

“Acts of Kindness” Workshop

By [Paula Briggs](#)



Portrait of Jan Brueghel I (1568-1625) and his family, by Peter Paul Rubens (Detail)

The day after Trump and Zelenskyy stunned the world with their televised argument in the Oval Office, AccessArt ran a “Constructing Positive Social Stories: Acts of Kindness” workshop session at the [AccessArt Lab](#).

The event was one of a number of “[Artists & Teachers Exploring Together](#)” sessions, devised by AccessArt to give us an opportunity to think about some of the more philosophical issues behind art education. By working with artists and educators who are open to holding ideas lightly, we hope to collaboratively discover new arts educational approaches and activities, transferable to a variety of settings.

The idea behind this particular session was to explore how we can use making as a tool to help us focus more closely on the positives which surround us everyday, no matter how small. By creating a shared space for making and conversation, we hoped to lift spirits and create a sense of shared experience.

This post shares the session aims, some of the conversational highlights, and observations of the workshop attendees, and my own as facilitator. Thank you to all who attended, and for your generosity.

“A timely workshop this Saturday morning led by AccessArt. Reflecting individually on our own experiences of small kindnesses, and then choosing

from a table of materials to abstractly or literally depict these, prompted conversation that magnified the acts beyond their original intent. The joy of creating by hand alongside others, of talking and making sense whilst sculpting and glueing, of sharing in stories of the smallest of acts that had made a difference to someone else... about people feeling seen, loved, heard. I left feeling lighter, more hopeful about the world, and with more generosity towards other drivers on my journey home."

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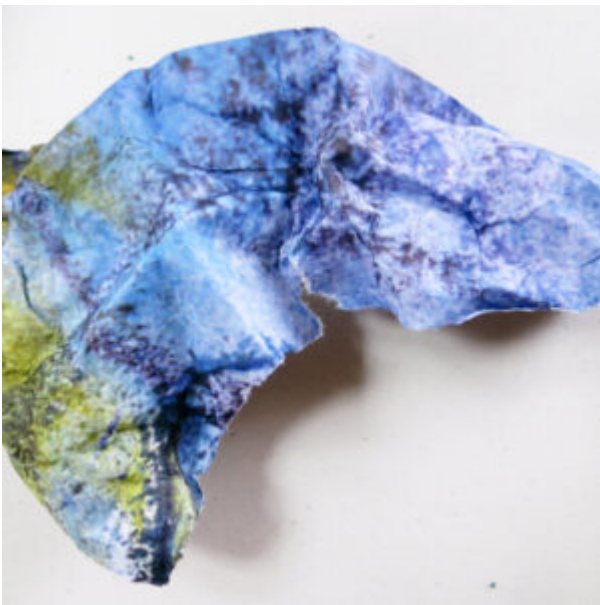
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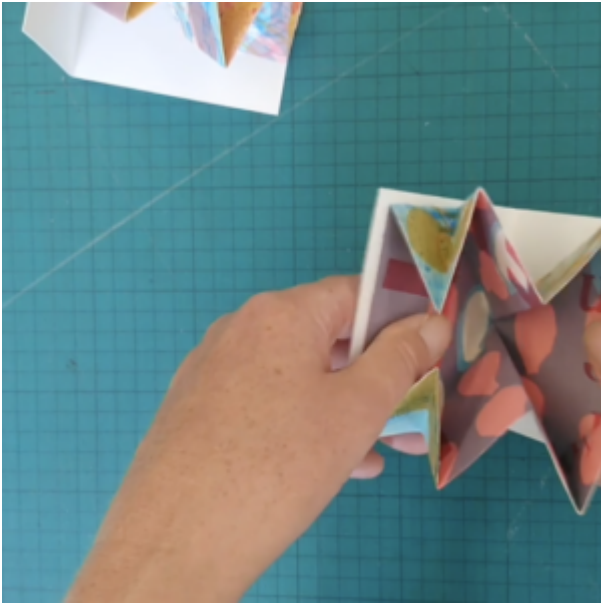
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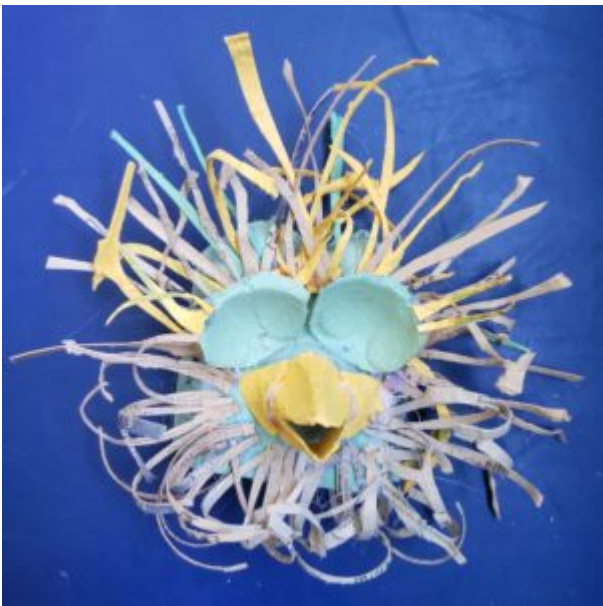


