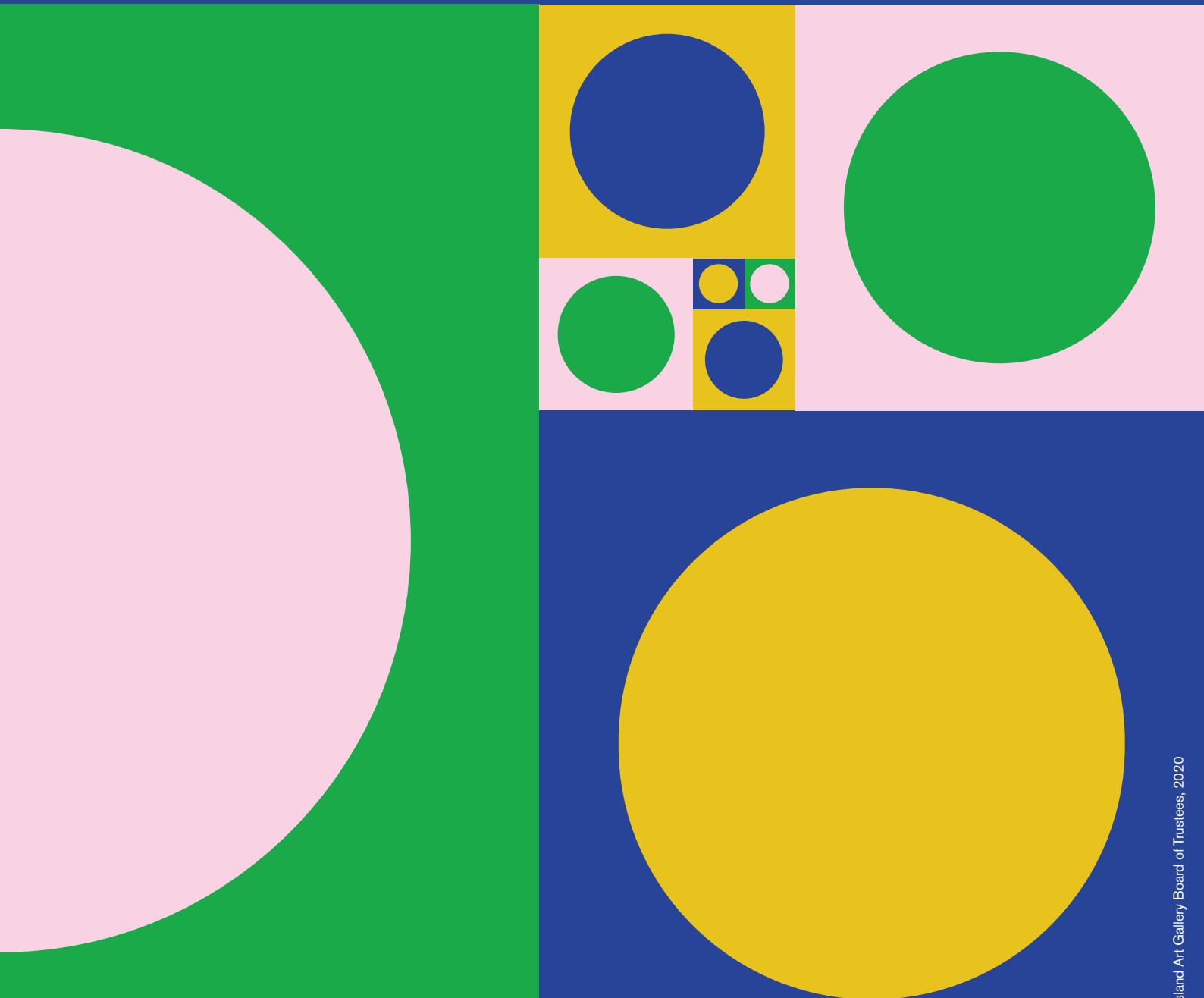


EXPLORING PATTERNS

In this self-directed program, discover the work of Australian artist **Dale Hickey**, who uses pattern to make art. You can engage your toddler with simple activities exploring patterns that can be seen, heard and felt.



DALE HICKEY

Inspired by everyday objects, the square-and-circle pattern of Dale Hickey's *Untitled 1967* is based on a quilt. Dale playfully engages our perception of space by moving between two and three dimensions: the yellow squares appear raised, like quilted fabric, while the blue circles emphasise the flatness of the painting.

