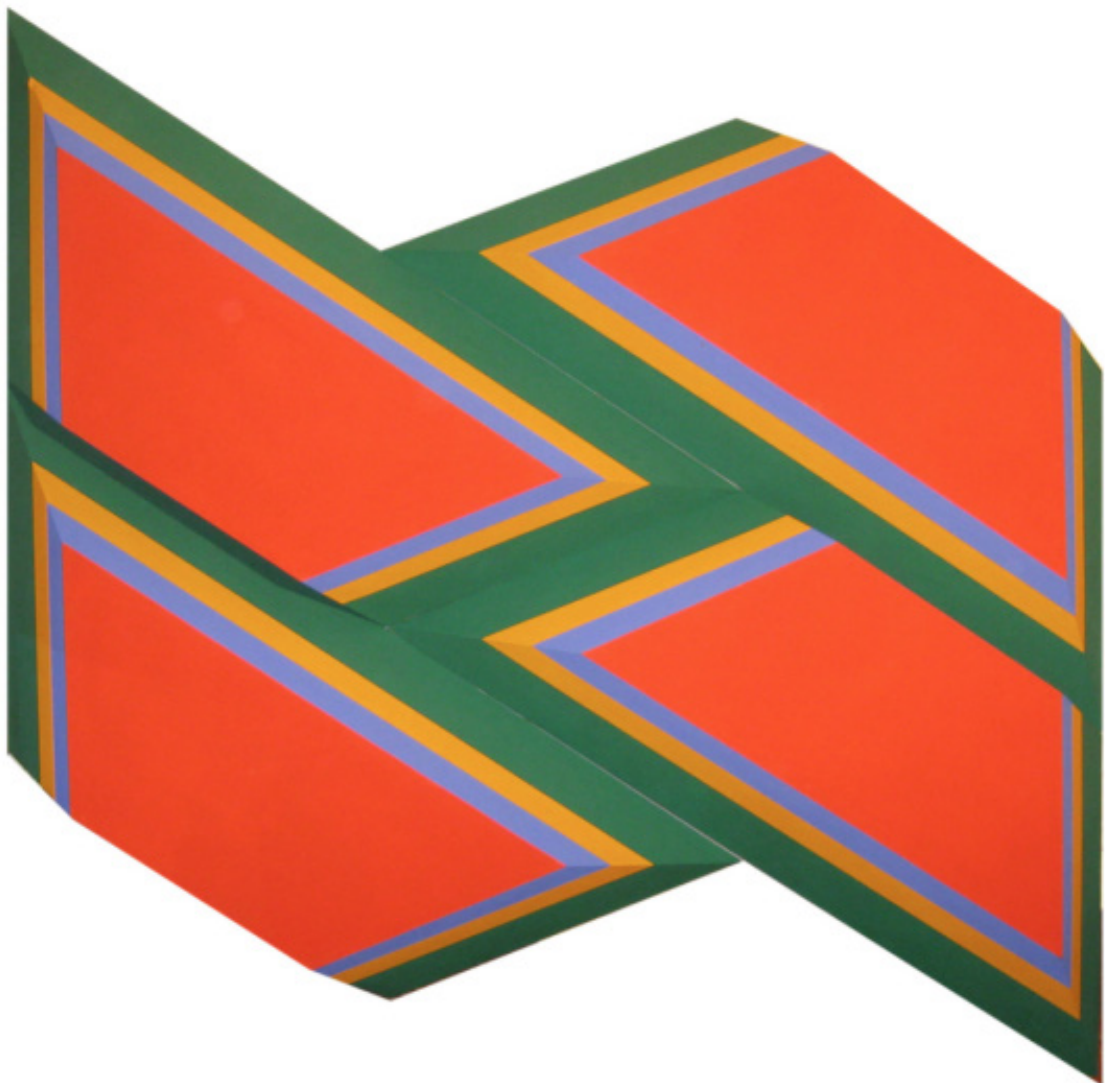


ARTS HEALTH ACTIVITY

Inspired by George Barker's *Zang!*, 1969, from the Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection, create a colourful abstract paper painting.

