Learning Through Exhibitions
For teachers and community leaders

Gabriel Orozco
thinking in circles

www.fruitmarket.co.uk

45 Market Street, Edinburgh
Mon–Sat 11am–6pm, Sun 12–5pm

Entry to our exhibitions is always free

Image: Gabriel Orozco, Untitled, 2001
Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York
Learning Through Exhibitions For teachers and community leaders

The Learning Through Exhibitions series helps schools and community groups to explore exhibitions before, during and after a visit to The Fruitmarket Gallery. The series suggests ways to think with and through art and be inspired to make artwork. Creative Challenges are open-ended and adaptable to any age group.

Art forms: drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, photography, poetry
Themes: games, chance, movement, form
Activities support Curriculum for Excellence levels 0-4: Expressive Arts, Literacy

The Learning Through Exhibitions series can be downloaded from www.fruitmarket.co.uk.
Group visits are free and include an introduction to the exhibition.

Exhibition: Gabriel Orozco thinking in circles

Date: 1 August – 18 October 2013

Gabriel Orozco (born Jalapa, Veracruz, 1962) is one of the foremost international artists of our age. The painting The Eye of Go from 2005 is the starting point for this exhibition that explores how Orozco thinks in circles as he makes drawings, paintings, sculptures and photographs. The artworks trace and map ideas as they move and transform.
Before your visit

Use the information in this guide to introduce your group to The Fruitmarket Gallery and Gabriel Orozco’s work before a visit to the exhibition.

These ideas can help prepare for a visit:

- Have you visited galleries before? If so what did you like or not like about them?
- What are the differences between 2D and 3D artwork?
- What sorts of artwork have you seen before that you liked?
- What sorts of artwork have you made before?
- Think about as many different types of circles as you can and how they move.
  Do they wear out or collect dust?
  Are they objects in your home or part of the natural world?
  Are they made up of people?
- Brainstorm as many games as you can think of that involve circles or different types of distinctive shapes.
- Think about and start collecting objects, images or ideas of circles or other shapes that interest you.
During your visit

Look and Respond

Look around the whole exhibition and quickly choose the one artwork that most attracts you. Think about why and write down the first three things that come into your head. Share with a partner or with your group.

Tip: The trick is to trust your instincts and not think too much.

This activity can be developed further to write a Haiku poem – a quick creative and imaginative way of responding to art. There are many ways to write Haiku, the traditional one using a set number of sounds or syllables over a three-line poem, although you don’t have to stick to rules about structures too tightly. Try using as few words as possible over three lines and be as imaginative and descriptive as you can about what you see in front of you and how it makes you feel.

Tips:
You could try one short sentence, followed by a slightly longer one, then a short one.

Write about what you see in the most immediate and descriptive way possible: don’t overthink it.

Your Haiku could connect two or more works in the exhibition.

This activity can be adapted to one word per line for younger groups.

Here’s an example of a Haiku written about Orozco’s work "Untitled, 1994" (pictured):

Opal circles –
I see myself reflected,
in space
These questions can help you think about your response to the artwork to discuss in groups or to create a Haiku:

- What types of circles do you see? How are they supported?
- What do the circles make you think of? Do they appear to move, rotate, float or spread?
- What kinds of marks are made in the work? Look out for the use of the body, different types of grids, cut outs and collage.
- Are the circles precise and uniform, or do they have rough or imprecise edges?
- Has colour been used? How has it been organised in the work?
- Are the circles made of positive or negative shapes? What can you see through them?
- How do the artworks reference the body or nature, in the way they are made or what they represent? What does this add to the work?
- What is the scale of the work and its relationship to your body?
- What effect does the artwork have on you? What does it make you think about?

If you write a Haiku about the Orozco exhibition please send it to us and we’ll post a selection on our Facebook page. See contact details on the back page.
Creative Challenges

These creative challenges can be undertaken before or after a visit to the Gallery, or a mixture of both.

1. Rules and Chance

Collect circle objects and each choose one at random. Each person writes down a verb on a piece of paper and puts it in a hat. Pull a verb out of the hat at random and draw your circle object doing that verb, e.g. a spinning yoghurt pot.

Make a drawing on the computer using a programme of your choice, it might be a drawing application or shapes from a computer game. Orozco reduced the number of colours he used and drew on the knight’s move from the game of chess to figure out their placement in his work. See Prototype, 2004 (pictured below left). Print out your drawing and work out a way to colour it in using a system or rule. You could throw a dice, or use a game of Twister.

Make a collage on or of your computer drawing using recycled paper. It could be a bus ticket, birthday card or a piece of wrapping paper. Think about how the shapes sit on the page – are they supported, or do they float in space?
Tip: You can make negative spaces by cutting shapes out of the paper.

Translate your patterns to a found object to take it into sculptural form. Your object could be a stone, a piece of wood, a football, or anything else you can think of. See Untitled, 1998 (pictured below right). Think about how the object relates to the shapes in your pattern. What are the appropriate materials to use? Will you scratch your pattern into the surface, or will you collage it on? What is the overall effect of the piece? How do the shapes change the structure they are drawn upon?

