

## Activity Sheet

### **Easterly**

By Trevor Bell

Acrylic on canvas

2008

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What are your first reactions to the work?

Which words would you use to describe it? What do you think this painting is about?

Why do you think the artist has chosen to use a shaped canvas rather than an ordinary one? Would you describe this piece as a painting or a sculpture? Discuss your choice.

Which tools do you think the artist has used to produce the different marks?

Trevor Bell has found inspiration watching waves near his home in Cornwall. If you were an abstract artist what kinds of things would inspire you?

## Suggested extension activities

1. **Fun with abstract shapes** – Provide your group with card or felt and ask them to cut out their own ‘shaped canvases’ like the paintings by Trevor Bell. Ask them to create their own abstract composition, by pasting on other cut-out shapes. Discuss together why they chose the colours and composition of their final arrangement.
2. **Experimenting with texture** – Collect or invite your group to collect old household brushes – for instance, toothbrushes, dish scrubbers, combs or sponges. Explore the different marks and textures these make when used for painting and thick paper, board or canvas. Try adding other materials to your paints for added textured effects, such as sand, bits of string or tissue paper.
3. **Inspiration** – Trevor Bell finds inspiration in the movement and atmosphere of the seaside near his home in Cornwall. Ask your group to write about the area where they live or a place that they have visited and enjoyed, describing the colours and shapes which surrounded them.