



BRIDGET RILEY
PERCEPTUAL
ABSTRACTION

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Try these activities while visiting our exhibition
Bridget Riley: Perceptual Abstraction.



Front and back covers (detail shown on front): *Reflection 2*, 1994: oil on canvas, 65 x 90 in. (165 x 228.4 cm). Private collection, courtesy of David Zwirner

Above: Lilian Cogen Palmer, Bridget Riley at work in Los Angeles, ca. 1964

Current, 1964: synthetic emulsion on board, 58 3/8 x 58 7/8 in. (148.1 x 149.3 cm).
The Museum of Modern Art, Philip Johnson Fund, 1964

Movement in Squares, 1961: synthetic emulsion on board, 48 1/2 x 47 3/4 in.
(123.2 x 121.2 cm). Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre

Blaze 4, 1964: synthetic emulsion on board, 37 x 37 in. (94 x 94 cm).
Courtesy of the artist

Vein, 1985: oil on canvas, 67 5/8 x 56 1/4 in. (171.8 x 142.9 cm). Collection of
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, gift of Seymour H. Knox Jr., 1985

New Day, 1988: oil on canvas, 63 x 89 in. (160 x 226 cm). Courtesy of the artist

Rêve, 1999: oil on canvas, 89 7/8 x 93 3/4 in. (228 x 238.3 cm). Courtesy of the artist

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This brochure is supported by the William Randolph Hearst Education Endowment.
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WHO IS BRIDGET RILEY?

Bridget Riley is an artist known for the paintings, drawings, and prints she makes with colors, lines, and shapes. She was born in London in 1931.

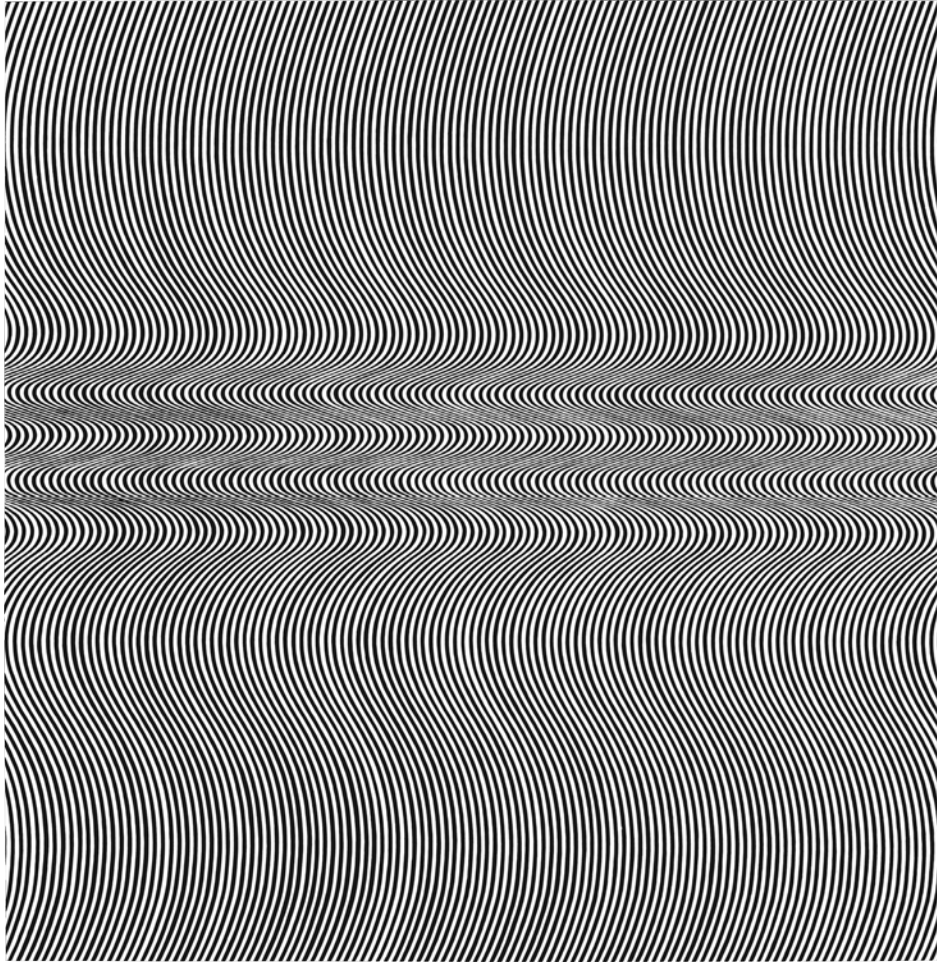
Sunlight and the colors of nature have inspired Bridget throughout her life. When she was a child, she would often walk along the seacoast. She loved watching the sunlight dance on the water, creating bright sparkling patterns.

WHAT IS ABSTRACTION?

Look around at the paintings in our galleries. What is the first thing you notice? You might say, “I don’t see any people, places, or objects in these paintings.” That is true. Bridget Riley creates “abstract art.”

