellow and blue = green

Blue and red = purple

Experiment with different ratios to get subtle variations.

You will just be using one of these colour families in your painting. This is called an Analogous colour scheme.

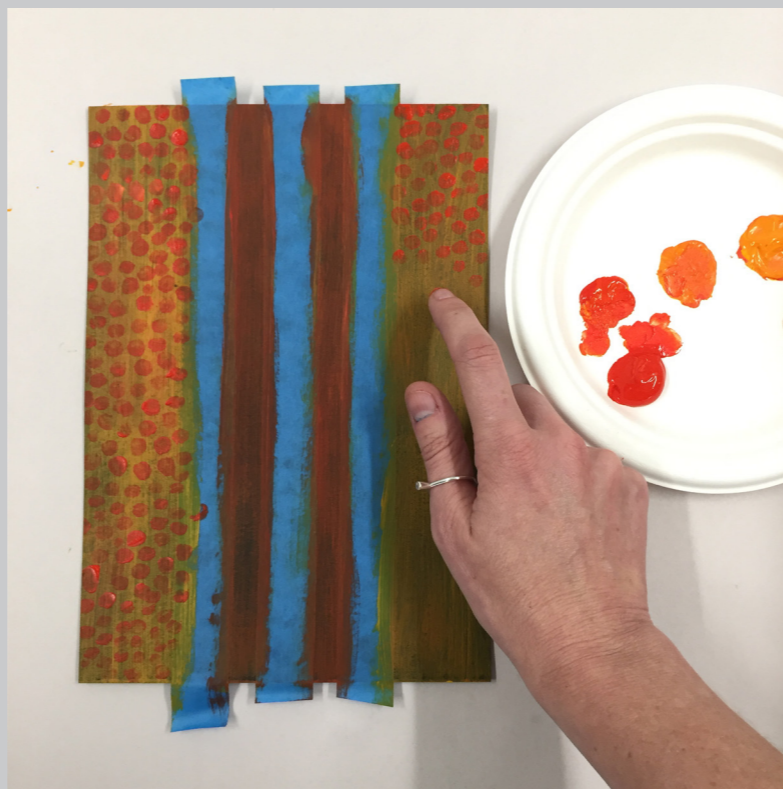


Layer 1

Paint colour over some or all of the black areas with colours from your colour family.

You could choose to paint a flat, even layer or leave some visible brushmarks.

You could choose to leave some areas black.



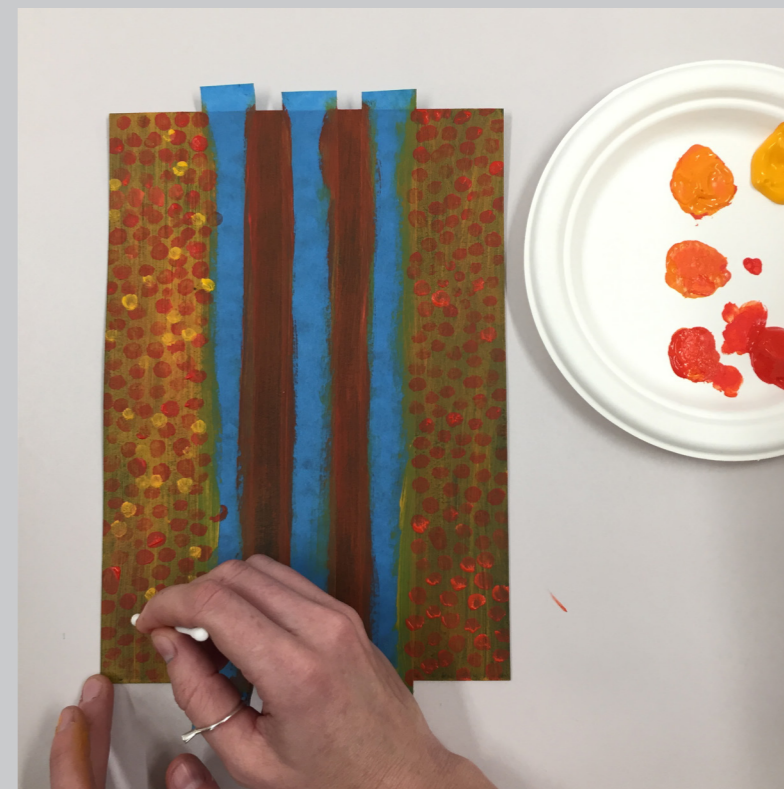
Layer 2

Create areas of mottled texture

Use a cotton bud or the end of your finger to make little dabs or dots over the background.

Only use a tiny bit of paint at a time, no big blobs. Use a fast, repetitive tapping motion.

You could choose to leave some areas of flat colour to contrast with the mottled texture.



