

# Questioning the Canvas

By Paula Briggs

This resource shares the aims and outcomes of 4 one-hour long sessions with students aged 11, 12 and 13 from the AccessArt Art Lab which took place at Wysing Arts Centre.



Following on from a short warm-up exercise which introduced the children to the question: "[What is a Canvas](#)", I wanted to provide the students with the opportunity to create 2-d or 3-d artwork inspired by the creation of a canvas. Rather than take an off the peg, ready made canvas, or a sheet or paper upon which to paint, I thought it would be interesting if we built up the canvases using other materials, so that the nature and character *of* the canvas could inspire what was then created *on* the canvas.

The sessions were particularly successful in enabling students to take part in a continuous process of reflection and action, as they made decisions, sometimes consciously sometimes not, about their next creative action.

## To Begin

We began our questioning of what a canvas was, or might be, by a gift and an invitation to deconstruct the gift. Each teenager was given an old Observer book, and with the book they were given permission to take it a part, and put it together again in any way they wished...

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

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.***

---

---

# **Decorative Eggs**

A project based on Ukrainian Pysanky eggs using broken beads.

---

## **Arts and Minds: Constructing the World with Collage**

---

## **Arts and Minds: A ‘Heart-Work’ Conversation**

---

## **Collage and Construction**

---

## **The August Creative Challenge Gallery – Week Four**

---

# Draw your Home: Collage, Stitch and Fabric Crayons

---

**Making Large Scale, Screenprinted, Collaged, Co-Created Campaign Posters!**

**You May Also Like...**

**Make, Build, Create: Sculpture Projects for Children by Paula Briggs**



[Published by Black Dog Books](#)

**#WHATDIDMYCHILDMAKE**



---

**Year Three Pupils Explore  
Stencils, Composition and  
Expressive Mark Making with  
Oil Pastels**

**You May Also Like...**

**Pathway: working with shape and colour**



[This is featured in the 'Working with Shape and Colour' pathway](#)

**Talking Points: Henri Matisse Cut Outs**



**Talking Points: Romare Bearden**



...What I have tried  
to do in my collages is  
bring the Afro American  
experience into art and  
**GIVE IT A  
UNIVERSAL  
DIMENSION.**

---

## **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.

---

# **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by Kaz Trinder**

---

## **Red to Green: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions**

process of recording by taken rubbings from natural and man made objects whilst incidentally making uninhibited gestures and marks with graphite

---

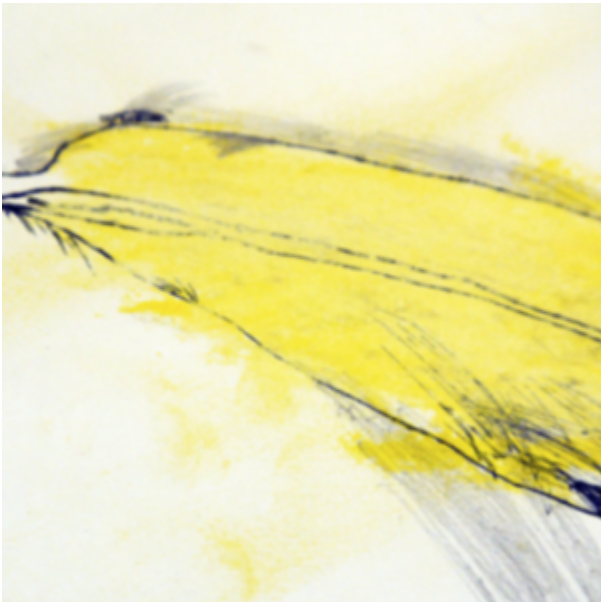
## **‘Birds in the Trees’ by Pupils at Battyeford Primary School**

## **You May Also Like...**

**Visual Arts Planning Collections: Birds**



## **Drawing Feathers**



**Flat yet sculptural**



---

**Paint, Colour and  
Autobiographical Imagery**

---

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

---



# Book Transformation: Flock of Birds

See This Resource Used In Schools...





## You May Also Like...

**Pathway: Making Birds**



[This resource is featured in the 'Making Birds' pathway](#)

**Visual Arts Planning Birds: Making &**

## **Drawing**



---

## **Animal Sculpture and Collage with Students at Philip Southcote School, Surrey**

Exploring 'identity' by interpreting the characteristics, habitats and personalities of animals through making sculpture and collage with scrap store materials.

---

**Jo Allen and Rachael Causer:**

# **Relief Printmaking at Ridgefield Primary School**

---

## **Using Sketchbooks to Inform Larger Work**

---

### **Building Stories by June Nelson**