

Activities to explore the Damien Hirst Style

Who is Damien Hirst?

Damien Hirst is a British artist who likes to use **bright colours** and **interesting ideas** in his artwork. One of the most fun things he's known for is his **Spot Paintings** – big pictures made from **rows of colourful circles**. Each dot is a different colour, and together they make a rainbow of patterns!

Let's Make Our Own Spot Painting!

This art activity will help you make your very own Damien Hirst-style painting, using nothing but **circles and colour**. It's easy, fun, and very satisfying!

You Will Need:

- A sheet of white paper (A4 is perfect)
 - Paints, crayons, or coloured markers
 - A round object to trace (like a coin, lid, or bottle top)
 - A pencil and ruler (optional for neat lines)
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Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1: Draw Your Grid

- Place your paper in **landscape** (sideways).
- Use your round object to **trace circles** across the page in **neat rows**.
- Try to leave the same space between each circle. If you want to be super neat, use a ruler to make a grid with pencil first!
- Fill the whole page with these circle shapes.

Step 2: Choose Your Colours

- Damien Hirst never used the same colour twice in a row.

- Pick lots of bright, bold colours – like red, blue, yellow, green, and pink!
- You can plan your colours first or choose as you go – just have fun with it.

Step 3: Start Colouring!

- Carefully colour in each circle using paints, crayons, or markers.
- Try to keep inside the lines and make each circle **one solid colour**.
- No two circles next to each other should be the same – mix it up!

Step 4: Add a Title

- Damien Hirst gave his paintings cool names – sometimes he used science or nature words.
- Think of a fun name for your artwork, like “**Rainbow Dots**”, “**Dot Explosion**”, or “**Spot the Colours**”.
- Write your title on the back or below your painting.

Top Tips:

- If you make a mistake, that’s okay! Art doesn’t have to be perfect.
- Try making another version with **smaller** or **bigger** dots.
- Use a different colour set, like just warm colours (reds, oranges, yellows) or cool colours (blues, greens, purples).

More Fun Ideas

Swirl with a String or Yarn

Materials: Paper plate or card, paint, string/yarn, tape

Method:

1. Tape your paper/card to a table.
2. Dip a length of string or yarn into paint.
3. Place the paint-covered string on the surface in a loose spiral.
4. Drag or lift the string in a swirl motion—this creates a dynamic, spinning look.

Use a Lazy Susan or Turntable

Materials: Lazy Susan (kitchen turntable), paper, tape, paint

Method:

1. Tape paper to the Lazy Susan.
2. Drop or squirt paint on the center.
3. Spin the Lazy Susan quickly by hand.
4. Watch the paint fly outward in streaks.

Create a Photo Joiner

Take several photos of the same object (e.g. your face, a chair, or a tree) from different angles, print them out, cut them up, and glue them together in a new way — just like Hockney's *joiner* photography.

Spring Trees Collage

Create a scene of trees in spring by using tissue paper or coloured scraps to make leaves, flowers, and trunks. Try to capture a feeling of a changing season.

Or:

- **Dot Art Challenge:** Use cotton buds and paint to make your own spot painting!
- **Butterfly Collage:** Cut out paper butterflies and arrange them into a pattern.
- **Shark Tank Drawing:** Draw a sea creature in a glass tank—what would you choose?
- **Make a Sparkle Skull:** Colour a skull outline and glue on glitter or sequins.