Making a Mask from Sticks and Tissue Paper



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AccessArt Olympics: Stadium Design

[<<Explore Other Olympic Themes](#)

Explore the project below to help pupils consider how they might design and build an Olympic and Paralympic stadium for an Olympic [Ceremony](#).

Stadium Design

Aim: To introduce pupils to architecture through stadium design. Pupils will get the opportunity to transform and manipulate materials through model making, thinking about the form and function of a stadium.

Step 1: Introduce in Sketchbooks

Consider asking pupils to make an Olympic project sketchbook using one of the “[Making Sketchbooks](#)” resources.

Begin by introducing students to stadiums designed for the Olympics and Paralympics with “[Talking Points: Olympic and Paralympic Stadiums](#)”. Invite pupils to create “[Visual Notes](#)” in their sketchbooks inspired by the information they see.

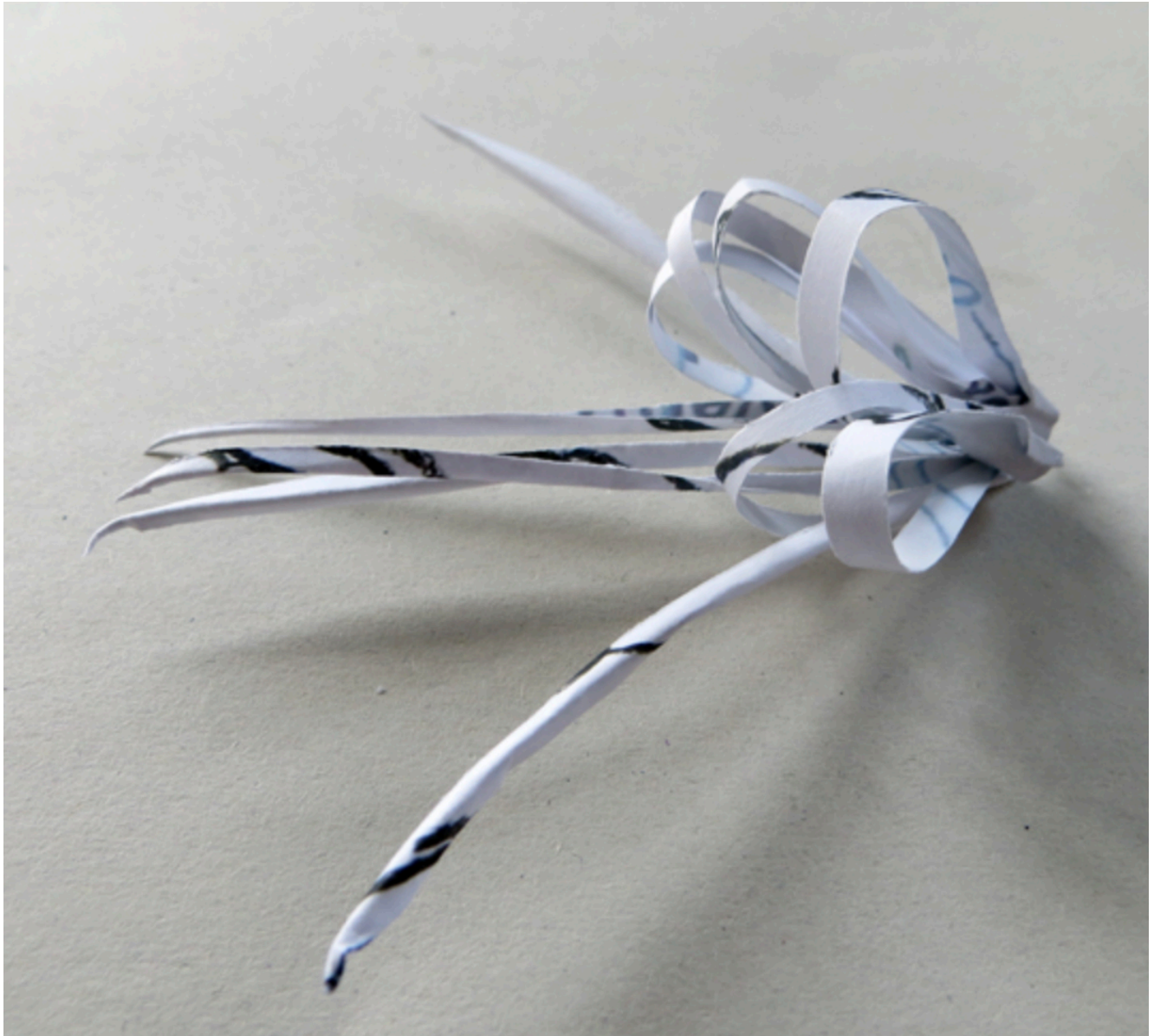


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Step 2: Drawing and Making

Using “[Drawing Source Material: Inspirational Stadiums](#)” invite pupils to create drawings inspired by what they can see. Find out how to run this guided session with the “[Show Me What You See](#)” resource.

Introduce this short making task “[Roots and Shoots](#)” to get pupils to think about how they might get creative with making, attaching and manipulating materials.



Step 3: Making

Get pupils to work in pairs or small groups to create “[A Model Studio](#)” of a stadium. They may choose to start with designing or making first. Remind them of what they learnt about materials in the previous step.

Alternatively, you may want to build stadiums by adapting “[Inspired by google Earth: Making](#)”. Use polystyrene to build the stadium from the ground

up.

Extension: Use the [“Taking Photos of 3D Artwork”](#) resource to incorporate a digital element into the project. For help with introducing pupils to green screens see the [“Exploring Scale with Green Screens”](#) resource.



