

Aspire to Create: Inspired by Nature & Empowered by Creativity – Red to Green

By Sheila Ceccarelli for Students and Staff at Red2Green

In autumn 2015, AccessArt was invited to lead a series of practical workshops as part of an [Arts Council, Grants for the Arts](#) project, *Aspire to Create* which was managed and delivered by [Red2Green](#).

Red2Green is a 'Cambridgeshire charity providing services including learning, leisure and work opportunities for adults with a wide range of disabilities.'

Aspire to Create aimed to 'broaden its students' access to creative opportunities.'

During a two week residency, [Sheila Ceccarelli](#), from AccessArt, worked with *Aspirations*, a group of adult learners with [Autistic Spectrum Disorders](#) and staff at Red2Green, on a series of practical workshop sessions, exploring creative processes from drawing and printmaking to sculpture & casting, inspired by nature and culminating in an exhibition.

The *Aspire to Create* project was underpinned by the students' research into a local 19thC amateur naturalist [Leonard Jenyns](#) and his connection to [Charles Darwin](#). Prior to Sheila's visits, learners visited the local church in Swaffham Bulbeck, where Jenyns was the vicar.



Window dedicated to naturalist Leonard Jenyns at St. Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck - photo by Aspirations learner

Learners had also visited the [Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge](#), exploring both 20th century and classical art works inspired by nature and the [Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences](#). A box of skulls was also borrowed from the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology [Loans Boxes](#) service.

Sheila continued themes inspired by nature and natural form and offered students a bespoke opportunity to build up a repertoire of techniques and a portfolio of creative experiences.

The weeks were action packed and sessions were energetic and sometimes chaotic, but one of the most wonderful outcomes, beyond even that of the beautiful and thoughtful work created, was the transformation of the classroom into a studio and the commentary and conversations that happened there.

Sessions were documented and the series of AccessArt posts, below, created to offer a lasting archive to demonstrate how learners accessed the processes and highlight the extraordinary work produced.

Please note that not all was documented to protect the privacy of some of the learners who preferred to remain anonymous.

Many thanks to Sharon, Sally, Vicky, Jeanette, Alice and Elizabeth for their help during the workshops and inviting me to be part of such an inspiring and supportive learning environment - Sheila

One: Casting



Exploring mark making into wet clay,

mould making, mixing and pouring plaster

Two: Patterns in Nature, Line and Wire



Using drawing to look at designs and patterns in nature to inspire the creation of wire sculpture

Three: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions



Recording the surrounding world by taking rubbings

Four: Block Printing



Learners are introduced to block printing

Five: Monoprinting



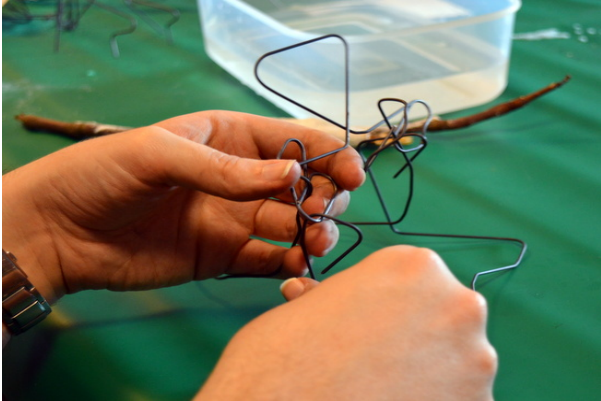
Exploring texture, pattern and mark making through monoprinting

Six: Steps to Observational Drawing



Four steps to enabling observational drawing

Seven: Making Sculpture



Learners explore sculptural principles of form, space and balance

Eight: Wax Resist and Scraffito



Introducing colour with wax resist and scraffito techniques

Windy Day Drawing: What was it really all about?

3D Drawing with Paper: Texture – Surface – Structure

Artist Andrea Butler sets teenagers the challenge to create 3D forms from sheets of paper experimenting with structure and texture using manipulation techniques.

Bold Autumn Still Life

Teenagers engaged in creating bold still life drawings

Life Drawing: A Collection of Resources by Hester Berry

How to Run a Life Drawing Class



[_](#)Introducing Hester and providing an overview of how Hester sets up and facilitates a life class.

An Introduction to Life Drawing



[_](#)Getting started with life drawing and some simple warm-up exercises to help you become familiar with your drawing materials and the life model.

Capturing gesture



[_](#)Hester provides some helpful advice along with a series of short drawing exercises, that

will enable you to identify the essentials of a pose and successfully record the movement and gesture of the life model.

Drawing the head



Drawing faces can be daunting, but Hester explains how you can tackle them successfully using simple and logical steps.

drawing hands and feet



Hands and feet are tricky subjects and often get omitted because the forms seem too complicated to draw. Hester shares a secret shortcut to understanding and drawing these complex forms ...think mittens and socks!