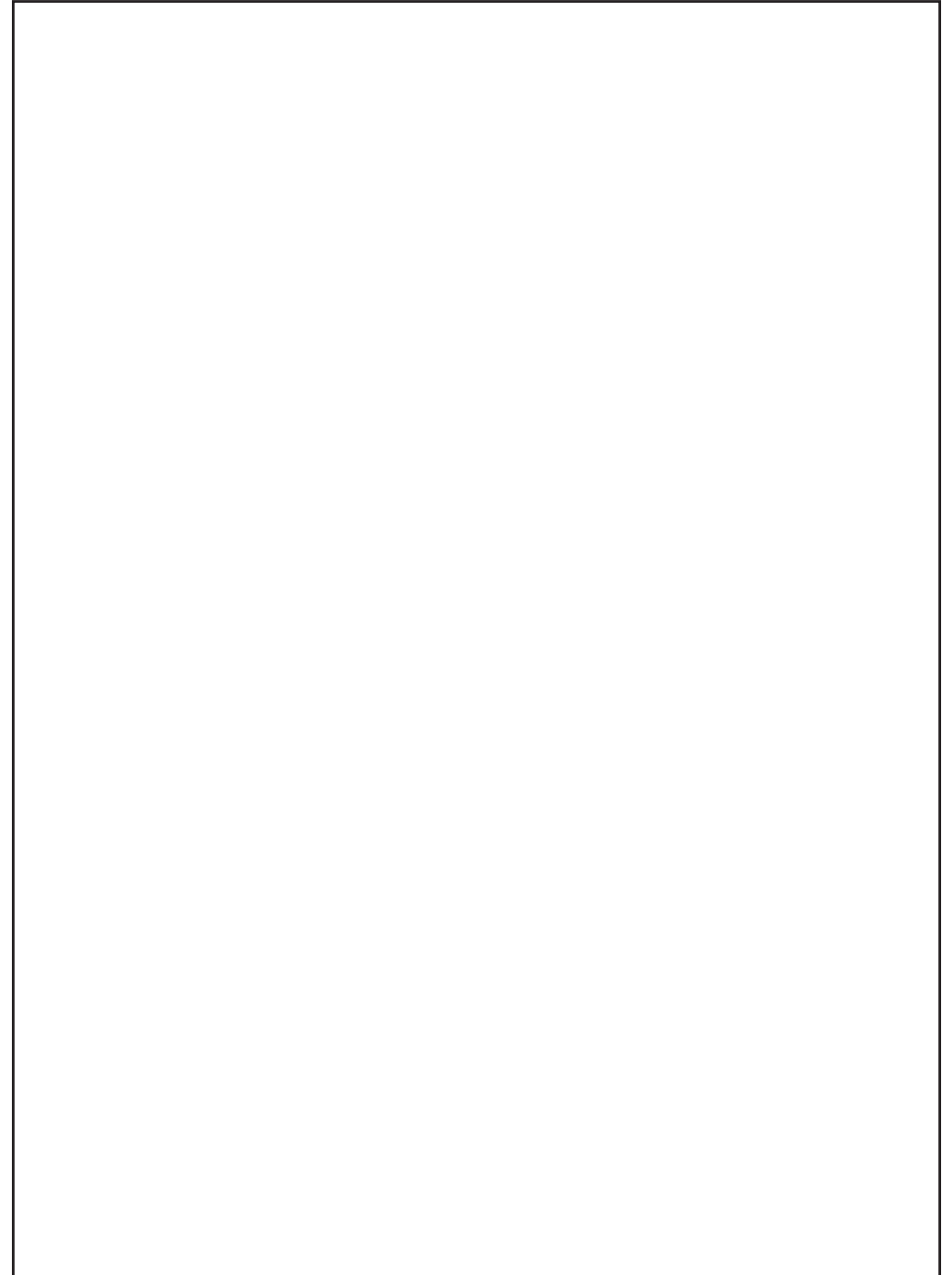
Abstract art does not show the things we see in our everyday lives. Instead, it creates images with colors, lines, shapes, and other marks. For example, Bridget might use colors in a certain way to make you think about how light reflects on water. Or she may paint with colors that remind her of a favorite place. She wants you to look closely at her paintings. The longer you look at them, the more you will see. What do her paintings make you think about and how do they make you feel?

PATTERN POWER!

