

LOOK!

DISCUSS!

CREATE!

Look & Discuss

FAHRELNISSA AND THE INSTITUTES

TOWARDS A SKY

Fahrelnissa Zeid (1901-1991), was born in Istanbul and was one of the first women to go to art school in Turkey. She was an internationally acclaimed artist during her lifetime and is considered to be one of the greatest modern artists of the 20th century. Her large-scale, abstract paintings in colourful patterns are exhibited in museums around the world.

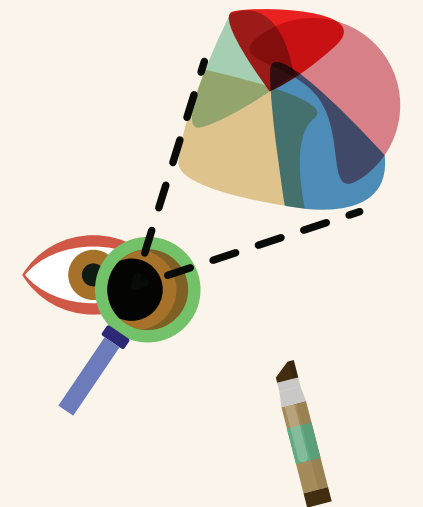
Zeid was an imaginative artist that produced extraordinary works of art in several distinct styles and mediums and enjoyed experimentation. Early on in her career, Zeid focussed on abstract compositions that were filled with geometric shapes, **divisionism** and **colour blocking**. Stained glass and mosaic design techniques influenced and inspired the artist's work. In 1975, Zeid moved to Jordan and began teaching a group of women in her home, which led to the establishment of the Fahrelnissa Zeid Royal Institute of Fine Arts in Amman.

This exhibition presents the artworks of pioneering women artists from Jordan's modern and contemporary artistic movements and institutional scene anchored by the influence of Zeid. Renowned artists Wijdan, Hind Nasser and Ufemia Rizk paved the legacy of artistic practice, thought and educational frameworks that shaped the cultural landscape in Jordan and the wider Arab region.



Look at the painting, *Untitled* (ca. 1950s) by Fahrelnissa Zeid

- Did you know that this painting is part of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi collection?
- Notice the different colours and shapes you see. Can you name them?
- Identify the warm and cool hues in the painting. What feelings do they give you?
- Look closely at the **divisionism** and **colour blocking** in the painting. Do you see any new shapes, forms or figures?
- Take a step back, can you notice circular movements created by the different shapes in the painting?
- In what directions are the lines and shapes moving towards?
- Fahrelnissa Zeid often had a dominant recurring theme in her work. Take a guess, what do you think inspired her?



Create

Create your own artwork

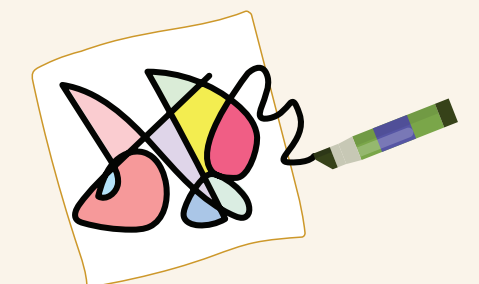
- Draw lines and shapes with the black marker in different directions. Try to let your lines and shapes float around freely.
- Experiment with other types of lines such as curves, diagonal, horizontal, vertical, zigzag, wavy, dotted, straight or parallel.
- Connect the lines and shapes together to create even more shapes and forms. Remember, geometry can be infinite!
- Choose 2-5 warm hues and 2-5 cool hues that represent certain feelings and moods for you.
- Start colouring your shapes and forms. Choose one colour for every shape and try to create a harmonious result, transitioning between warm and cool colours.
- Think of a title for your artwork, date it, and sign it.

Well done! You have just created your own Fahrelnissa Zeid inspired artwork!

For this activity you will need:

- A canvas or a sheet of paper
- Black waterproof marker, colouring pencils, crayons, acrylic paint, or coloured markers
- A selection of paint brushes (if using paint)

You can use any combination of the suggestions above.



Divisionism: the practice of separating colours into singular dots or strokes of pigment to create optical effects in a composition.

Colour blocking: the exploration of taking colours that are opposites on the colour wheel and pairing them together to make bold, vibrant images.