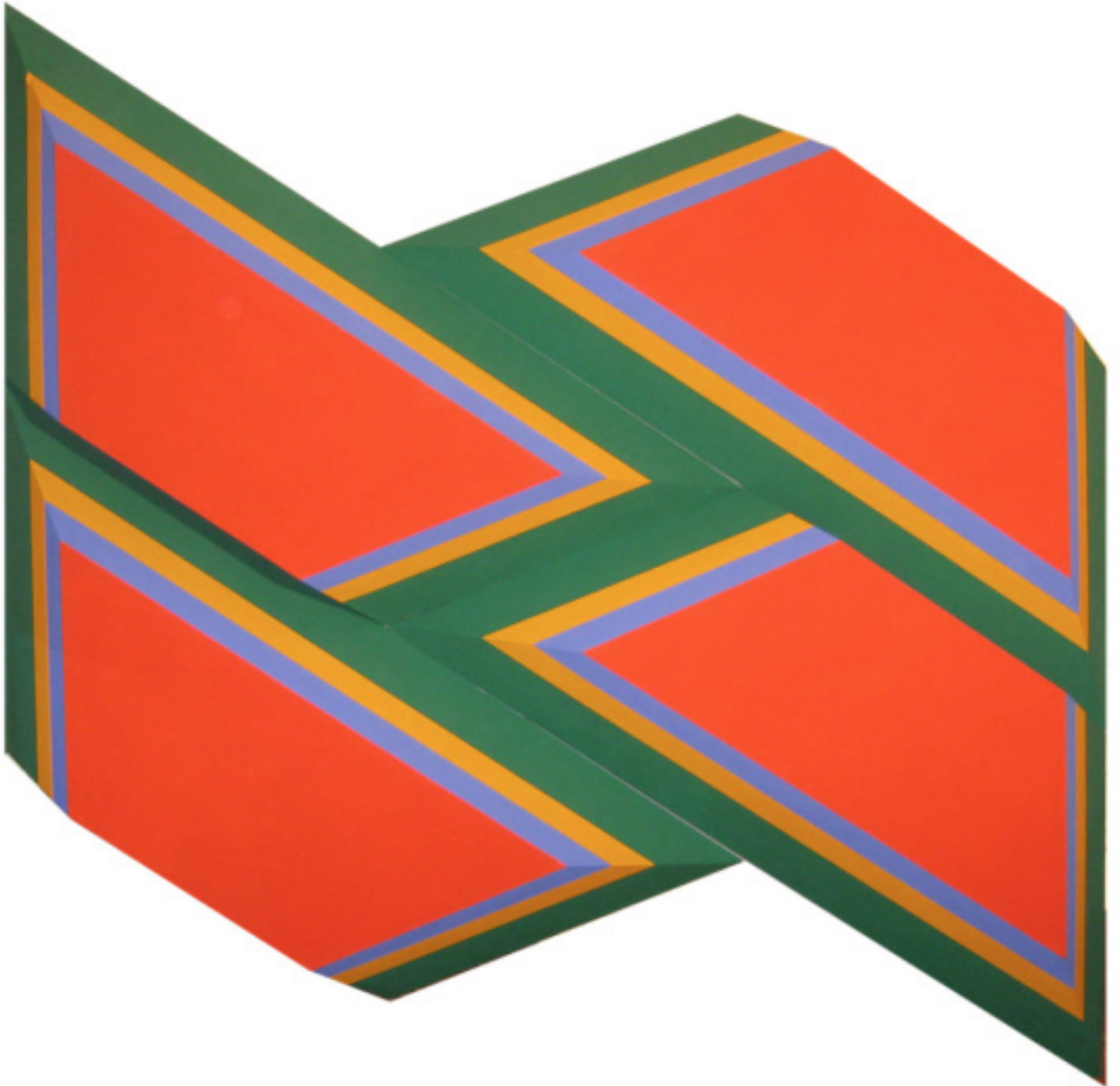


George Barker, *Zang!*, 1969,
Acrylic on shaped canvas

**MAITLAND
REGIONAL
ART GALLERY**

This art making activity promotes mindfulness, creativity and play. The activity is designed to be used with an accompanying video or on its own.

Have a good look



Take your time to have a look at this big colourful painting by George Barker. The work acts as both a painting and a sculptural object. The artist has shaped the canvas to reflect the colourful shapes painted on the surface. This makes it quite an exciting painting to look at, as it can be viewed at different angles revealing new paintings and shapes.