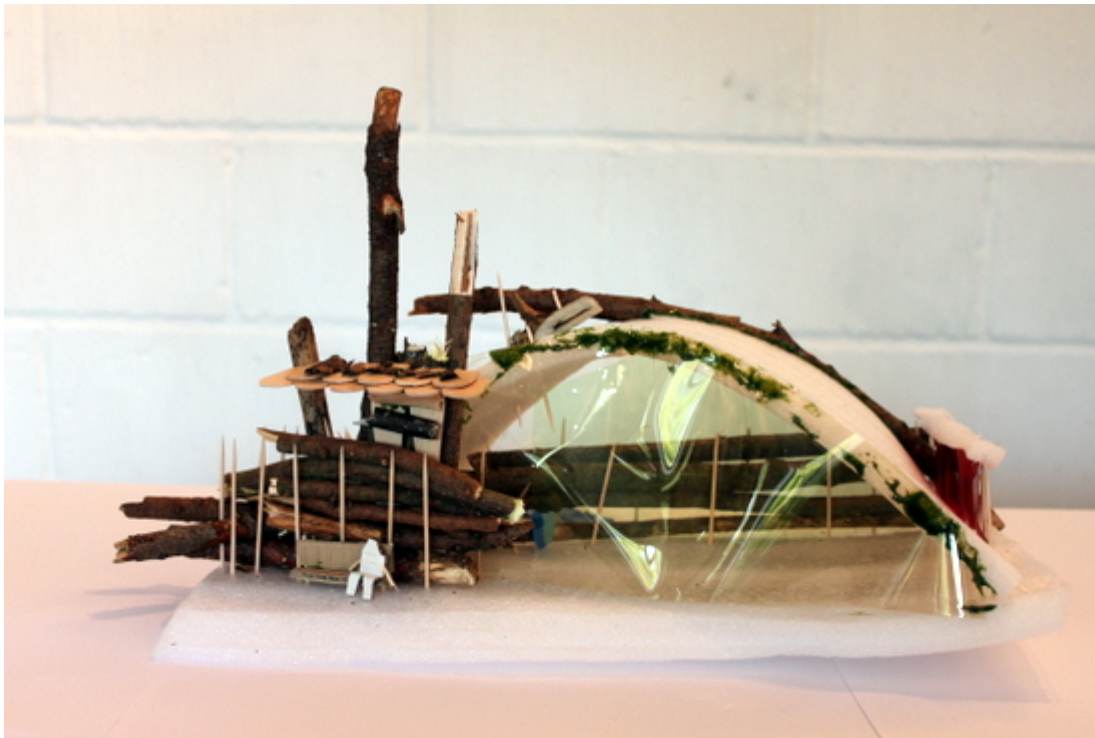
Step 4: Reflect

[Use the resource here to help you run a class “crit” to finish the project.](#)

Invite children to display the work in a clear space on tables or on the wall. Recap with them about the exploration – where they started, what they discovered and what they enjoyed.

If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the

children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.



ACCESSART OLYMPIC RESOURCES

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

Materials:

Sketchbooks

A3 Paper

Drawing materials

Making Materials: Card, Coffee stirrers and/or lolly sticks, Twigs, Foam board, Toothpicks, Wire, String, Colour Gels, Polystyrene, Cardboard

PVA Glue

Scissors

Glue Guns

Tablet (Optional)

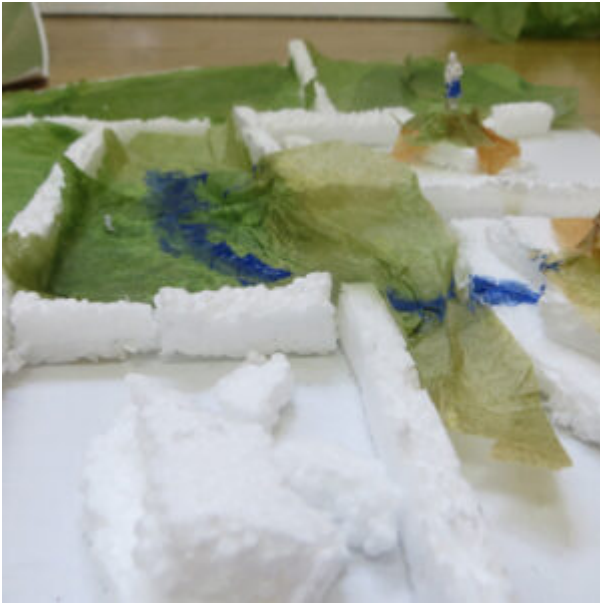
Green Card (Optional)

Adaptations:

You may like to shift the focus of this project to Ancient Greek architecture and stadiums, to explore structures such as the Parthenon. You may find resources in the “[A Sketchbook Pathway, Anglo Saxon Architecture](#)” helpful.

Think about significant buildings or history within the local area that you could integrate elements of into stadiums, forming links to locality.

Explore Other Resources in Ceremony:



Mapping and Modelling



Mascot Design



Friendship Tower

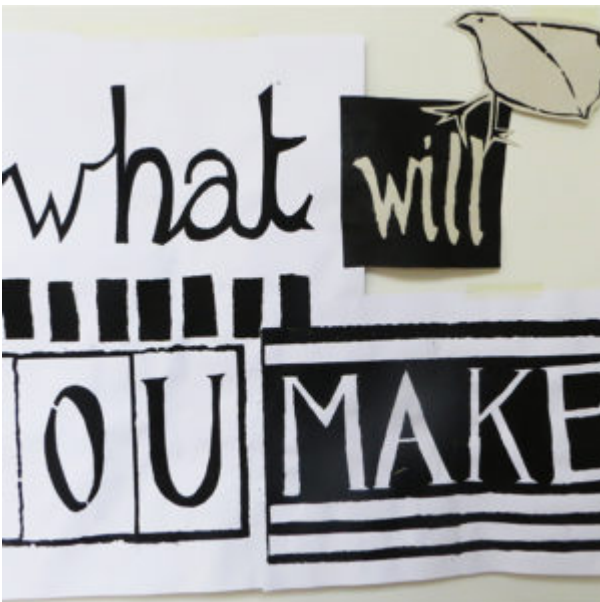
Explore other olympic themes
history



Athletics



Values



**AccessArt Olympics: Ancient
Greek Architecture**

[<<Explore Other Olympic Themes](#)

Explore the project below to help pupils discover Ancient Greek architecture inspired by Olympic [History](#).

Ancient Greek Architecture

Aim: Pupils will explore Ancient Greek architecture through sketchbooks, collage and sculpture.

Step 1: Introduce in Sketchbooks

Consider asking pupils to make an Olympic project sketchbook using one of the “[Making Sketchbooks](#)” resources.

Begin by introducing pupils to the first ever Olympic stadium in Olympia with “[Talking Points: Olympic and Paralympic Stadiums](#)”. Use the questions to prompt discussion.

Follow on in sketchbooks with a drawing activity, exploring architecture using “[Drawing Source Materials: Ancient Greek Architecture](#)” as a drawing prompt.

Invite pupils to create drawings inspired by the source material using the “[Show Me What You See](#)” method. You can find a case study for this method inspired by [Anglo Saxon architecture](#) which will need to be adapted.



Step 2: Drawing

Adapt the “[Houses From Around The World](#)” resource to create textured collage drawings inspired by Ancient Greek Architecture. Invite pupils to look at the range of marks and lines made in sketchbooks in the previous session and build upon them.

If you would like to focus on making skills you may like to skip this step.



Step 3: Making

Create Sculptures with Personality inspired by the ["Sculptures with Personality, Inspired by anglo Saxon Houses"](#) resource.

Making "sculptures" rather than "models" enables pupils to grow their ideas in individual directions, using the architecture of Ancient Greek buildings as a starting point.



Step 4: Reflect

[Use the resource here to help you run a class](#)

[“crit” to finish the project.](#)

Invite children to display the work in a clear space on tables or on the wall. Recap with them about the exploration – where they started, what they discovered and what they enjoyed.

If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.



ACCESSART OLYMPIC
RESOURCES

AGES 5-8

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

Materials:

Sketchbooks

A3 cartridge and newsprint paper

Drawing materials

Making Materials: Card, Corrugated cardboard, Coffee stirrers, Lolly sticks, Twigs, Toothpicks, Wire (various thicknesses for structure and binding), String, Withies, Hessian, Calico, Felted Wool

PVA Glue

Pliers

Scissors

Glue Guns

Adaptations:

You could invite pupils to create sculptures inspired by [a modern Olympic stadium](#).

Explore Other Resources in History



[Making Medals](#)



[Sportswear Design](#)



