

## **Study for *Sultan***

By Bridget Riley, born in 1931

Gouache and pencil, 1983

To see a high resolution image of this work, click the link below:

<https://bit.ly/354ezd5>

In 1981 Riley spent three weeks in Egypt with a group of friends. They travelled from Cairo to Luxor, along the Nile valley.

The landscape cast its spell on Riley, taking her on a journey of colour. She discovered the fresh fertile greens of the valley, the yellow ochre of the desert, the warm reds of handmade bricks and the deep blue of the sky.

Riley was fascinated to learn that the ancient Egyptians had used this simple colour palette in their art for over 3,000 years. Interested in how the colours interacted and changed, Riley organised and reorganised them in lines. The resulting works all have a unique personality that evoke a particular aspect of her visit.

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