You might like to think about and discuss the following questions. Please keep in mind there are no right or wrong answers and feel encouraged to come up with some imaginative responses.

- The artist has had fun with colour in this work, and made definitive choices about what colours to place next to one another, which colour stands out to you the most? Why do you think that is?
- What kind of emotions or personalities do you think certain shapes hold?
- What kind of personality do you think this artwork would have?
- This work is called *ZANG!* Do you think the title suits the work? What kind of energy does the name bring to the piece?
- What does this artwork make you think of? How would you describe it?
- Do you like the artwork? Why / why not?

Let's Get Creative

What you will need for this art making activity:

- A ruler or something to draw some straight lines with – a box or a book would work well.
- A plain sheet of A3 or A4 paper or card. The thicker the better!
- A pencil, glue stick, scissors, some nice bright paper – this could be wrapping paper, pages from a magazine, choose something bright that catches your eye.

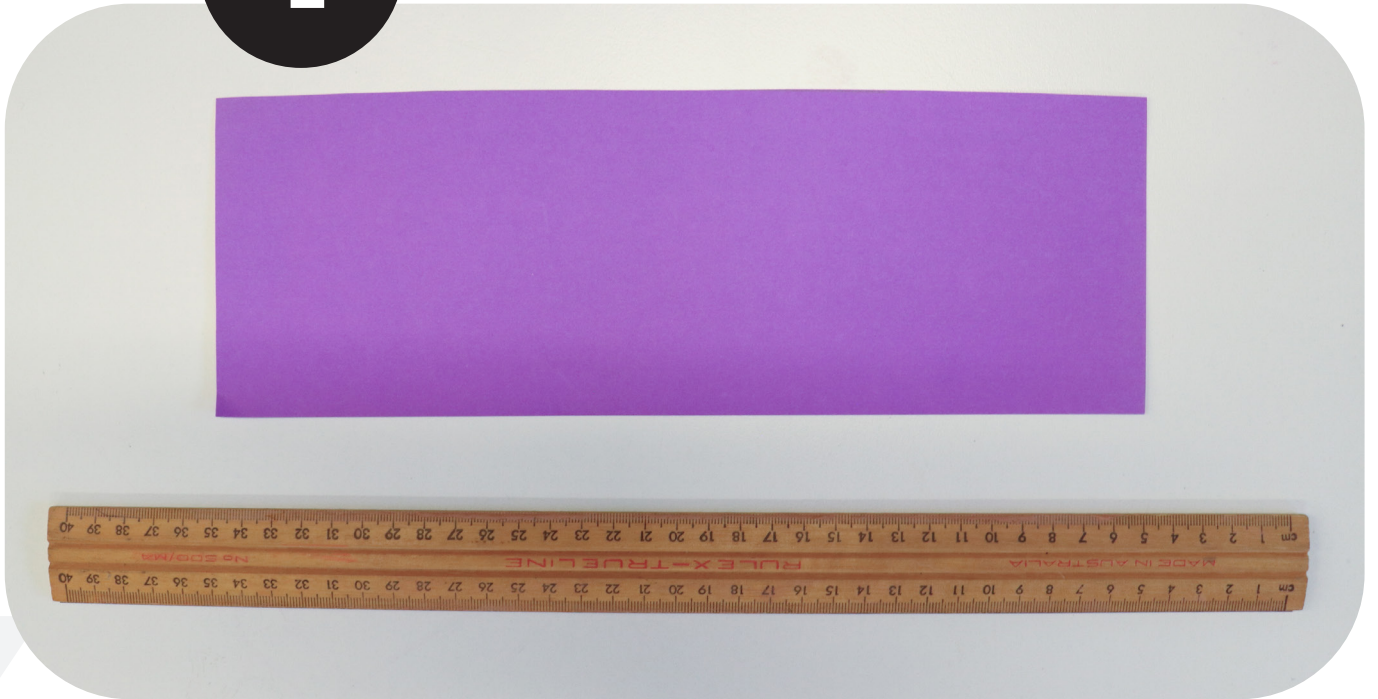
1



Step 1.

Gather your materials and make sure you have a nice clear space to work in.

2



Step 2.

Cut your piece of plain paper in half, so that you have two lengths.

