

# Made in the Middle

Activity  
Guide

## **How to use this guide**

This exhibition shows work by artists who live in the Midlands.

You can use this book to help you explore the exhibition. It will support you to learn more about the artists and their work.

It has activities to do in the gallery and at home.

Look out for these artworks in the gallery and then answer the questions.

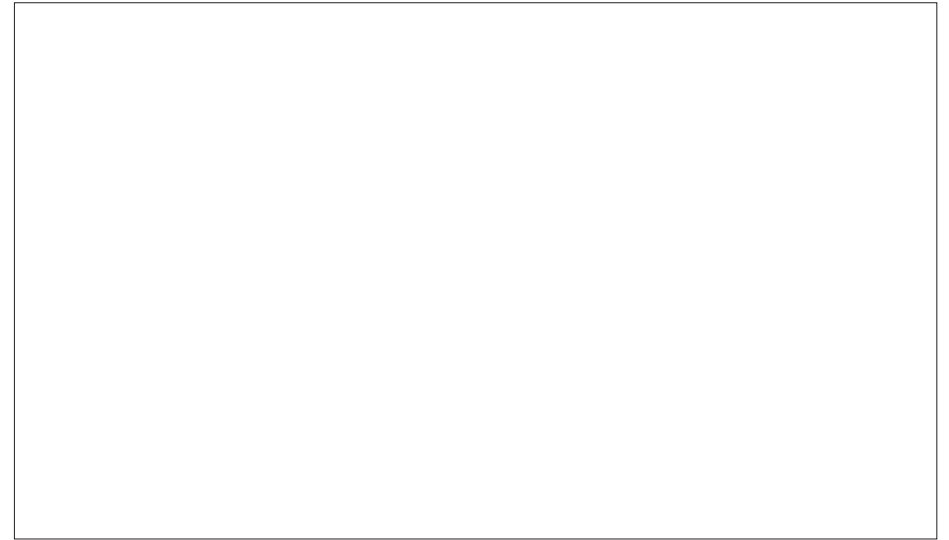
## Aishah Carberry



Aishah's patterns are inspired by African, Indonesian, and Aboriginal textiles and art. As a Deaf and Autistic artist, she uses pattern to communicate and express her unique voice.

Look for these patterns in the gallery.

Draw your own pattern in the space below



What has inspired your pattern?

Is it something in this room, your background or something you like?

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Can you find any other artists that use pattern? You can write them down here:

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# Paul McAllister



Paul grew up and works in the Midlands. Over time, the landscape around him has changed. Paul uses art to show his experience of the landscape in the Midlands.

Why do you think the Midlands is important to Paul?

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Paul uses lots of different textures. You can see and feel some of Paul's work on the handling table.

What does it feel like to touch? What does each texture remind you of? Is there one texture that stands out to you and why? You can draw or write your answers.

## Oliver Bliss



Oliver makes quilts that explore people's identities. In this artwork he has been inspired by a person from the Midlands to explore the theme of community. Oliver uses different processes to make his quilts including: photography, drawing and sewing.



What materials and tools does Oliver use?

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Oliver's quilt shows Khakan Qureshi and his partner Mr T.

Khakan is someone who inspires Oliver.

Design a quilt of someone or something that inspires you in the space below.

You could draw symbols or other things that represent the person.

A large, empty rectangular box provided for the student to draw their quilt design. The box is white with a thin black border.



*Tereza Bušková*



Tereza was born in Prague and now lives and works in Birmingham. Her work is inspired by Slavic and European traditions. This artwork is called 'Mothers Insignia'. An insignia is a symbol or a sign that represents something.



Find Tereza's work in the gallery.  
What shapes can you see in her work?

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Think of a tradition that you have experienced.  
Can you draw something to represent it?

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a representation of a tradition.

## Keisha Brittle



Keisha studied at De Montfort University in Leicester. Her work shows her journey of reconnecting with her family.

What connections do you have with your family or friends that could inspire an artwork?

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Keisha's Grandad in the Caribbean sends her photos of the nature there. The patterns in nature inspire the colours and shapes in Keisha's artworks.



Can you find glass pieces like this in the exhibition? What are they used for?

What object would you make about your family or nature? What colours would you use?

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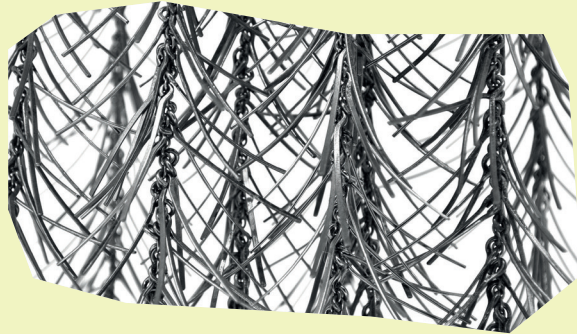
# Matching Materials

Artists in the exhibition use different materials.

