

## DIWALI STREET - PUBLIC WORKSHOP OCTOBER 2022

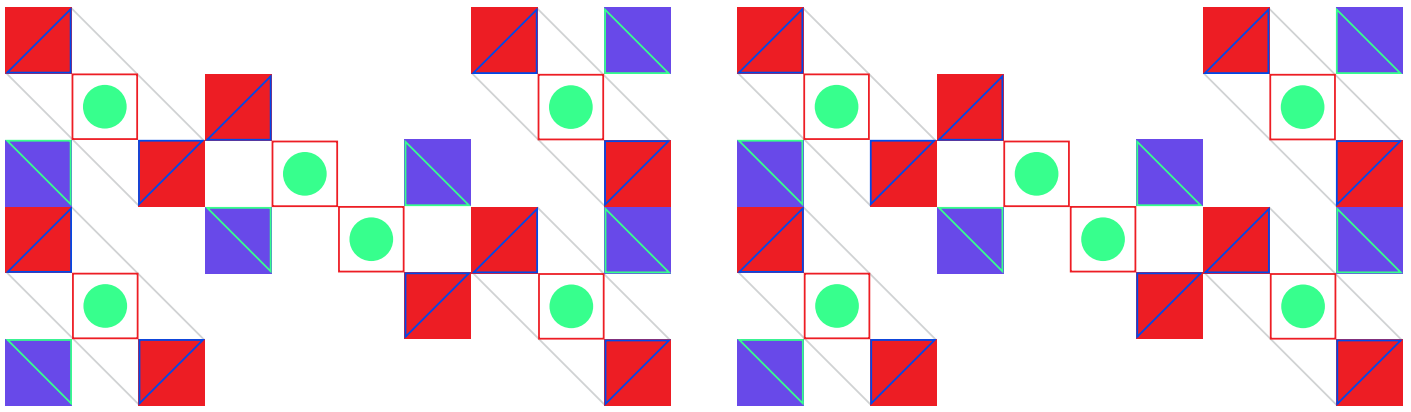
### Proposal by Smriti Mehra

This year Royal Museums Greenwich and the Old Royal Navy College are collaborating to illuminate the Queen's House in Greenwich to celebrate Diwali.

We are collecting creative responses from the community to pay homage to the art form of rangoli/kolam and will be projecting your artwork onto the Queen's House on the night of the Diwali celebration at the National Maritime Museum on the 22nd October.

This workshop follows from the video installation "Calendar" which is composed of 365 rangolis/kolams. These are patterns that were found outside the gates of houses located in Yelahanka New Town in Bangalore, India. Each pattern marks a day of the year with a pattern and festivals are marked with flowers added to the pattern.

<https://www.smritimehra.com/calendar>



For this public workshop, you are invited to explore the Floor as canvas taking inspiration From the rangoli/kolam artForm.

We suggest working in small groups of 3-4 to create a pattern on the Floor using the Following:

1. A black surface or Floor  
You could use black paper to cover the surface you are working with.
2. Use one of the Following materials:
  - a) Masking tape of various width – 1·2 inch, 1 inch and 2 inch + Scissors  
OR
  - b) Masking tape of various width – 1·2 inch, 1 inch and 2 inch and various colours – Red, Green, Yellow, Blue, Black + Scissors  
OR
  - c) White / coloured Chalk + Flowers and/or Leaves
3. When you have completed your pattern, take a photo, ideally on a smartphone From the last 5 years, or a superior camera.  
Make sure to take the photo From above the pattern - parallel to the Floor with your pattern clearly visible with no obstructions (no hands).  
Avoid taking photos at an angle.



YES



NO

7. Send your response to [learning@rmg.co.uk](mailto:learning@rmg.co.uk) by the **12/10/22** and include the name of your school / group so that we can credit you on the evening of the event.

## MATERIAL

The purpose of changing the material used, is to be mindful of direct cultural appropriation of a traditional Indian artForm.

The practice of rangoli/kolam using rice/chalk powder is complex and very skilled.

Using material that is non-traditional will allow for explorations that are unique while paying homage to the original Form.

While the combination of chalk and Flowers is much more similar, the choice of Flowers made available to the participants would be from varieties that are native to the UK that will directly reference this geographical context.

## EXAMPLES



Example using masking tape and scissors:  
Pattern by Lola Baert and Lisa Pujatti  
in a workshop by Smriti Mehra For The  
'Economy of Materials' exhibition at  
Camberwell College of Arts – April  
2021



Example of a chalk drawing of a pattern covered by  
Flowers and leaves

