

# Animating with Charcoal

By Paula Briggs

Inspired by the charcoal animations of William Kentridge, teenagers at the AccessArt Art Lab for ages 11, 12 & 13 worked in their [Pink Pig Sketchbooks](#) to create charcoal animations.



**William Kentridge** (born 28 April 1955) is a South African artist best known for his prints, drawings, and animated films. These are constructed by filming a drawing, making erasures and changes, and filming it again. He continues this process meticulously, giving each change to the drawing a quarter of a second to two seconds' screen time. A single drawing will be altered and filmed this way until the end of a scene. These palimpsest-like drawings are later displayed along with the films as finished pieces of art.

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In the studio, I asked the students to open their sketchbooks on a double page, and to begin by writing / drawing their name in charcoal across the page. I then challenged them to layer drawing after drawing on the same page, each drawing made in response to the previous one. Charcoal is a very fluid medium, and in addition to the charcoal sticks themselves, students used their fingers, hands and putty rubbers to help move the charcoal around the page. Sometimes the children added new lines to a drawing, sometimes they took lines away.











When working with charcoal it's very easy to end up with a grey, uniform image. [This warm-up exercise](#) might be useful to help students appreciate the full range of marks they can expect to get from a charcoal stick.

Over the hour long session each student produced 10 to 20 drawings over their double page, and I photographed each image as we went along, as instructed by each student.

The images were then edited and dropped into a movie to make an animation of all the students' work.

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**This is a sample of resource created by**

**UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1100 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.**

**AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.**

**We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.**

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## **World in a Matchbox**

Children love working on a miniature scale where they can create worlds which they can control and oversee. AccessArt and Mencap have devised the “World in a Box” activity to enable children plenty of creative freedom resulting in fantastic autobiographical artwork.

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## **Making Finger Puppets**

AccessArt and Mencap have got three great ways for you to make

finger puppets depending on your time or level of expertise. Starting with a simple print, colour, cut and stick and moving on to a full blown sculptural version, we hope you are inspired to make some puppets and possibly put on a show!

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## **Teachers Explore 'Line and Shape' at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with AccessArt**

In the spring and summer of 2016, Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge to create and deliver a series of InSET sessions (in-service-training) for primary school teachers.

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## **Teachers Play with Plasticine to Make Prints in the Education Room at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post follows on from Gathering Marks and Tearing Paper to Appreciate Prints by Goya, Turner and Cornelius at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and Monoprinting Inspired by Goya, Turner and Cornelius in the Education Room, and shows



how teachers used Plasticine to print textures. The session was facilitated by Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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## **Gathering Marks and Tearing Paper to Appreciate Prints by Goya, Turner and Cornelius at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to enter into the intricacies of prints made by Turner, Goya and Cornelius in a Temporary Exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in summer 2016: 1816: Prints by Turner, Goya and Cornelius.

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## **Making Sculptural Interpretations of 18th Century Portraits at the**

# **Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore making three dimensional interpretations of two dimensional 18th Century portraits.

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## **Using Drawing to Get Closer to 18th Century Portraits at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, used drawing exercises to take a closer look at 18th Century portraits

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## **Using Sketchbooks, Drawing and Reflective Tools in the 20th Century Gallery at the**

# **Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore 20th Century paintings and sculpture, through using sketchbooks & drawing as tools for looking and remembering.

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## **Thoughtful Drawing and Mark Making in the Armoury at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore armour through discussion, drawing and mark making.

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## **Now We Are Back**

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**Monoprinting Inspired by**

# **Goya, Turner and Cornelius in the Education Room at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post follows on from Gathering Marks and Tearing Paper to Appreciate Prints by Goya, Turner and Cornelius at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and shares how teachers enjoyed monoprinting on a big scale. The session was facilitated by Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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**Be Inspired by the Photographs of AccessArt Young Artist Chloe Fox & Join in our Photography Challenge**

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**Art Rooms in KS1&2 Schools: The Elms Junior School**

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# **Doppleganger Drawing**

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**Drawing for Science,  
Invention & Discovery Even If  
You Can't Draw by Paul Carney**

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**Creating Your Sewn Square**

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**How To Clay Play**

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**Art Rooms in KS1&2 Schools:  
Gomersal Primary School**

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# **Art Rooms in KS1&2 Schools: Crossley Fields Infant & Junior**