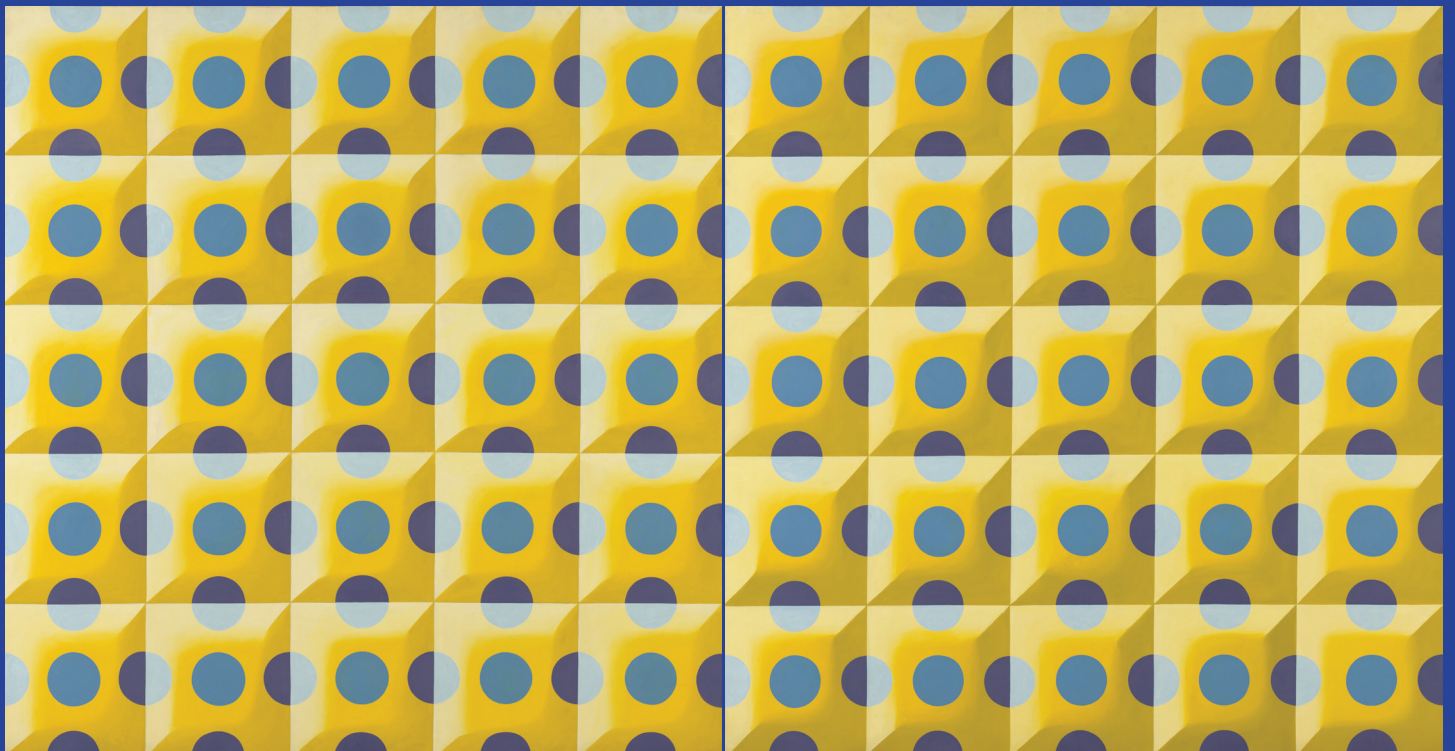
You can explore patterns in two other Collection works, *Looking Cute 2013* by Natalya Hughes and *Textile length: Coral garden c.1956* by Olive Ashworth.

“I found that if you put [elements] together in a certain way, they would either appear to be retreating or advancing.”¹

DALE HICKEY

¹ Dale Hickey, quoted in 'Simplified, like Matisse', *Age*, 5 March 2003, <https://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/simplified-like-matisse-20030305-gdvbnx.html>, viewed 9 July 2020.

Dale Hickey / *Untitled 1967* / Oil on canvas / Diptych: 185 x 371cm (overall) / Purchased 1993.
Queensland Art Gallery Foundation / Collection: Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art / © Dale Hickey



FOR TODDLERS

Children are able to perceive patterns from a very early age, which helps them make sense of the world around them. Once they develop the ability to manipulate objects, children often enjoy creating simple patterns.

Try the following activities to explore patterns with your toddler.

Sound

Find a **piece of fabric decorated with a simple pattern**. With your toddler's help, assign a funny sound to each colour. Then, pointing at the different colours in the pattern, encourage your toddler to **make the associated sound** with you and hear the pattern that emerges!

Play

Cut out the coloured circles in the **template provided** or make your own. Find a comfortable place to sit with your child and give them the coloured circles in a muffin tray. Your toddler can **move the circles around to make a pattern** in the tray.



This activity will also work with other household objects, including egg cartons and bottle caps. You can experiment with different combinations and observe how your toddler responds.

Remember to let your toddler take the lead. They may interpret the materials in a different or unexpected way!

Rhythm

Sit with your child and make a pattern using the rhyme 'One potato, two potato'. As you count each potato, **add movement to the game** by placing one fist on top of the other and encourage your child to join in with you:

*One potato, two potatoes, three potatoes, four,
Five potatoes, six potatoes, seven potatoes, more!*

