

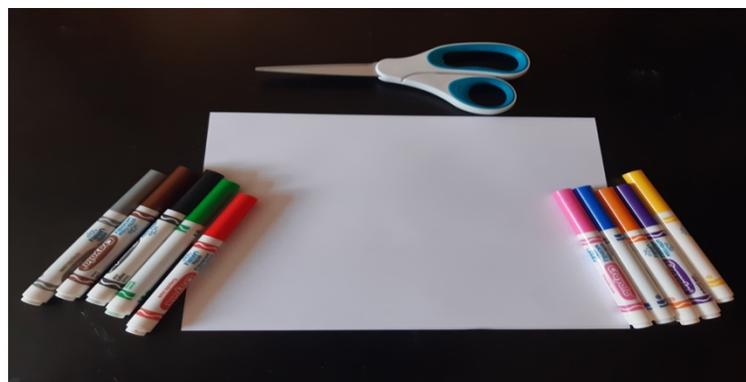
In the Art Gallery of Peterborough's new installation, *Offering*, many different artists use colour as an important part of their artwork. While colour can seem simple, it is a very powerful tool.

By changing colours and using them in different ways, artists create work that evokes different feelings, places, and emotions.

In this activity you will create colourful characters, and see how colour choice can change your art!

### You Will Need:

- One Sheet of White Paper
- Markers  
(Various Colours, Including Black)
- A Pair of Scissors



Before we start, let's learn a little about how colour works! Take a look at the colour wheel at the end of the activity. It has a few simple rules that we can use when making our colourful characters:

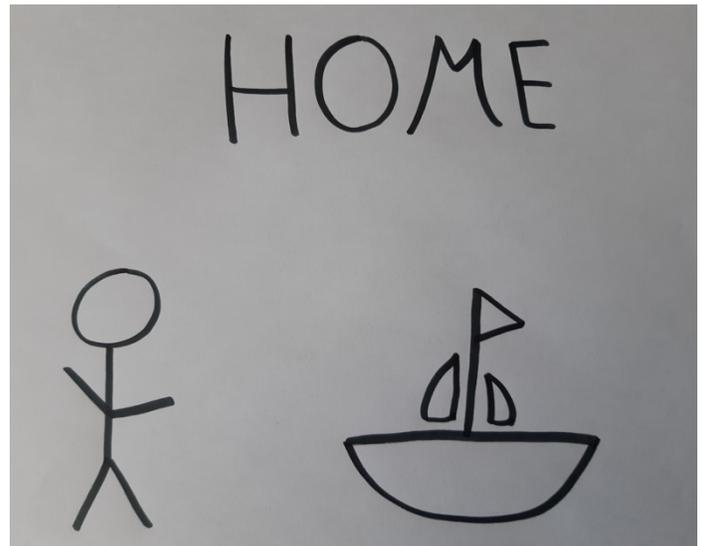
- **Primary Colours** are Red, Blue, and Yellow. We mix primary colours to get all other colours.
- **Secondary Colours** are Orange, Purple, and Green. They come from mixing primary colours:
  - o Mixing Red and Yellow gives Orange
  - o Mixing Red and Blue gives Purple
  - o Mixing Blue and Yellow gives Green
- **Complementary Colours** are pairs of colours opposite each other on the colour wheel. They contrast with each other – they make each other 'pop'! The complementary colour pairs are:
  - o Red and Green
  - o Blue and Orange
  - o Yellow and Purple
- **Warm and Cool Colours** are two groups of colours that look and feel different. Warm colours remind us of warm things and feelings; cool colours remind us of cool things and feelings.
  - o Warm colours include Red, Yellow, and Orange. They make us think of warm things like fire, sun, or the desert, and remind us of warm feelings and emotions.
  - o Cool colours include Blue, Green, and Purple. They make us think of cool things like water, plants, or shadow, and remind us of cool feelings and emotions.

## Step 1:

On your piece of white paper, use a black marker to draw a stick figure outline of a character, shape, or word. You can choose to draw anything!

If you're not sure what to draw, you can choose some of these ideas to start:

- A person from your family
- A pet or your favourite animal
- A character from your favourite book or movie
- A toy or special object you have at home
- A word that is important to you, or your name



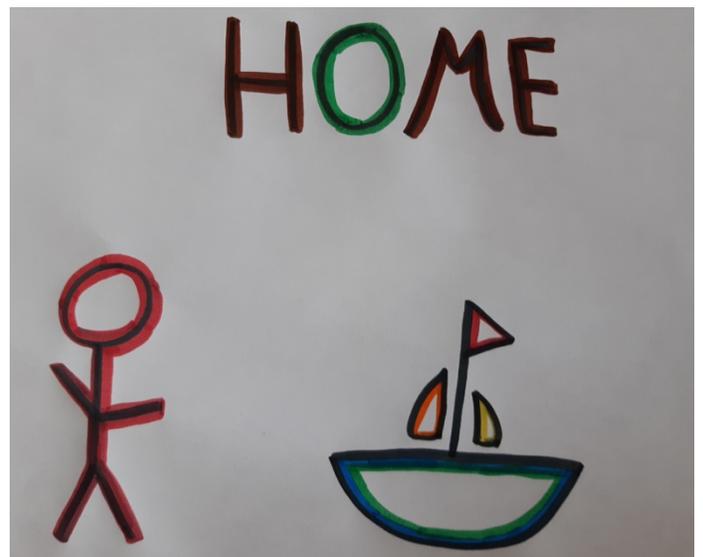
You can also try creating your own *imaginary* character. They can look like anything! Maybe you want to invent a new kind of animal, or an alien, or a robot? Be creative, and have fun!

