

## ARTS HEALTH ACTIVITY

Create a folding book, capturing the energy of a circus, taking inspiration from Wendy Sharpe's *Circus OZ*, 2016 from the Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection.



Wendy Sharpe

*Circus Oz* [folding book], 2016

Gouache and pencil on Chinese rice paper

55 x 38 x 3cm (book closed) 55 x 750cm (book open)



Page detail

**MAITLAND  
REGIONAL  
ART GALLERY**

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

Have a good look



*"I have always loved the famous (humans only) Circus Oz. There is unrelenting energy, live music. irreverence, satire and of course the incredible artistry of the performers. The shows have a mixture of crazy humour, surrealism and poetry."*

**– Wendy Sharpe**

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.

- What kinds of colours and shapes do you think of when you think of a circus?
- Who or what do you think is the most interesting act is at the circus?
- Do you like this artwork? Why / why not?



# Let's Get Creative

## What you will need for this art making activity:

- Some drawing or painting materials. You could use water colours, pencils, pastels or any other colourful mark making options.
- Two sheets of A4 paper
- Scissors
- Glue or double sided tape

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## Step 1.

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

A dark blue rounded rectangle contains two horizontal white rectangles, one above the other, representing folded paper. A dark blue circle with the white number '2' is positioned at the top left of the white rectangles.

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## Step 2.

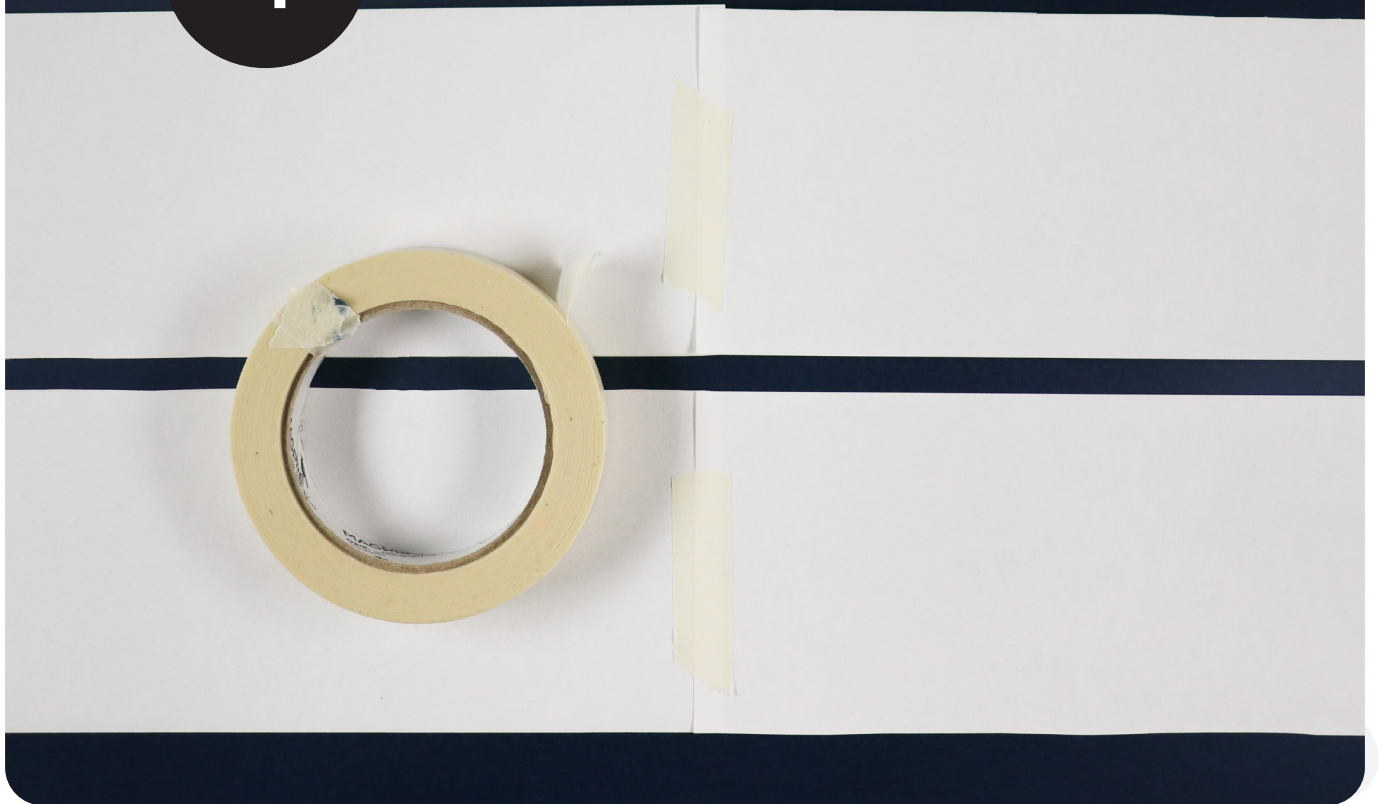
Fold both pieces of your paper  
in half long ways.



### Step 3.

Cut down the centre line of both sheets so that you now have 4 long pieces of paper.

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## Step 4.

Glue or tape these together, short sides together, to make one really long sheet of paper.





## Step 5.

Read the following prompts, first making some movements with your hands, arms or body that respond to each cue – Then translate that movement into a mark on your page.

Try not to over think it, and just go with whatever comes up! There is no right or wrong, it's all about playing having fun.

- Clowns Juggling
- High Top Tent
- Acrobats Flipping
- Ring Master's Whip
- Dancers Twirling
- Popcorn Popping
- Audiences Cheering

Perhaps you can come up with some Circus themed drawing prompts of your own. The process is more important than the outcome – so don't be afraid to stray from the brief.



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## Step 6.

You might like to fold your drawing into an accordion book, just like Wendy Sharpe.



# 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:

- What title will you give your artwork?
- Did you enjoy creating this piece of artwork?
- Which mark was your favourite to create?
- Could you make this work again using different prompts – perhaps an experience like a walk in the park, baking a cake or going for a swim at the beach.