

# OP-ART

Scribble  
&  
Sketch 



Artist: Abigail Reed

Learn how to make your own Optical art by looking at the work of Bridget Riley. Try four different drawing exercises that range from easy to more complicated.



Bridget Riley patterns

## Instructions

**Step 1.** Find something round to draw around. I am using an egg cup as it is the right size for the paper I am working on (A4). Pick out two colours that are of a similar shade (I have chosen yellow and orange). Start to draw circles around your paper by drawing around the egg cup. Go slow to avoid wobbly shapes. Alternate the shades. Try to avoid planning where the circles will go—be free and playful and imagine you are taking your eyes for a walk around the paper! Keep going until the paper is suitably filled, overlapping some circles. Can you try doing this with different shades of colour? What happens when you keep overlapping the circles again and again?

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## Materials

To do these drawing exercises you will need:

- paper
- pencil
- ruler
- eraser
- colouring pens or pencils.



1a



1b



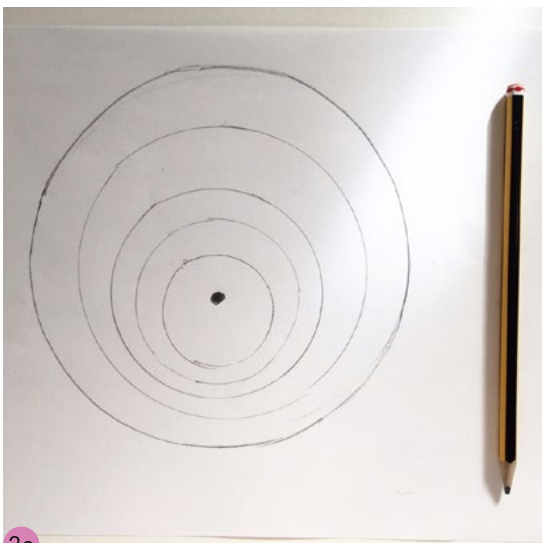
1c



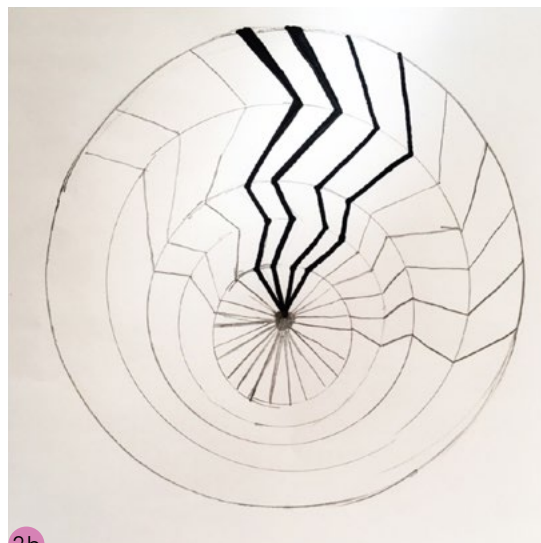
1d

**Instructions  
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**Step 2.** To start, draw a big circle with a pencil. I am drawing around a bowl, which is about 15cm wide. Now draw a big dot off centre (see photo) in the circle. We need a few more circles so find some more round things to draw around keeping the dot at the centre. Still using a pencil, start to draw some zig zag lines that run from the central dot to the outer edge. Once you are feeling confident with the mark making, you can switch to a black pen. Try and make the line thicker as it reaches the outer edge of the circle. The neater your lines are, the better the optical illusion will be so keep a steady hand and draw slowly. Once you have all the black pen zig zags down, you can rub out the pencil



