

ARTIST OF THE MONTH MARCH 2025

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the 'Artist of the Month' basket next to the art gallery display or email it to enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Monday 31st March 2025

This month's artist is: **Patrick Heron**



Two Vermilions, Green and Purple in Red: March (1965)



*Lemon Disc in Sea Green with Zig-Zags
July - December, 1982*



Red Garden Painting : June 3 - June 5 : 1985

Patrick Heron was a British painter and art critic, known for his colourful and imaginative abstract paintings. He was born in Yorkshire in 1920 but moved to Cornwall when he was five, and the beautiful landscapes of Cornwall remained important to him throughout his life. Heron's journey as an artist began when he was just 14, designing silk scarves for his father's company. As he grew older, he was influenced by artists like Henri Matisse and Paul Cézanne, who also used bold colours and expressive shapes in their work.

Heron loved the town of St Ives in Cornwall, and many of his paintings were inspired by what he saw there. One of his famous works, *Harbour Window with Two Figures: St Ives: July 1950*, shows a view of the harbour from his window. He was interested in capturing both the inside and outside in his paintings, blending them together in exciting ways.

His garden in Cornwall was also a big inspiration, with its bright flowers, rugged rocks, and shifting light influencing the colours and shapes in his paintings. Instead of painting exactly what he saw, he used abstract shapes and layers of colour to express how a place felt.



Heron wanted every part of his paintings to be important, so your eyes move across the whole canvas rather than focusing on just one spot. His work is full of energy, with colours stretching across the surface, sometimes blending softly and sometimes standing out in bold contrast. One of his paintings, *Yellow Painting: October 1958 May/June 1959*, has layers of colour that create a sense of depth, almost as if you could step inside the painting. He once said that this work might have been influenced by the hedges and rocks in his garden.

Find out more about Patrick Heron by following the link below to take you to his artist page at the Tate Gallery. Or scan the QR code to take you to the website.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-patrick-heron>



Your turn

Why not try painting like Patrick Heron? Look out of your window and imagine capturing the view in colours and shapes rather than detailed lines. Or think of a special place—a garden, a beach, or even your living room—and paint it using bright colours and bold forms. Abstract art is all about imagination and feeling, just like Heron's work. What do his paintings make you feel? Do they remind you of something familiar, or do they transport you to a whole new world of colour and shapes?