

Sketchbook Exercise Ideas: Starting with Magazine Imagery

These sketchbook exercise ideas were inspired by the working practices of [Jonathon Ford](#) and **Madelaine Murphy**. Both artists, working independently of each other, use imagery from magazines, books, news papers and pamphlets to help trigger thought processes and create imagery in their sketchbooks.

[Overview](#)

[When to use this activity](#)

[How to present this activity](#)

Overview

This workshop activity is a great way to generate content quickly, and so give pupils something which they can both reflect on and feel confident about. But just because the imagery comes relatively quickly, doesn't mean it is meaningless. The element of personal choice is crucial to this activity. As pupils make choices about which kinds of imagery they want to select or collect, they are beginning to think about their likes, dislikes and personal preferences. As pupils sort the imagery, they begin to make decisions about presentation, context and meaning, and as they then work in to the imagery, and make it their own, they begin to experience what it is like to think laterally, to manipulate (a crucial skill), to invent (and re-invent), and to take responsibility for the way something is then seen, and the new meanings it presents.

When to use this activity

This activity can be used in a variety of ways:

- to start off a new project - to generate images quickly and effectively
- to help pupils gain confidence in what their sketchbooks can look like, and to help them realise they have got something to say
- as a stand alone sketchbook exercise or icebreaker
- as a tool to help pupils begin to *think around* a certain theme or project
- when someone reaches a sticky point and they need a gentle shove or breath of fresh air!

How to use this activity

	Please log in here to access full content.	
Username	<input type="text"/>	
Password	<input type="password"/>	
	<input type="button" value="Login"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remember me
	Forgot Password	

To access all content, I would like to join as...

An Individual



Creative practitioners, educators, teachers, parents, learners...

From £3.50

An Organisation...



Schools, Colleges, Arts Organisations: Single and Multi-Users
[From £42](#)

AccessArt is a UK Charity and we believe everyone has the right to be creative. AccessArt provides inspiration to help us all reach our creative potential.

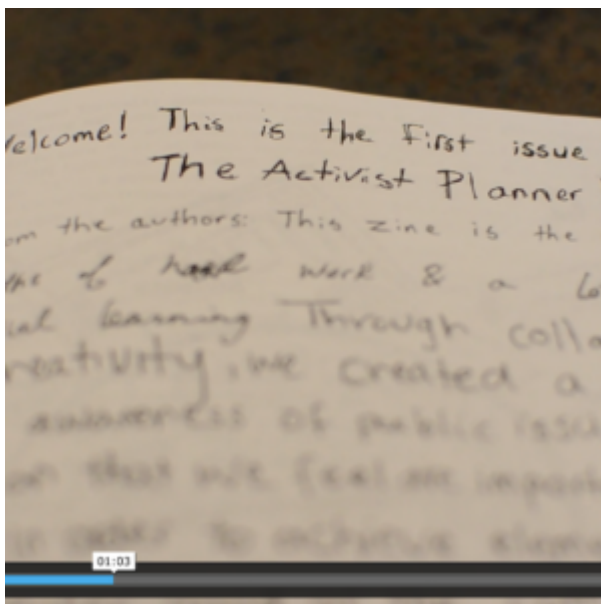
You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Print & Activism



This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway

Talking Points: What is a Zine?



Displaying Sketchbooks

Helpful advice about how teachers/schools/education rooms can display sketchbooks and embrace their unique qualities.

Sketchbook Teaching Tips

Tips and advice relating to best teaching practice when using sketchbooks in schools

Jonathan Ford – Sculptor's Sketchbooks

Jonathan Ford shares his sketchbook pages. See from initial sketchbook pages to finished sculpture.

Felix Liebig – Sketchbook of an Architect

Debbie Greenaway – Examples of artists sketchbooks

Artist Debbie Greenaway shares some of her sketchbook pages and inspires us with the processes which help her find inspiration all around.

Rob Gill – Illustrators Sketchbooks

Gemma Longbottom – Animators Sketchbook

Animator Gemma Longbottom shares her sketchbook.

Isabella Whitworth – A Textile Sketchbook Ideas

Isabella Whitworth – textile artist, shares her sketchbooks and sketchbook approach with us.

Sketchbook Ideas for Primary Schools – A Shared Sketchbook Inspired by Words

This activity can be used to enable pupils to work independently to create pages which are then tied together to create a beautiful, eclectic shared sketchbook. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Sketchbooks for Designers – An Introduction for Children

This module explores how sketchbooks can be a vital tool in any design process – whatever pupils are designing. Includes a module for pupils and teachers notes. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Doodle Ball: a 3-D Drawing Exercise for Active Learners

Doodle Balls are a great way to experiment with drawing on a 3 dimensional surface. They are also great for active learners – people who need to fiddle or doodle whilst they think. [Full](#)

Introduction to Composition in Drawing

Illustrator Yumi Okudo shares an exercise which can help students explore concepts of scale and composition. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

10 x Creative Sketchbook Exercises

10 simple ideas for generating sketchbook content. Suitable for use by adults or children. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Sketchbooks and Thinking Skills

This module is about helping to develop thinking skills in children and to widen and deepen their understanding of their own learning. Children are encouraged to ask themselves questions throughout the sketchbook process. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Sketchbook Warm-Up by Jo Blaker

An ice breaker sketchbook exercise shared by Jo Blaker – perfect for use in school. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Jo Blaker – Sketchbook

Emma Davies – an Artists' Sketchbook

Artist Emma Davies shares some of her sketchbook pages and her sketch book processes

Simple Stapled Sketchbook

Benefits of Keeping a Sketchbook

Creative practitioners share what it is that makes them keep coming back to their sketchbooks.