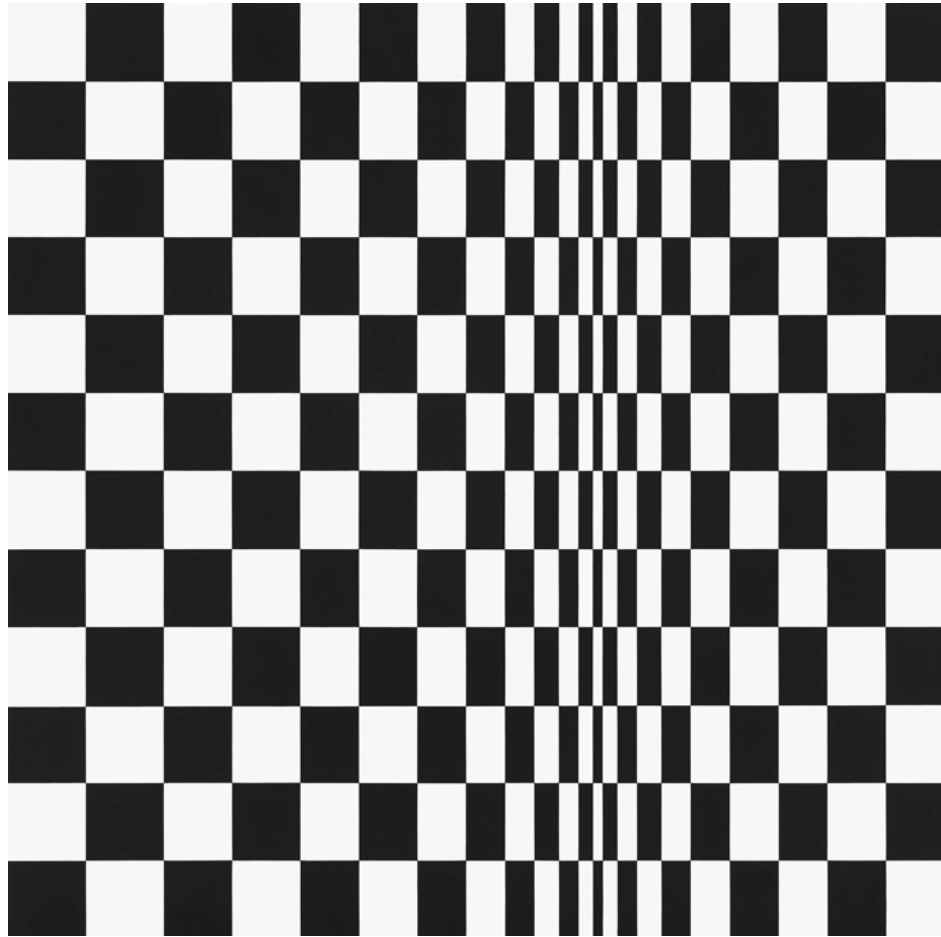


Bridget Riley made this painting, called *Current*, with a series of wavy lines. Can you find this painting in the galleries? Take a close look at it. How would you describe the pattern?

Fill the box below with black lines that repeat to create a pattern. Curve the lines, space them apart, and crowd them together, just like Bridget did in her painting *Current*. What starts to happen as you make those changes?

