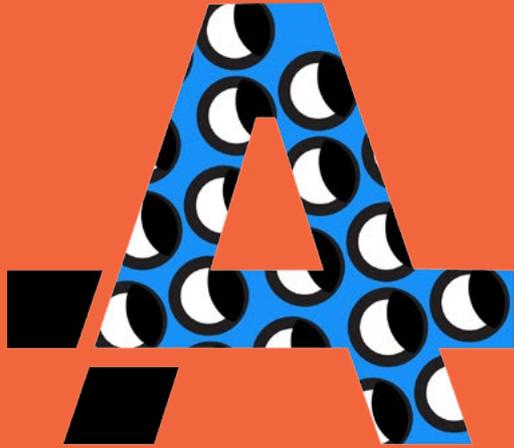




4A KIDS Autumn 2020 – this is the first ever 4A KIDS kit!



chunyinrainbowchan.com/

Chun Yin Rainbow Chan is a vocalist, producer and multi-disciplinary artist, who makes songs, performances, artworks and research projects.

For 4A KIDS, Rainbow investigates a special word - and makes character shapes in clay!



idalawrenceprojects.wordpress.com/

Ida Lawrence is a visual artist who weaves stories through her art and education projects.

For 4A KIDS, Ida guides us through making an 'almost' batik artwork and remembers a great holiday!



marikitsantiago.com/

Marikit Santiago is an artist who lives in Western Sydney, where she makes artworks that investigate culture and her own Filipino background and Australian nationality.

For 4A KIDS, Marikit makes an appropriation artwork with us - perfect for this time of isolation!

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah is an artist who lives in Western Australia and makes artworks that feature animals and memories, often carved out of wood.

For 4A KIDS, Abdul-Rahman shares info about some of the many animals he likes - and you can colour his artworks in!

abdulrahmanabdullah.com/



4A KIDS is a 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art project connecting kids with contemporary Asian and Asian Australian contemporary art, culture and ideas. All activities are commissioned from artists and each 4A KIDS kit has activities for kids ranging from 5-17 (and beyond!)



(ALMOST!) BATIK ART ACTIVITY with Ida Lawrence

What is batik? (It kind of rhymes with 'attic'.)

Batik is a type of textile tradition which has been practised for centuries in Indonesia, especially on the island of Java. Batik designs are created using a combination of wax and dye. The process involves stamping or drawing hot wax onto white fabric to create a 'resist' — this section will remain white when the fabric is dyed another colour.



This wax resist and dyeing process is often repeated on the one piece of fabric, to create a more intricate design. A new layer of wax will preserve the fabric's colour before it is dyed again. After the final dyeing the fabric is boiled to remove the wax, revealing the completed textile.

Hot wax is applied with a hand-held copper stamp called a cap (starting with 'ch-', rhyming with 'up'), or drawn with a pen-like tool called a canting (starting with 'ch-', rhyming with 'hunting'). These days, batik-like designs are often printed by machines, or made with a combination of machine-printing and wax resist techniques.

I first learned about batik when I visited my family in Java. Many of my relatives make batik for a living. One time when I wanted to gift something to my grandmother, my father suggested I choose a dark coloured batik sarong. In the region where my grandmother lives, darker batik are traditionally worn by older people while lighter colours are for younger people.



(ALMOST!) BATIK ART ACTIVITY

with Ida Lawrence



In the different regions of Java, there are different batik motifs — symbols, designs and patterns with special meanings.

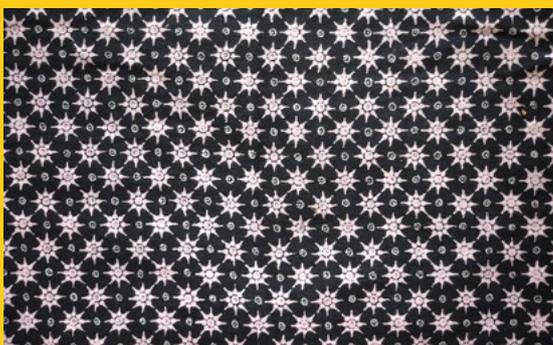
Traditionally, motifs reflect the region's natural environment (including plants and animals) or way of life. A batik motif with a particular meaning is sometimes chosen to wear at a special event.

