

Activity: Curating Patterns

Patterns are everywhere – on the floor, on the walls, on our clothing and even in artworks. For this activity, you're invited to locate and document different patterns around you. Using your recorded patterns, you will then 'curate' the patterns according to different criteria in this activity devised by the Education team at The Photographers' Gallery.

Share your photographs #TPGActivity



Curated Pattern 1:
Textiles



Curated Pattern 2:
Bold Colours



Curated Pattern 3:
Stripes



Curated Pattern 4:
Leftovers

You will need:

- A camera or camera phone
- Good light
- Access to a computer
- A printer (optional)

Instructions

Find as many different patterns in your home that you can. Photograph them using a square format, or crop them into a square on a computer.

Either using print outs or on the computer create a grid with your 4, 6 or 9 favourites, thinking carefully about how the patterns are different and similar from one another.

Top Tips:

- You may need to discard your favourite pattern because it doesn't fit in. Or, if creating a nine-square grid put it in the centre of your grid.
- When creating your grids, find a balance of patterns. Separate out the different tones, colours and styles within the patterns so that they work out together well as a whole.
- Try rotating your photos to change pattern direction.
- If using a smartphone, try composing your photos using the square format.

There are lots of different ways you can curate your pattern combinations. Here's some suggestions, but also try to come up with your own ideas.

1. Textiles

Some of the same patterns that have cropped up in the stripy and bold-coloured curated patterns reappear here as part of a curated grid of textiles. Here wool, cotton and synthetic fabrics from clothing, bedding, cushions and furniture are combined to create a busy composition.



2. Bold Colours

Look around your house for bold coloured patterns. You can sometimes find bolder colours on book covers or food packaging. Look for primary and secondary colours. Or try curating a grouping of patterns that are all a similar colour. Can you spot the irregular pattern in the grid below?



3. Stripes

What stripy things are around your home? Clothing and other textiles are often a good place to start. But stripes can be found in many other places too – for example, in the radiator used in the grid below. Use the direction of the strips to guide the eye in, out and around of your composition. Try photographing some of the stripy things you find on an angle.



4. Leftovers

What patterns have you photographed but not used? These leftover patterns are duller in colour than many of those used above. A bit like cooking with leftovers, the challenge here is to curate an arrangement of leftover patterns that is interesting for the brain and eye.



What do your series of curated patterns say about you, your family or home? Are there similar patterns, tones or colours that crop up again and again? Can you describe what personalities your different grids have?

If you're stuck for a good range of patterns in your home, you could try finding photos of patterns online and mixing those in with your own.

Ask friends to make their own curated patterns. See if you can curate a 'show' by emailing or sending each other your final gridded patterns all in a row using social media. Younger children, please use social media with a parent/carer.