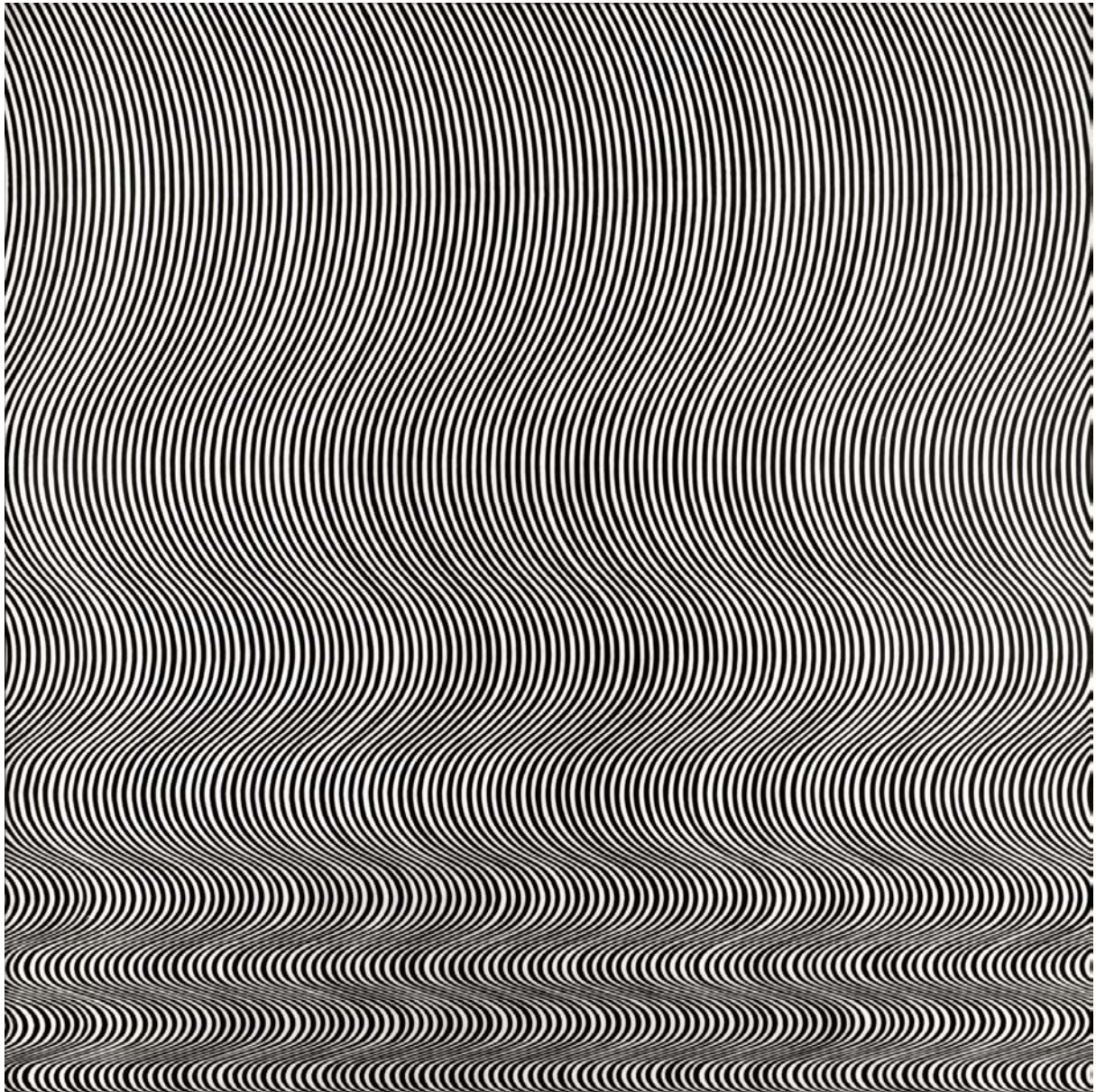


Fall – Bridget Riley (1963; Tate)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/riley-fall-t00616>



- This is one of those paintings that is not supposed to look like anything in particular. Do you know what we call this type of painting? **An abstract painting.**
- Describe the pattern of the lines the artist has painted. **An opportunity for children to use words such as wiggly, squiggly, wavy etc.**



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- Sometimes abstract paintings are based on a real thing and sometimes they are just shapes and patterns. Do you think that this is meant to make us think of something particular or is it just shapes and patterns? **Suggestions usually include hair, water, spaghetti, curtains, a zebra and a fingerprint. There is no right or wrong!**
- If we were allowed to run our hand against the painting from top to bottom would it be bumpy or smooth? **Smooth. The pattern makes it look bumpy but it is an optical illusion.**
- What colours has the artist used? **Just black and white. But when you stare at it for any length of time you start to see other colours such as red and yellow – our brain is playing tricks on us.**
- Stand up as straight as you can and reach your hands towards the ceiling. Then slowly crouch down (keeping your hands in the air) as if you are one of the wavy lines in the painting. As you get towards the floor speed up and get more wiggly! You could even add the sounds you think would go with these actions. For example, if you think the lines are waves you could make splashy water noises that get faster as the lines get curlier.
- If you had to give this painting a title what would it be? **The artist called it “Fall.”**

Follow on ideas

- Using just two colours, paint your own “Op Art” abstract painting. Instead of using wavy lines like Bridget Riley used, think of a different pattern your lines could make.
- Make a 3-D version of Fall using cardboard.
- Make up a short poem describing the wavy lines – or whatever you have decided these lines are meant to be – as they fall down the painting.
- Life in Lockdown activity: Ask an adult to print out a copy of this painting. Can you turn it into a rainbow version to stick in your window?

Topic links

- Water
- Movement
- Colours
- Shapes
- Art and Design: Abstract Art