

To begin, read the three paragraphs.

Before you answer the questions, define the words highlighted in bold print.

Op art, short for **optical art**, is a style of visual **art** that uses **optical illusions**. **Op art** works are abstract, with many better known pieces created in black and white. Typically, they give the viewer the impression of movement, hidden images, flashing and vibrating patterns, or of **swelling** or **warping**.

- 1 How would you describe an optical illusion?

- 2 Why do you think that the majority were in black and white?

Op Art or Optical Art is the term used to describe paintings or sculptures which seem to **swell** and **vibrate** through their use of optical effects. The movement's leading figures were **Bridget Riley** and **Victor Vasarely**, who used patterns and colours in their paintings to achieve a **disorientating** effect on the viewer.

- 3 How do you actually feel when you are disorientated?

- 4 Think of a time, when you have felt disorientated?

Op Art exists to fool the eye. **Op** compositions create a sort of **visual tension** in the viewer's mind that gives works the **illusion** of movement. For example, concentrate on Bridget Riley's "Dominance Portfolio, Blue" (1977) for even a few seconds and it begins to dance and wave in front of your eyes.

- 5 If you were to create such a piece , in this particular style, how might it be achieved?

- 6 Why would people choose to buy optical art and put in on their walls?