## Step 2:

Choose a coloured marker and begin to trace around the black outline of your character. Remember to not leave any white space in between the lines. If your character has empty spaces on the inside, you can add coloured outlines there, too.

## Step 3:

Choose a different colour and continue to trace around your first coloured outline. Continue to add more colours and outlines until you have at least three different coloured outlines, but you can keep adding as many as you like.



You can change how you use your colours in lots of different ways! Try some of these ideas:

### Ages 5+

- What colours does your character have in real life? Use the same colours in your design.
- Use primary colours together, and see what happens when you mix them.

### Ages 7+

- Change the thickness of your coloured outlines; try switching between thin and thick lines.
- Use complementary colours to make your characters stand out, or POP off the page.

### Ages 9+

- Create your own pattern of colours.
- What kind of feelings do you have about your character? Try to create feelings or emotion about your character by using warm or cool colours, or a mix of both. Can others guess what feelings or emotions you've created for your character?

#### Step 4:

When you are happy with the design and colours of your characters, finish colouring. You can use a pair of scissors to cut out your characters to use in the group activity (see below), or you can leave them on the sheet of paper as a colourful work of art!



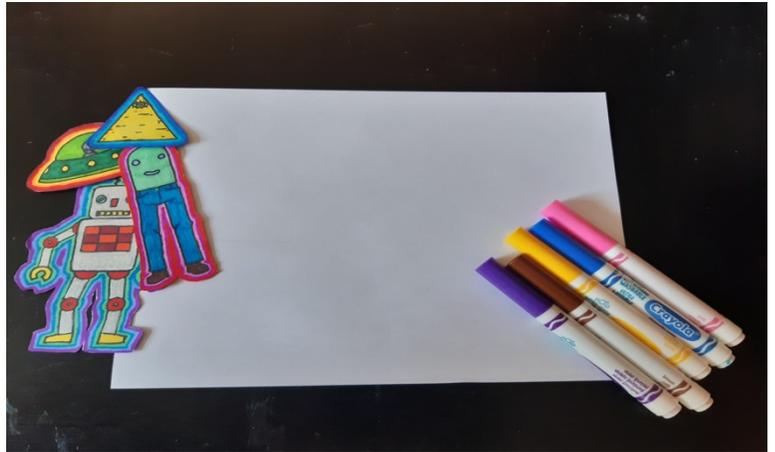
## Group Activity: Share Your Artwork [Ages 5+]

Every September, the Art Gallery of Peterborough hosts the Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour! The tour gives local artists a chance to have their artwork shown at the Gallery and for the public to visit artists at their studios. It's a great way for people to learn more about the incredible artists living in our region, and to see some of the amazing artwork that they create.

In this activity, you and your friends can create your own mini-studio for your colourful characters to work in and visit! Think about the kind of artwork you would create, and how you would show it off to friends and family.

### You Will Need:

- A Friend or Two
- Your Colourful Characters
- White Paper
- Markers

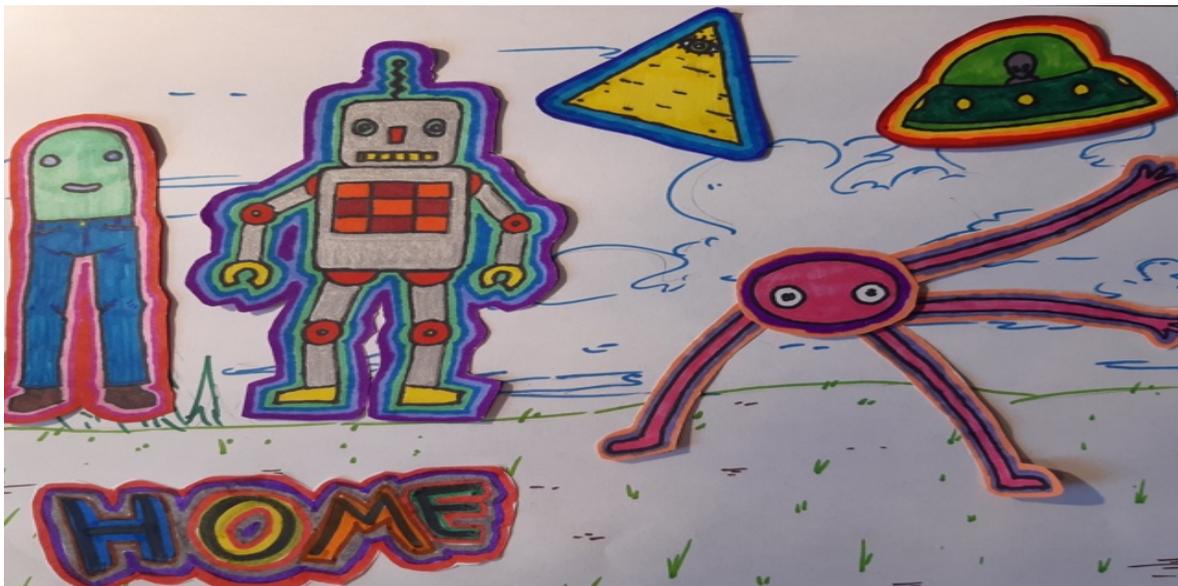


### Step 1:

Have each person create their own characters. If you want to keep it a surprise, keep your characters secret until everyone is finished!

### Step 2:

Using markers and paper, draw a background of your mini-studio or another scene that your characters can use. Then, share your characters together. Try putting them in different poses, and with different characters! You could create a story, or even take pictures and make a flipbook or a video like we did!



Share your creations by tagging us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: @AGPtbo and #AGPtbo.

# Colourful Characters: Colour Wheel