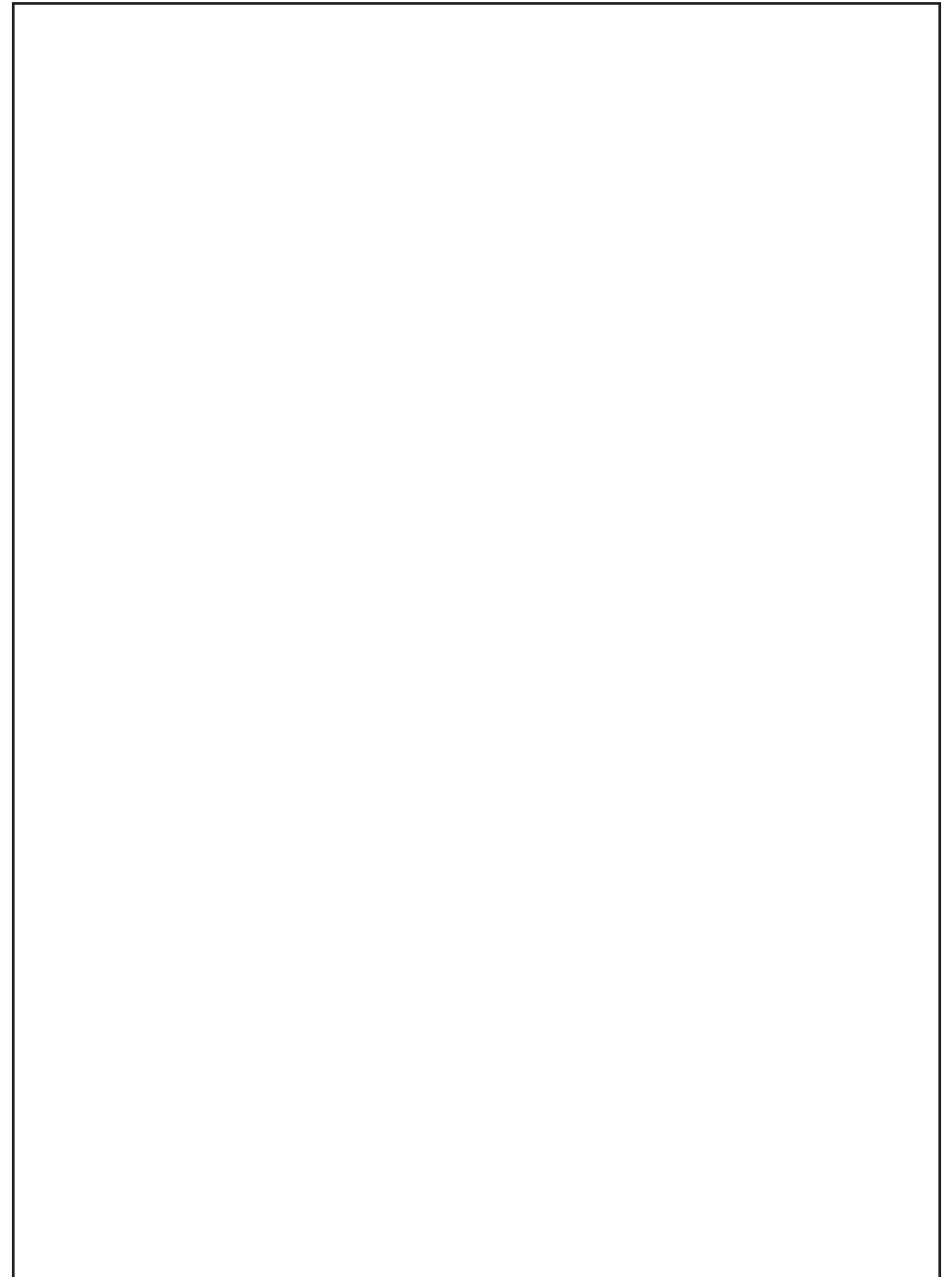


MOVEMENT WITH SQUARES



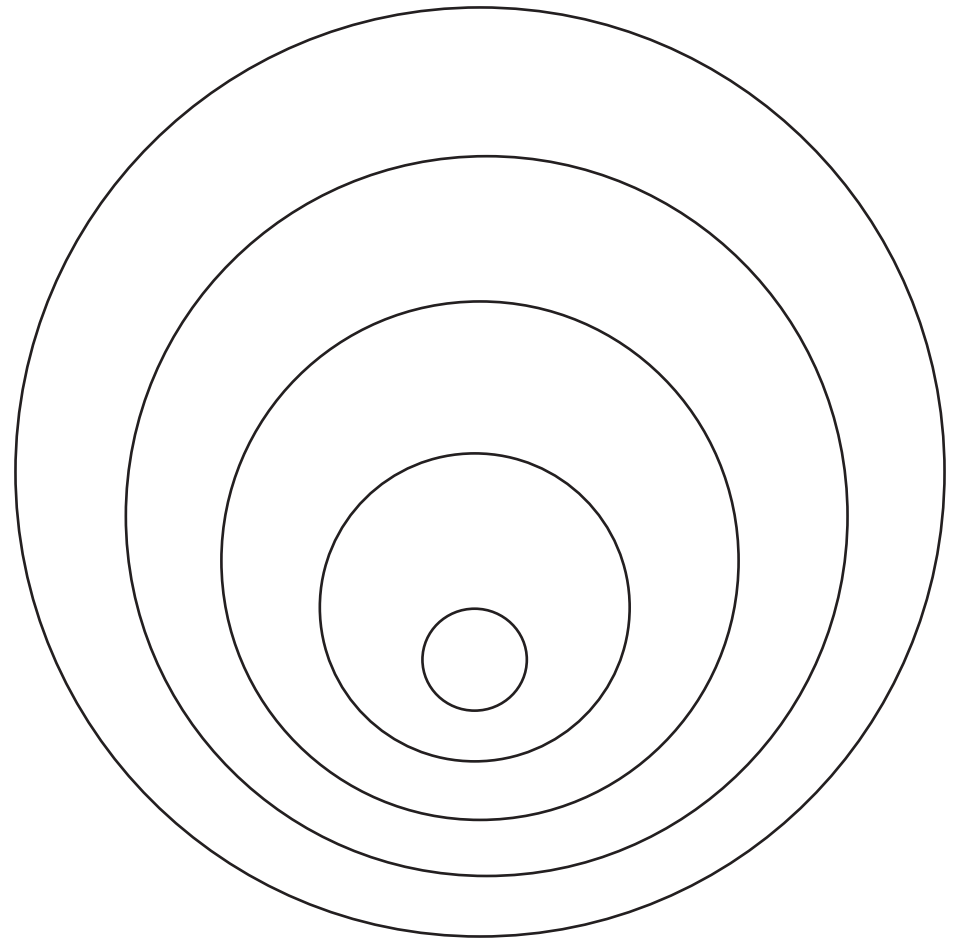
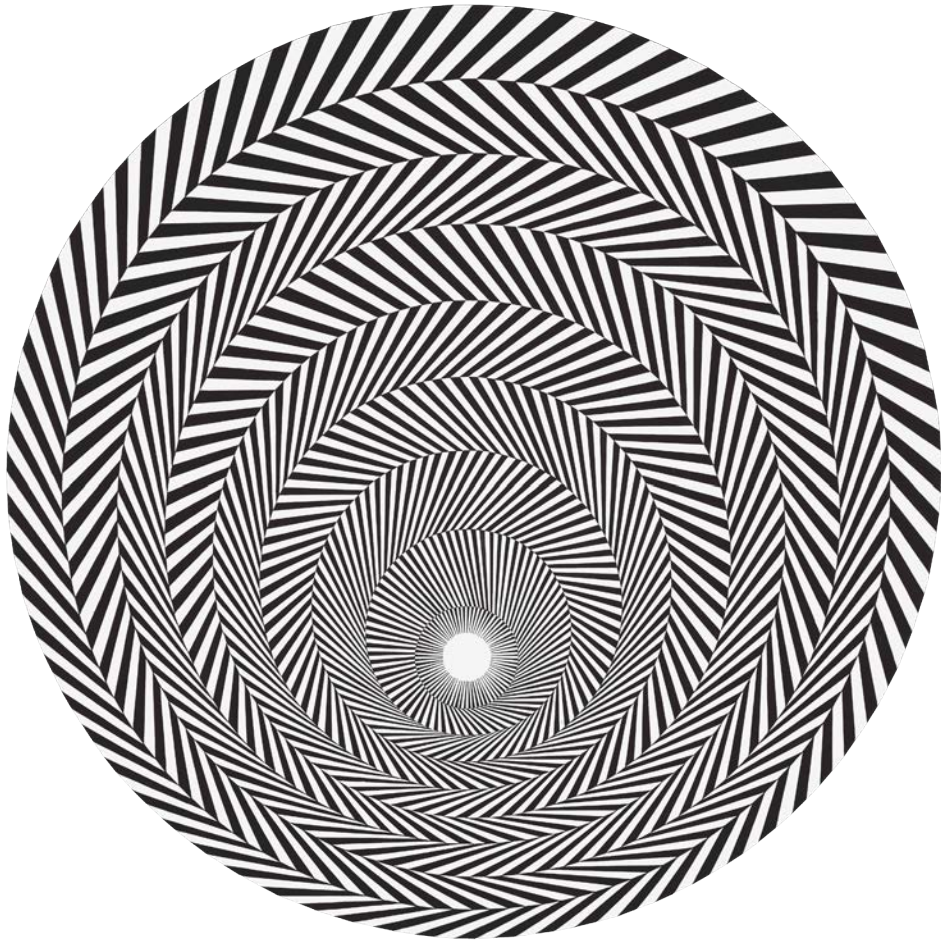
Bridget Riley creates special effects with shapes. Look closely at the painting above, called *Movement in Squares*. Are the squares falling into the painting or falling out of it? If there were squares on the other side of this painting, what do you think they would look like?

