

# ACCA Education Activity

#3

Lights Off Drawing

**Focus Artist:**  
Martin Creed

**Focus Artwork:**  
*The lights off 2005*

**Years/Levels:**  
F-2 with parent/  
guardian or teacher  
supervision

**Materials:**

1. yourself - at home  
at night
2. paper
3. pencils

Share your artworks with  
ACCA by tagging us  
#accaartivity and emailing  
education@acca.melbourne

## Overview

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This resource is adapted from ACCA Education's TALKTHINK MAKE in-gallery program. It outlines an art making activity, suitable for delivery at school or home, that links meaningfully to the work of an ACCA-exhibited contemporary artist.

## Key idea

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This activity focuses on contemporary artist Martin Creed's choice of light and darkness as his art materials. Not all artists make objects or images. Instead, some create artworks using only ideas. This activity expands student conceptions of what an artwork can be to include immaterial effects (light).

## Process

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1. Imagine being at home at nighttime with the lights off.
  - How do you feel in the dark? What two words would you use to describe this feeling?
2. With the lights on, draw a picture of your home at night when the lights are off.
  - Are you in your drawing?
  - Where are you?
3. Turn the lights off in one room of your home.
  - What can you see outside through your windows? Spend 1 minute looking carefully.
4. Draw the light you see outside.
  - Where does the light come from? Don't forget to look up at the sky!
5. Work out where the light shines in your house. Draw one shadow you see.
  - What shape is this shadow?

## Reflection Questions

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- What emotions do you feel when you look at your nighttime drawings?
- Do your drawings tell a story? If so, what kind of story?
- If your classmates did this same activity, would their drawings be different?

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*Martin Creed: The Lights Off, installation view, ACCA 2005. Courtesy ACCA Archive*

## Australian Curriculum Links

Visual Arts / Levels F-2

Explore ideas, experiences, observations and imagination to create visual artworks and design (ACAVAM106)

Use and experiment with different materials, techniques, technologies and processes to make artworks (ACAVAM107)

Create and display artworks to communicate ideas to an audience (ACAVAM108)

## Victorian Curriculum Links

Visual Arts / Levels F-2

Explore and Express Ideas (VCACAE017)(VCAVAE021)

Visual Arts Practices (VCAVAV018)(VCAVAV022)

Respond and Interpret (VCAVAR020)(VCAVAR024)