Discussion points

• Why did you choose the shapes you did?
• What was the effect of leaving aspects of creating an artwork to systems and chance?
• What are the ideas from the experiments you have undertaken that you’d like to develop further?
2. Ball Games

Think of a type of ball game you like playing or watching. Get the ball and move it around the room – throw it through the air or to each other, or roll it along the floor. Is it heavy or light? What sorts of movements does the ball make? How does this differ from what can be captured on paper? Make an artwork that captures the experience or plays with the qualities of the object.

Look at Orozco’s works Ball on Water, 1994 (below right) and Soccer Ball 2, 2002 (below left) for inspiration. You could use any art form: photography, drawing, painting or performance.

3. Instruments of Movement

Stop frame animation is a quick and easy way to make your shapes move.

- Choose a shape and cut out as many of that shape as you can find from newspapers and magazines. Look out for the shape in between things like shadows or reflections as well as more obvious shapes. You could use objects relating to that shape also.

- Display your shapes on a large white screen and set up a camera on a tripod in front of it. Make sure the space has plenty of light.

- Take a photo, make a change in the arrangement of shapes, take another photo, and repeat.

- Upload the photos and use movie making software to make an animation from the sequence.
4. Subtle Circles

Search for unusual materials around the house and in nature that might have circles in them, e.g. air, toothpaste, bubble bath, puddles, bubble wrap, glasses filled with water, the mark a coffee cup leaves on a surface or a bowl of fruit. Collect and record them as you see fit. You could take photographs, make drawings, or write a list. What are the qualities of these materials, and what sort of artworks could you make using them?

Look at Orozco’s works Foam, 1992 (below left) and Bubble on Stone, 2008 (below right), and look up his drawings using toothpaste for inspiration.

Installation and Discussion

• Choose where to display your work: inside or outside. How does it interact with its environment?

• Display your work as a group, thinking about the spaces and relationships between each other’s work. How much space do particular pieces need? How do works complement or add to an understanding of each other?

• Document and discuss all your experiments. Even if you’re not happy with some of your work, it’s useful to document the process as there may be ideas you want to return to.

• Make plans to further develop the work: use a sketchbook or notebook to record ideas.

Installation view Gabriel Orozco: thinking in circles
The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh
Photo: © Ruth Clark
After your visit

Exhibition Review
Write a review of the exhibition. Use the tips in *Thinking With Art* and throughout this guide to help. Share your review with a friend or your group.

If you write a review please send a copy to The Fruitmarket Gallery and we’ll post a selection on our Facebook page. See contact details on the back page.

Further Research

- Look up the work of Marcel Duchamp, particularly *The Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass)* (1915–23), and explore its relation to Orozco’s practice.
- Research the development of abstract art and examine Orozco’s work in relation to it.
- Focus on one area of Orozco’s practice or theme in the exhibition that interests you and research how other artists have worked with similar ideas, e.g. *Total Perception*, 2002 (pictured above), and Nancy Holt’s *Sun Tunnels*, 1973–6.
General Questions

What is contemporary art?
Contemporary art is the term used to describe art of the present day.

What is The Fruitmarket Gallery?
The Fruitmarket Gallery is an art gallery funded by the taxpayer displaying exhibitions of work that are not for sale. The Gallery brings the work of some of the world’s most important contemporary artists to Scotland. We recognise that art can change lives and we offer an intimate encounter with art for free. The Gallery welcomes all audiences and makes it easy for everyone to engage with art. Gallery facilities include a bookshop and café. The Gallery is physically accessible and family-friendly.

Resources
The Fruitmarket Gallery produces resources that are available in the Gallery and online.

Little Artists are activity sheets for families and primary school groups to enjoy the exhibition together. Available in the Gallery and online.
http://www.edinburghartfestival.com/events/category/events_for_children

Download the current exhibition guide

View publications in the resource room

View the short exhibition film in the resource room or online
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vam0-_ZFAj0&feature=share&list=UU-lDJzYbov9vRvZyuR_mhcw

Talks and events are programmed for each exhibition
http://fruitmarket.co.uk/exhibitions/current/talks-and-events/

The exhibition is accompanied by a new fully illustrated book Gabriel Orozco: thinking in circles, published by The Fruitmarket Gallery. An educational discount is available; please enquire at the bookshop.

Book a group visit
Group visits are free and include an introduction to the exhibition.
To book call 0131 225 2383 or email info@fruitmarket.co.uk

Send us your work
Send us examples of work produced in response to the exhibition and we will feature a selection on The Fruitmarket Gallery’s Facebook page.

Caitlin Page, Learning Programme Manager
Email caitlin@fruitmarket.co.uk.
Tell us what you think

Are you a

☐ Teacher  Primary/Secondary  Name of school _____________________
☐ Group leader  Name of group _____________________
☐ Other _____________________

Your feedback is important to us so we can make improvements to future resources. Tell us what you think about the learning resources and how you've used them.

Keep in touch

Join our e-list  ____________________________________________

By providing your e-mail address we can keep you updated about all Gallery activities including talks, events and workshops. The e-mail address provided will be used by The Fruitmarket Gallery to send you information about our activities and will not be supplied to any other organisations.

The Fruitmarket Gallery welcomes all audiences. We make it easy for everyone to engage with art, encouraging questions and supporting debate. The Gallery is a Scottish Charity (No. SC005576) and is Foundation Funded by Creative Scotland for up to 70% of its running costs and must fundraise to support its exhibitions, learning and publishing programmes.