

1

**Painting with scissors (all ages)** – Henri Matisse was famous for his paper cut outs (gouaches découpés). Show children an example of his work e.g. The Snail (1953). Give each child an A4 piece of paper, a pair of scissors, glue and brightly coloured paper. Like Matisse, they should first cut out their designs and place them onto the page. Children can discuss with a partner if there is anything that could be done to improve the art work. Matisse's artwork has pin pricks in the cut outs – where he placed them on a wall to review and make changes! When the changes have been done, you are ready for the glue.

2

**Drip paintings (all ages)** – Jackson Pollock was an American artist. He pushed boundaries and his art helped the development of Abstract Expressionism. Show children some of his work. Place a canvas/paper on the ground outside and prepare for mess! Using sticks and plastic knives (no paintbrushes) children take some paint and let it drip/fall onto the canvas. Alternatively you can use droppers and straws for the drip effect or straws for blowing the paint across the paper.

3

**Flower printing (all ages)** – Everyone has heard of vegetable printing, but have you ever considered flower printing? Using a cheap bunch of flowers from the supermarket you can create beautiful artwork. Daisies also work well. Children should hold the stem, dip the petals of the flower into the paint and then press it onto the paper. Can they make beautiful, repetitive patterns? Alternatively, go on a walk to see how many different leaves you can find. Only choose those that have fallen to the ground. After a rainy or windy day you will find the most treasures. Place paint onto one side and then print with them.

4

**Piet Mondrian – (all ages)** – Look at 'Composition with Red, Yellow and Blue (1921)' by the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian. Ask children; if you wanted to create a similar piece of artwork, what would you need? Discuss primary colours and shapes. Begin with an A4 sheet of white card and black paper. Children then cut the black paper into long strips. They place the strips on the white card to make a design consisting of only rectangles and squares. Once they are happy with the design, the children can stick the black strips into place. Then either paint the selected squares and rectangles or use coloured card to complete the masterpiece.

5

**Take a line for a walk (all ages)** – Give each child a blank piece of paper. They have twenty seconds to take their pen or pencil for a walk on the paper by drawing a 'scribble' all over the page. The only rule: you may not lift your pencil off the paper. Once everyone is finished, show them some of Paul Klee's artwork. Many are made with continuous lines, with each closed space filled with bright colours. The children now have the task to 'find' creatures and objects within their scribble and colour it in. They can name their creature, decide how they came to their classroom and introduce it to the other members of their group. This activity has huge potential for creative writing and oral work.