Can you match the artwork with the material it is made from?

Look at the artworks in the gallery to help you.

Paper



Glass



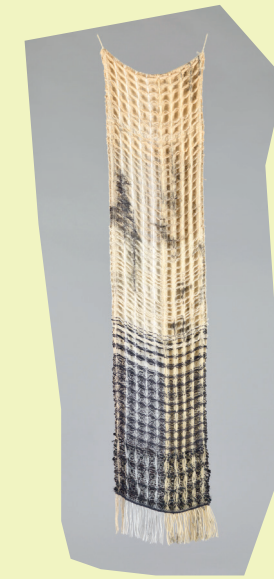
Ceramic



Metal



Textile



You can feel some of these materials on the handling table.



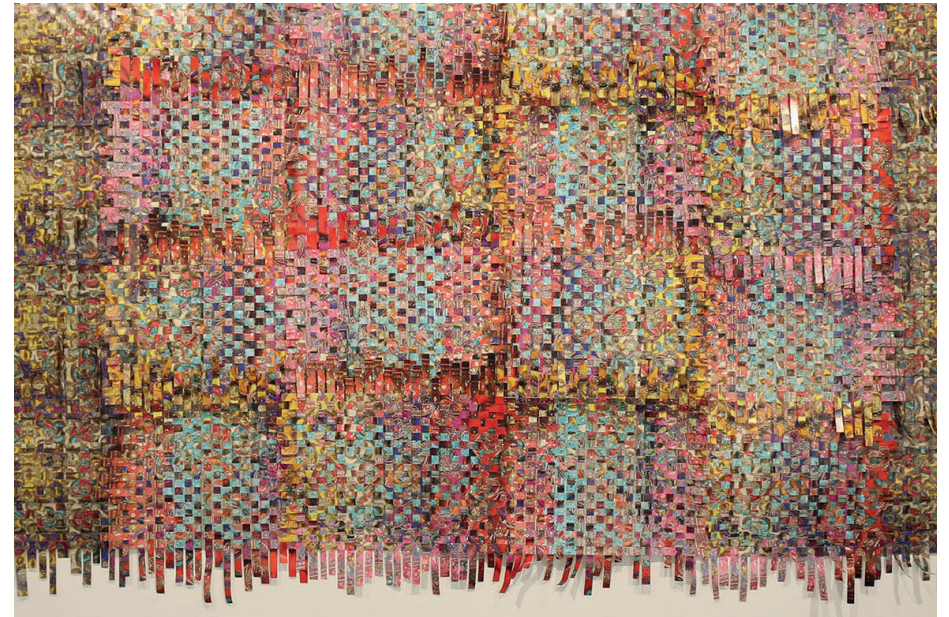


## Learn to weave – To do at home

### Nilupa Yasmin



Nilupa is an artist of British-Bangladeshi heritage who grew up in Birmingham. She explores her heritage in her artworks.



This work is called Baiyn বায়ন which means weaving in Bengali.

Nilupa makes her artworks by weaving photographs together.

You can see and feel some of her work on the handling table.

Lots of the artists in the exhibition use sustainable materials. Sustainable materials are ones that do little or no harm to the environment.

You can learn how to weave using sustainable materials. Here are some instructions for how to make a simple loom to help you weave.

Reusing materials that you already have can help to be sustainable. Here are some materials you could use:

- Old plastic bags
- Old t-shirts or fabric
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Cardboard boxes



1. Trace the weaving grid onto a piece of card (you could use an empty cereal box).
2. Next cut along the dotted lines. Remember not to go right to the edge.
3. Collect some different materials. Choose from the suggestions on the opposite page.
4. Cut the materials into strips about 25cm long and 1cm wide.
5. Take one of the strips and pass the end through the first slit in your grid and along to the second. Now bring it up and over to the third slit where you go down and underneath again.
6. Keep going under and over until you get to the end of the slits.
7. Now take the next strip. This time go over until you get to the second slit and then go down and under coming up at the third slit.
8. Keep going over and under until you get to the end again.
9. Keep alternating how you start (over or under) until your grid is completely full
10. You can share a picture of your finished pieces with us:
  - 📷 @craftspace\_
  - 📌 craftspace

Tag #MadeITM



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Supported using public funding by  
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We are grateful for financial support from principal funder Arts Council England



