

MODERN ART
OXFORD



KIKI
SMITH

I am a Wanderer ★

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Welcome

This guide has been created for you to read as you walk through the exhibition.

If you need any help, find someone with a yellow badge.

Sculpture

The artist's sculptures are made of materials such as porcelain, bronze, silver and glass. To make the delicate sculptures Kiki works with talented craftspeople that work with these materials.

Printmaking

Kiki creates textures like fur, hair and feathers on paper by etching, which is a type of printmaking.

She used this technique to make artworks that include many animals, sometimes using her own pets as subjects, like her pet cat Ginzer.

Which animal would you choose to create an artwork?



Finish

Start

Tapestry

It took four years to make these amazing woven artworks. Each tapestry starts as a ten foot tall collage and takes months to complete.

Can you imagine making an artwork that big?

Photography

By taking close-ups or using different angles, Kiki sometimes uses photography as a tool to see her older works, like her sculptures, in different ways.

Have you ever photographed something close up? Did it change the way it looks in real life?

Find out more about the exhibition over the page





Start

About the Artist

Kiki Smith was born in 1954 in Germany and lives and works in New York, USA.

She makes very interesting artworks that are inspired by legends, myths and stories, often including beautiful creatures, plants and even twinkling stars.

Kiki is interested in making art about the human body that we can all relate to. She does this by expressing the feelings we all share through our bodies, like being born and growing older.

The artist chooses to experiment with many different materials to make her artworks. She uses printmaking, drawing, sculpture, photography and tapestry.

Did you know?

Kiki was trained to work on an ambulance to help people in emergencies: this is where she learnt all about the human body.

She uses this knowledge as an artist to make some of her works today.

About the Artworks

Some of the largest works in this exhibition are Kiki's tapestries.

Kiki creates giant drawings, prints and collages by hand, adding layers and adjusting the colours until she is happy with the final image. This can sometimes take months.

When the image is complete it is sent to a weaving studio in Belgium and transformed into a cotton tapestry using an electronic loom. Sometimes Kiki then adds gold leaf to the tapestry surface.

To find out more about this amazing loom machine visit our Creative Space.

The artist sometimes uses fairytales and famous stories as inspiration for her artworks.

Can you spot a familiar story in one of the works?

Did you know?

Kiki likes to create imaginary worlds from things she has seen around her from different cultures that she finds inspirational.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be inside one of these imaginary worlds?

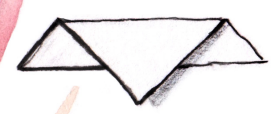
Let's Get Creative

Kiki sometimes uses Nepalese paper to make her drawings and collages. Ask someone with a yellow badge for some paper to make your very own beautiful bird by following these instructions:



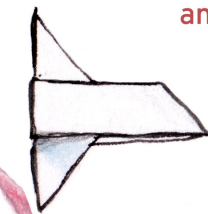
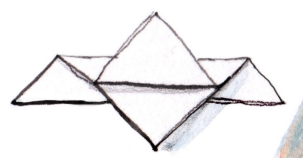
1. Fold the paper in half by folding the top corner to the bottom corner.

2. Fold part of the top down so that the edge is about halfway down. This flap will become the wings.



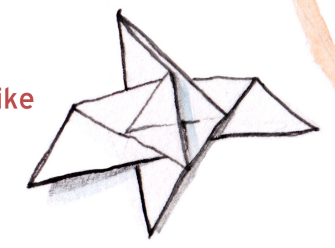
3. Turn the paper over.

4. Take the bottom corner of the top layer and fold it up like this.



5. Fold the figure in half by folding the left side over to the right.

6. Now fold that same flap back like this to make one of the wings.

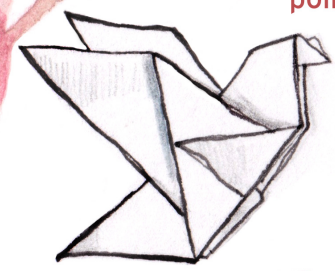


7. Fold the other wing back also.

8. Push the center of the end point in and flatten to create the bird's head.



9- You have finished! Your bird should look something like this.



Take your bird to our Creative Space to see what you can do next!