Pick a shape you like. It could be a triangle, a square, a circle, or oval. Fill the box below with that shape to create a pattern. In one or two areas, change the size of the shape to change the pattern, just like Bridget did in her painting.



MOVEMENT IN CIRCLES

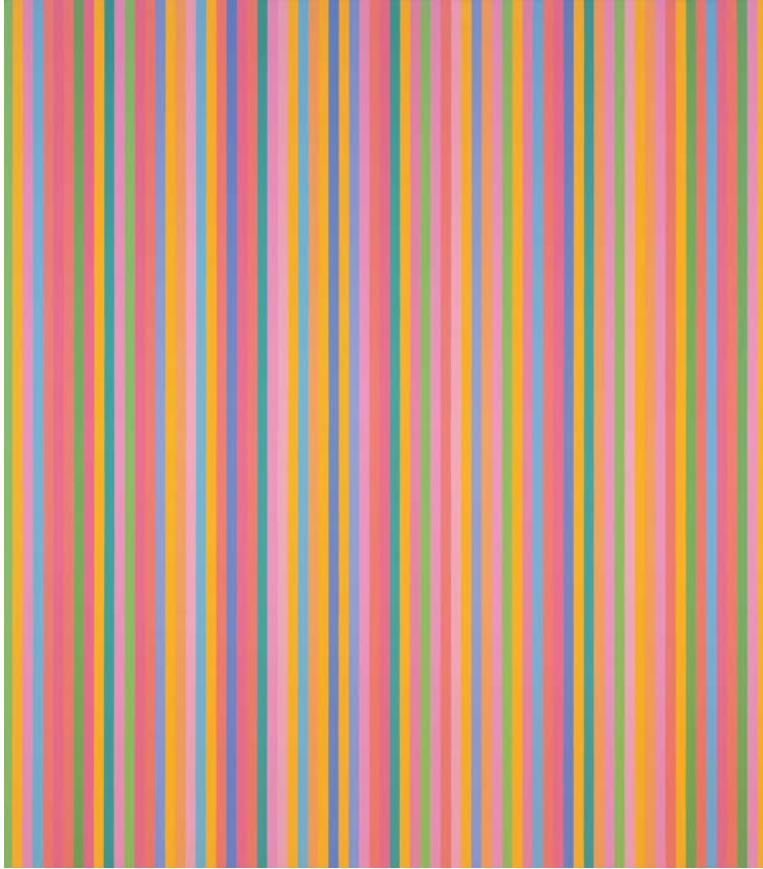
Copy *Blaze 4* by drawing lines in the shapes below. Follow the same pattern that Bridget used or try making your own. Does your finished drawing move, too?



Can a painting move?

The painting above is called *Blaze 4*. If you look at it closely, the lines and circles seem to move. How does Bridget Riley create this “movement”? She changes the direction and thickness of the lines in each circle.