Mega Mendung cloud motif from Cirebon, on the north coast of Java. The wax resist lines in this batik were made with a canting.



What animals can you see in this batik from Indramayu?

Parang, the dagger-like pattern from Yogyakarta and Central Java. Historically, it was worn only by kings and the royal family.



Star or compass-like Truntum motif from Solo in Central Java, worn by parents of a bride and groom to symbolise their desire to give guidance to the married couple. This motif was created with a cap.

(ALMOST!) BATIK ART ACTIVITY

with Ida Lawrence

Now let's create your own fabric design inspired by batik motifs and resist techniques!

Instead of using hot wax to create the resist, this activity uses contact adhesive and cold candle wax.

What you'll need

A4 paper

Black marker

A4 size piece of white calico, or thin cotton fabric (thin enough to see your drawn design through it)

Contact adhesive (or you can experiment with very sticky masking tape)

Long candle (to draw with)

Scissors

Waterproof drop sheet

Containers for paint and water

Acrylic or poster paints (any colour except white), diluted so they are watery enough to soak through fabric (rather than sit on top of the fabric)

Brushes

Let's
make!



STEP 1:

The first step is to imagine a design...

You could base it on a personal story – for example, a memory of a fun day or holiday.

What are some events that happened that day?

What are some of the objects or images from that memory?

How can you simplify those images into geometric shapes?

How many times will you repeat them?

Here is a design based on a memory of going to the beach with my friend. Seagulls stole our chips, our 2 ice creams melted all over us, but we swam with a pod of 8 dolphins!

(ALMOST!) BATIK ART ACTIVITY

with Ida Lawrence

STEP 2:

Draw the outlines of your design onto paper with a marker. Keep the shapes big, simple and bold!

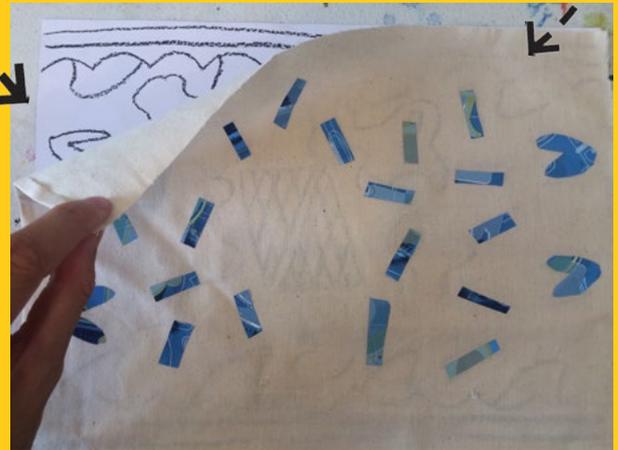


Which lines and shapes need a hard edge? You can use contact adhesive for these.

Which shapes need a soft edge? The candle makes softer lines (but you still need to press down hard).

STEP 3:

Place the fabric over the paper. Now to create the resist (these shapes will remain white after you add colour). Trace your design onto the fabric by drawing invisible lines with a candle (you'll have to press hard for it to work) and by cutting and sticking down shapes from the contact adhesive. Press it down firmly.



STEP 4:

Place your fabric on a drop sheet. Time to add colour! Paint the colours onto your design and let the watery paint soak through the fabric.

When choosing a colour, you could think about how certain colours and combinations help to tell your story, or add to its mood. I used a lot of green because in my story it was a lot of pistachio and choc-mint ice cream that melted everywhere!



STEP 5:

Let your design dry, then remove the contact adhesive to reveal your completed design!

Thanks for learning with me + 4A KIDS! Ida Lawrence

Did you know Indonesian children wear batik school uniforms on Fridays?

If you were to design a new school uniform, how would it look? What motifs or patterns would it include?



Thanks for having fun with 4A KIDS - see you next time!