Layer 3

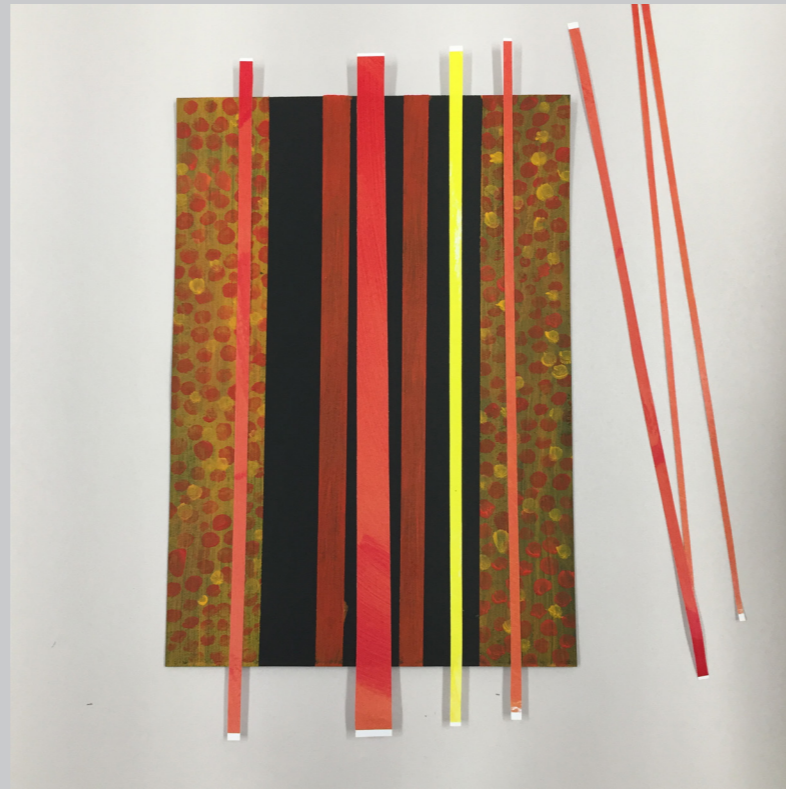
Experiment with adding another colour from within your colour family.

Watch what happens to the intensity of the colour if you leave lots of space between the dabs, or make hundreds of tiny overlapping dots.





When the paint is dry peel off the tape slowly and carefully.



Tape and paint another layer or stick thin vertical strips of coloured paper to your composition.

You could choose to add some thin white or black strips at this point.



Finished!



Look and Reflect

Arrange the artworks together.

Try sorting and ordering in rainbow order from red through to violet.

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Try ordering them like Godwit/Kuaka – red through to violet and back again. Like a reflection, or a tunnel.

Which do you prefer? Why?

–

Which colours advance/ appear to come forward?

–

Which colours recede/ appear further back?

–

What effect did leaving lots of space between the dots have on the colour?



Look and Reflect

Look at the differences between artworks from the same colour family. No two are the same, each is a unique combination of colour, composition, and application.

Which bits look dynamic and eye-catching? Which bits look subtle and quiet? Ask students to share how they achieved those effects.

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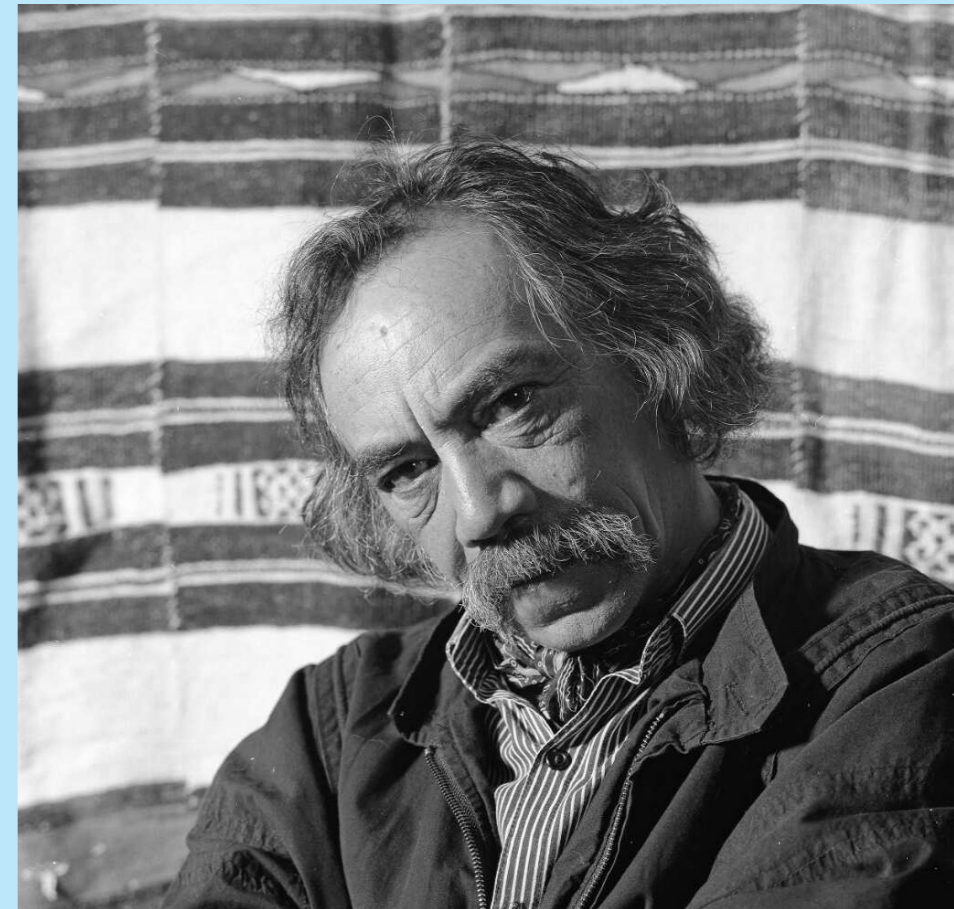
What have you learnt about using colours in pictures?



Try this

Analogous colour schemes can create a harmonious mood in a picture. What would be the effect of adding a complementary colour? Hold up a strip of paper to see. If you like it, add it to your composition.

Ralph Hotere used words in his artwork. Perhaps you could incorporate some kupu Māori into your colour painting? What word or words would you choose?



Portrait of artist, Ralph Hotere, photographed by Kenneth Quinn on the 7th of April 1988.





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