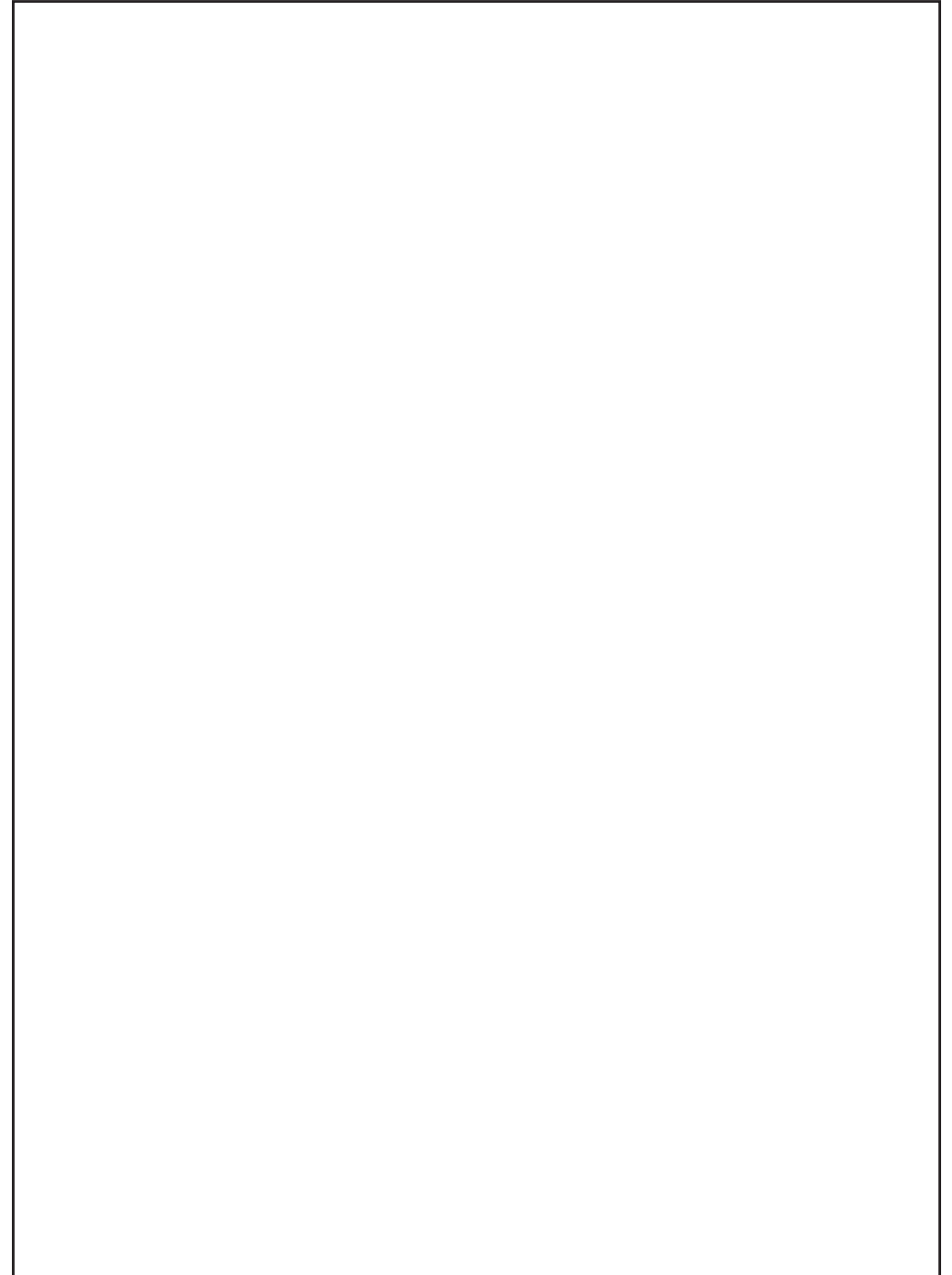
COLOR CONNECTIONS



Bridget Riley does not paint colorful pictures of objects, like flowers or balloons. Instead, she paints lines of color that interact with each other.

In this painting called *Vein*, Bridget made patterns with straight lines of many colors. The way she places colors next to each other creates new colors! How many colors do you see?

Look around the galleries to find a colorful painting you like. Choose colored pencils that match its colors. Or pick four, five, or six colors of your own. Make your drawing below. Change colors every now and then to create a pattern.