Understanding Foreshortening



When drawing the life model, it can be difficult to process your view of a 3D form into a 2D representation. Hester explains clearly and concisely how to successfully achieve a foreshortened figure to create the illusion of space in your drawings.

Using Tone



Hester explains how to use tone effectively to give your drawings more definition and an increased sense of volume and suggests ways of using tone when drawing short poses, that will build your confidence and skills.

Introduction to Life Drawing

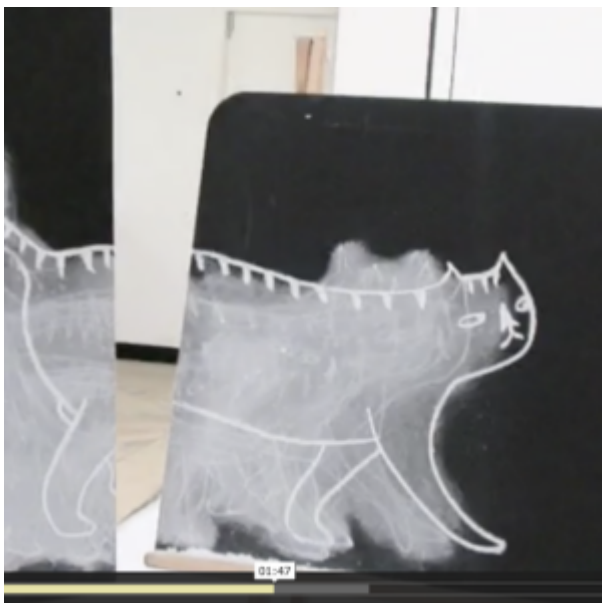
with Hester Berry

Paper Pigeon Project

**Year 3 & 4 Making Club:
Animating Articulated Beasts**

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Talking Points: paper cut puppets



Talking Points: Lauren child



Talking Points: Lotte reiniger



Show Me The Shadows

**Cantus Arcticus (Concerto for Birds and Orchestra) Op.61:
Images Inspired by Music**

Year 3 & 4 Making Club:

Articulated Beasts

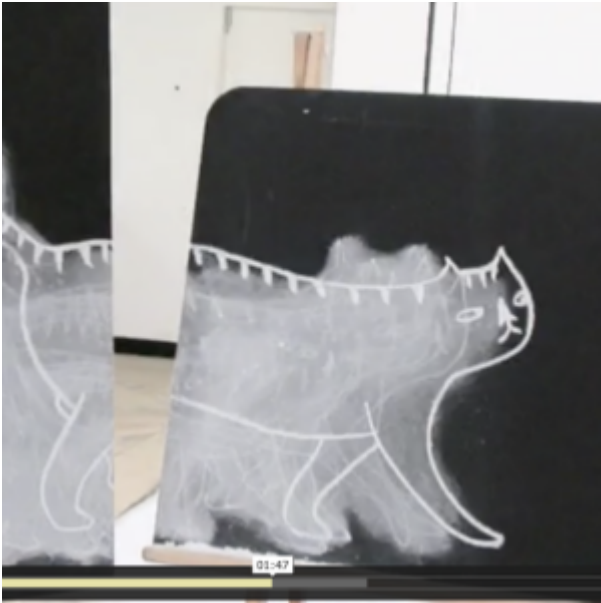
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Pathway: Making Animated Drawings



[This is featured in the 'Making Animated Drawings' pathway](#)

Talking points: Making drawings move



Talking Points: paper cut puppets



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In the Company of Birds

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Birds in trees



Articulated and Animated Drawings by Teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class

A simple project to teach how to make an articulated drawing with only very basic materials.

“Flock” at Prospect House School, Inspired by Veronica

Lindsay-Addy

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How To Make an Origami Bird



Printing at Battyeford Primary, Inspired by Hester Cox

Illustrating 'The Jabberwocky'

In this resource, AccessArt contributor Eleanor Somerset, illustrates how she worked with a group of 7-10 year old pupils and another of 10-15 year old budding artists, at the Little Art Studio in Sheffield, on a series of workshops to illustrate Lewis Carroll's The Jabberwocky.

Pattern and Collage: A Whole School Workshop at Monkfield Primary School

Making Sea Sculptures at Culford School, Suffolk

Artists Andrea Butler and Sheila Ceccarelli inspire year three pupils to invent their own sculptural sea creatures using simple wrapping and binding techniques with scrap store materials.

Teenagers Make Prompts to Overcome White Page Syndrome

Fabulously inspired teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class made prompts to help each other overcome the 'white page syndrome'.

Painting the Storm, at Bourn Primary Academy