

Creating Decorative Designs From Birds: Mark Making, Texture and Pattern by Andrea Butler

A 40 Artist Educator Resource:
Be Inspired by Andrea Butler



Cord and handstitching

Artist Andrea Butler shares a beautifully illustrated resource that shows how drawings can be used to develop a range of patterned papers and stitched textiles.

This project was shared with AccessArt as part of the [40 Artist Educator Project](#), funded by Arts Council England,

aiming to highlight and celebrate artist-led teaching and facilitation.

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The work shown here was developed as part of a personal project I completed for my Embroidered Textiles degree. Birds and the idea of flight had been the starting point and I spent several sessions drawing bird exhibits at my local museum, which had a small taxidermy collection. I used this visual information to create a selection of patterned papers and these were interpreted in fabric and thread to provide me with textile designs to explore in the final artwork.

Some years later, a group of fashion students I was teaching were having difficulties understanding how to create decorative designs for clothing from drawings they had made on a museum visit. My bird drawings, papers and embroidered samples proved a useful teaching resource to illustrate one method of generating design ideas from initial research.

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