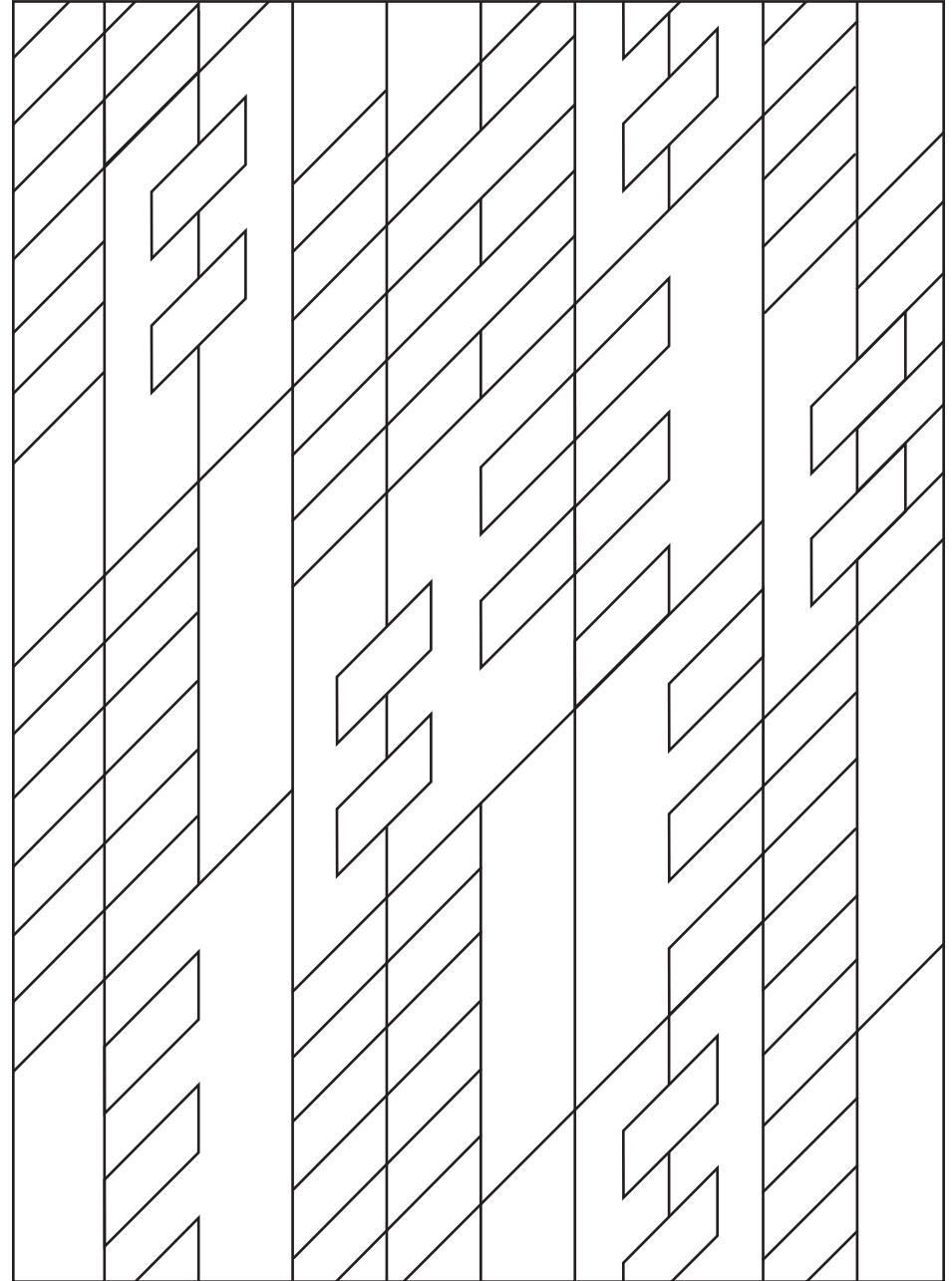
COLOR, SHAPE, AND DEPTH

Fill the shapes below with whatever colors you like best to create your own version of *New Day*. Be sure to choose some light colors and some dark colors, too, to give your drawing depth.



In her paintings, Bridget Riley works with shapes to create a feeling of movement, light, depth, and space.

What shapes can you find in the painting *New Day*? Do these shapes look like any other objects you know?