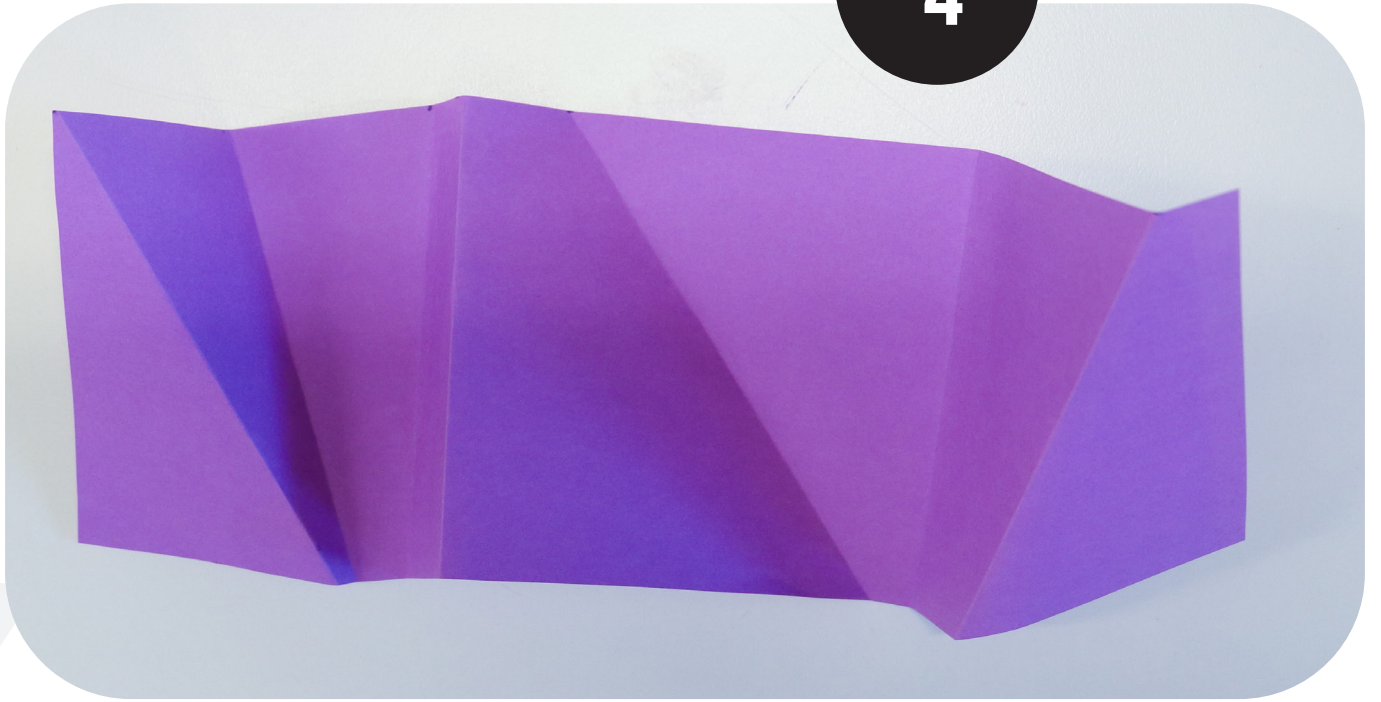
Step 3.

Using your ruler, draw some diagonal lines down one of your pieces of paper – creating a variety of different sized triangles at various angles.

3



4



Step 4.

Then begin to fold your paper along each of these lines, alternating between folding forwards and backwards.

Step 5.

Now that you have the base of your sculpture – start to cut out some triangle shapes from your coloured paper. You might like to cut your colourful paper into smaller strips – just like you did in step 2, so that it is easier to make your shapes a similar size.

5



6



Step 6.

Carefully select and match some of your freshly cut coloured shapes to fit into the folded shapes of your sculpture. A bit like putting a puzzle together – trim any to size if they are not quite right. Glue them down as you go.

Step 7.

You can add as many shapes as you like – play around with colour combinations and stacking shapes inside one another.

7



Reflection

Take some time to have a good look at your artwork once you feel it's complete. You might like to reflect on some of the following questions:

- How will you display your artwork?
What orientation do you think works best?
- Which is your favourite colour combination?
- What title will you give your artwork?
- Did you enjoy creating this piece of artwork?
- What kind of energy does your work have?

Extra

Recreate your artwork using thick white card and painting the coloured shapes in using acrylic paint or gouache.