2a



2b



2c

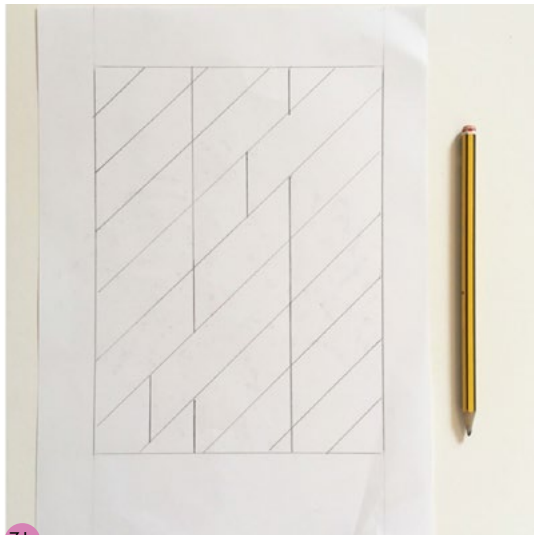


2d

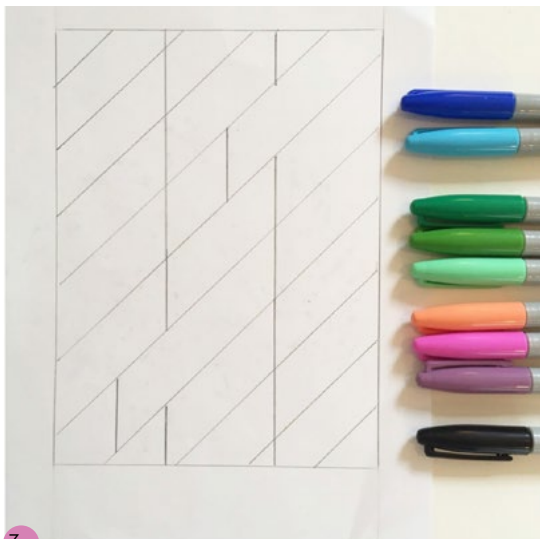
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page 3*



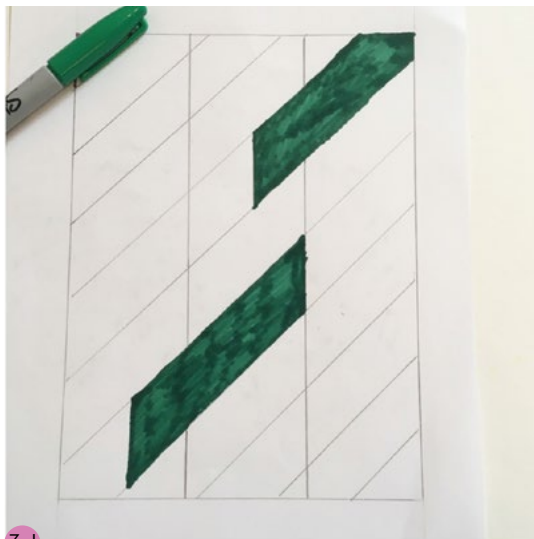
3a



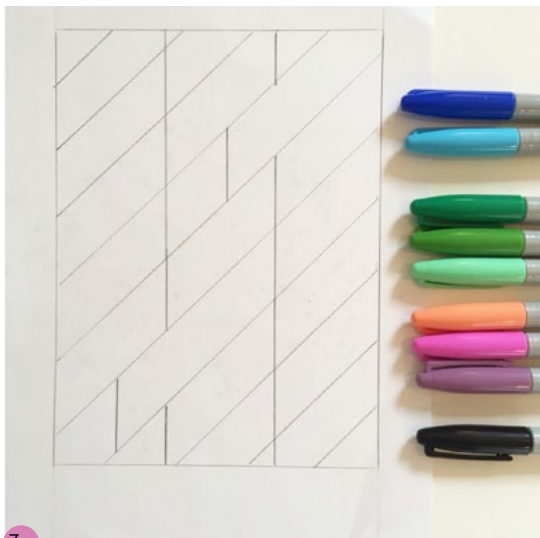
3b



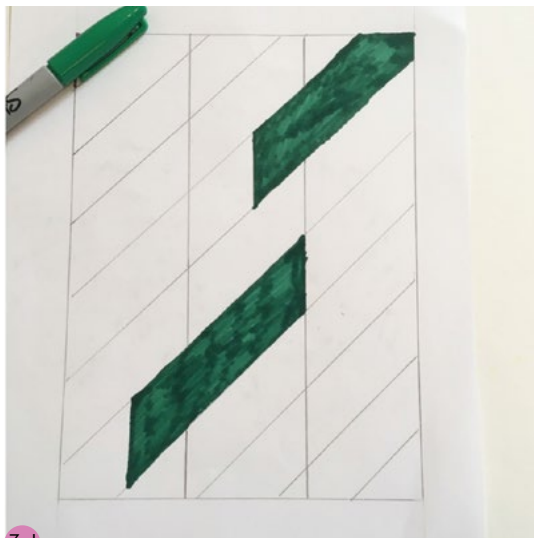
3c



3d



3c



3d

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circles and you will be left with a vibrating circle. Try adding some red zigzags to see how that plays tricks with your eyes.

**Step 3.** Now to look at one of Bridget Riley's more colourful paintings. You can try this one with any colours you like, but I have stuck to her colour palette. She chooses muted tones with a added pop of bright colour here and there to surprise your eyes. If you look closely you can see that some shapes are misbehaving by stepping out of line! Start with a drawing a rectangle shape then with a ruler draw about 10 diagonal lines across it. Now draw some vertical lines paying close attention to

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page 4**



**Instructions continued from page 2**

where they begin and end. Now to get colouring in! It is best to start with the misbehaving shapes first to stop you getting confused. If you look at the photo, you can see that I slowly blocked all the colourful shapes