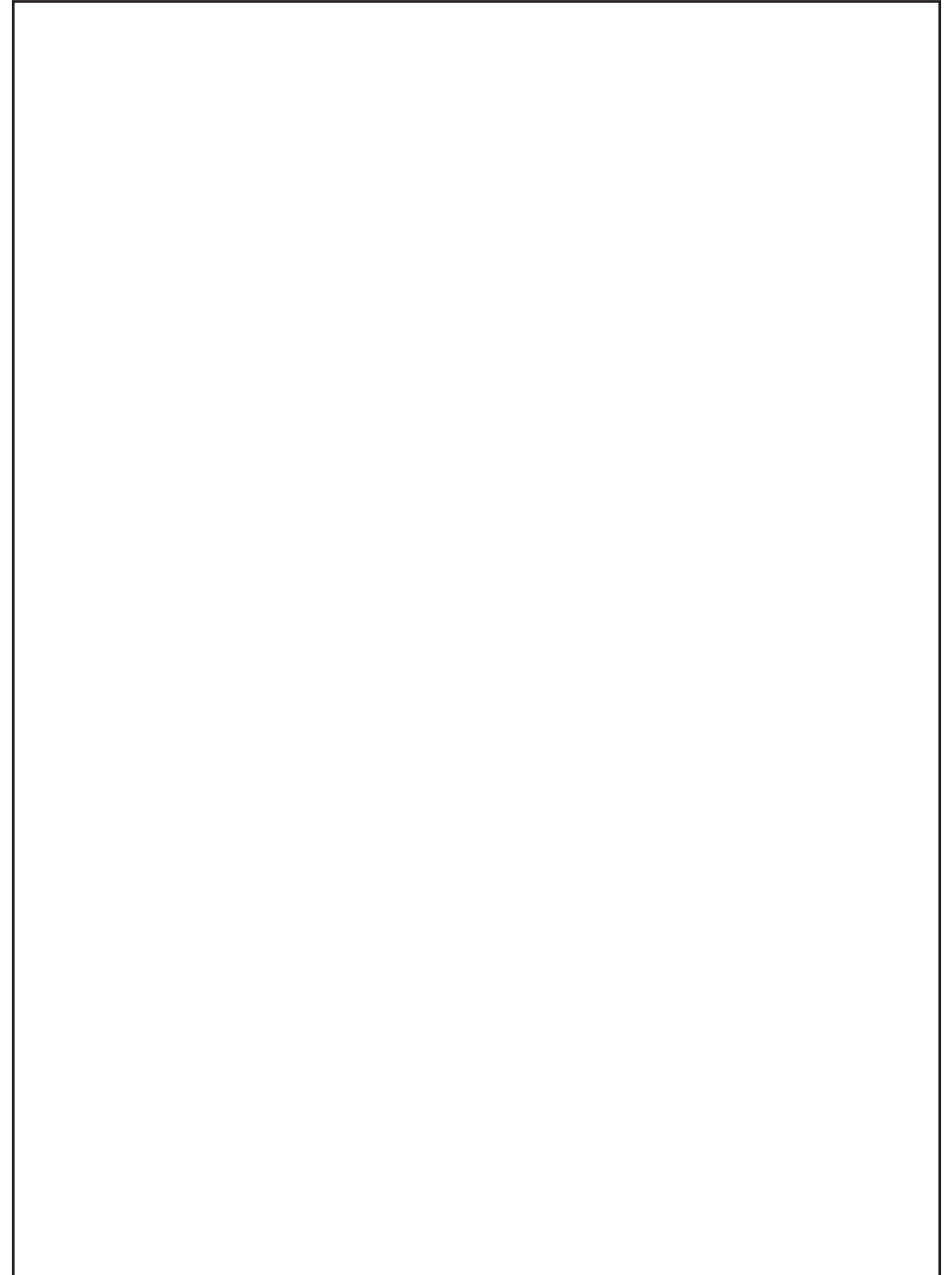
COLOR AND MOVEMENT

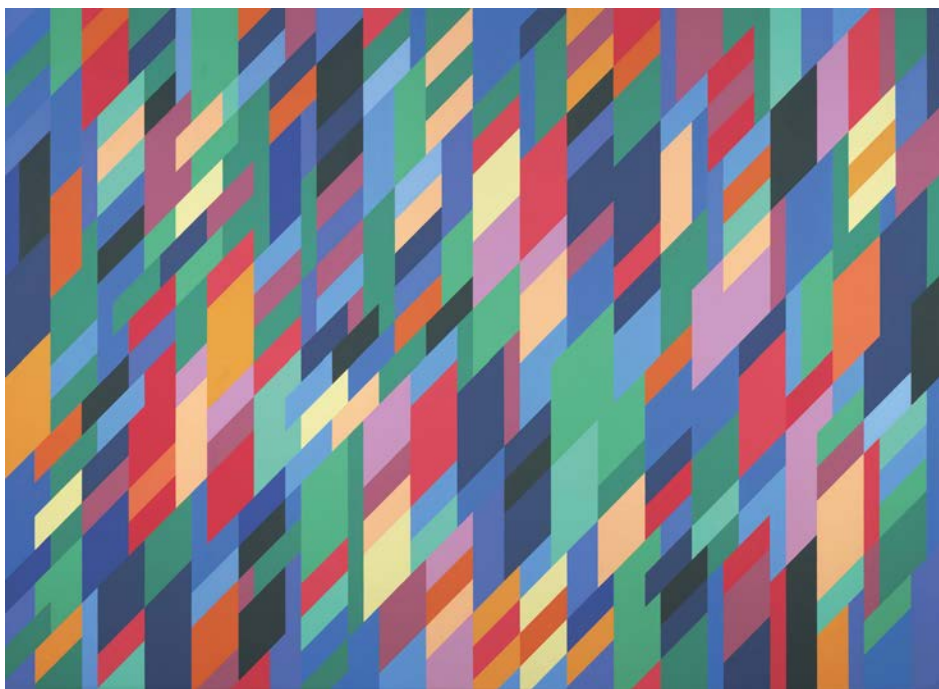


Can you find this painting, called *Rêve*, in the galleries? It is a very large painting. Why do you think Bridget Riley made this painting so big?

The word *rêve* is a French word that means “dream.” Why do you think Bridget gave this painting that name?

Notice the different colors and shapes in Bridget’s painting. Working with your own colors and shapes, create a new pattern. You can add straight lines, circles, or squares, too. What title would you give your drawing?





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Bridget Riley: Perceptual Abstraction is on view from March 3 through July 24, 2022.

Thank you for visiting!

More resources are available at britishart.yale.edu.