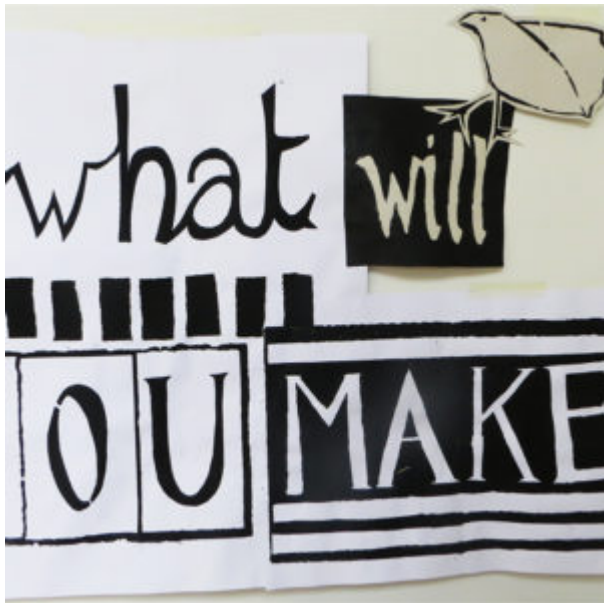
An Olympic Poster

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ceremony



Ice Worlds

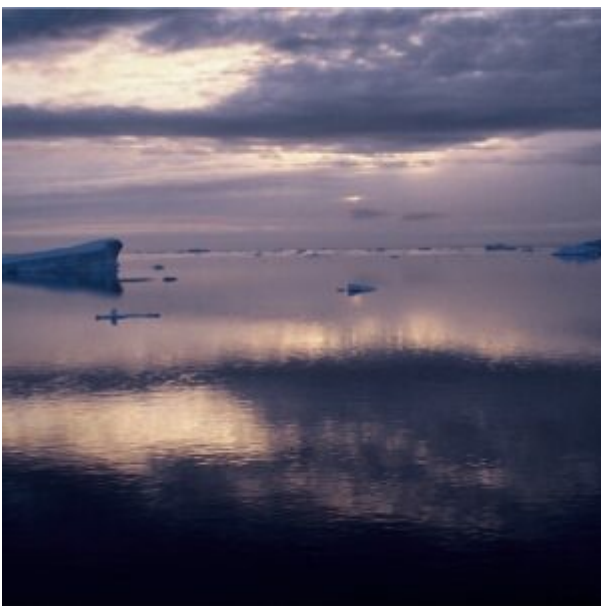
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[This resource is featured in the 'Using Art To Explore Global Issues' pathway](#)

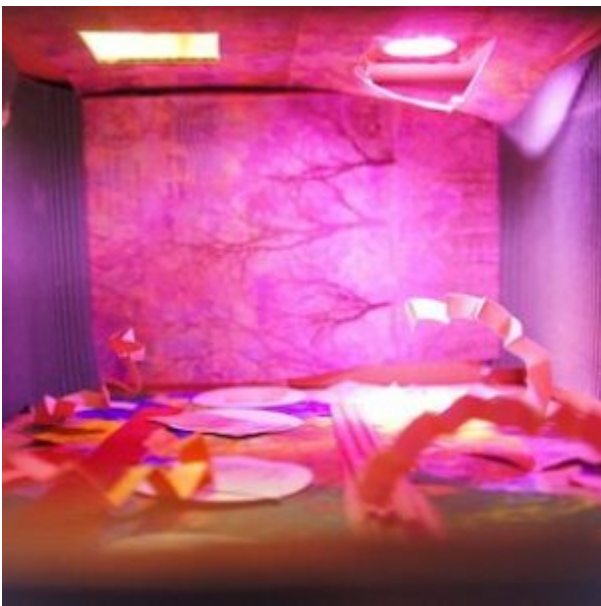
Drawing Source material: ice



Talking Points: Drawn To Antarctica



Mini world Lightboxes



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Part One

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Part Two

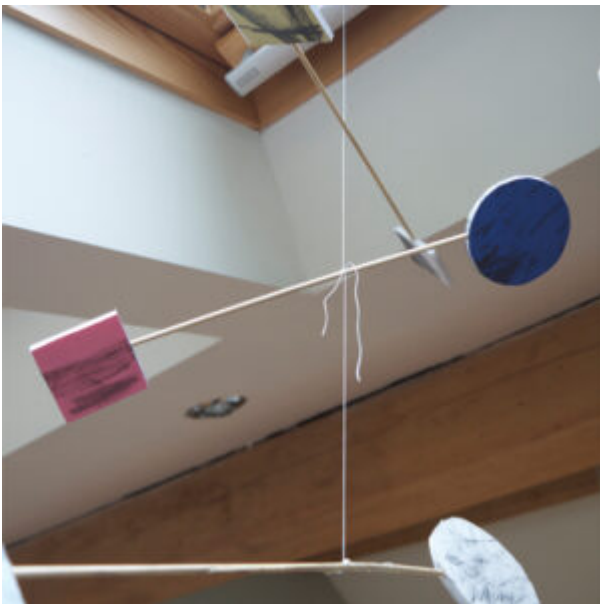
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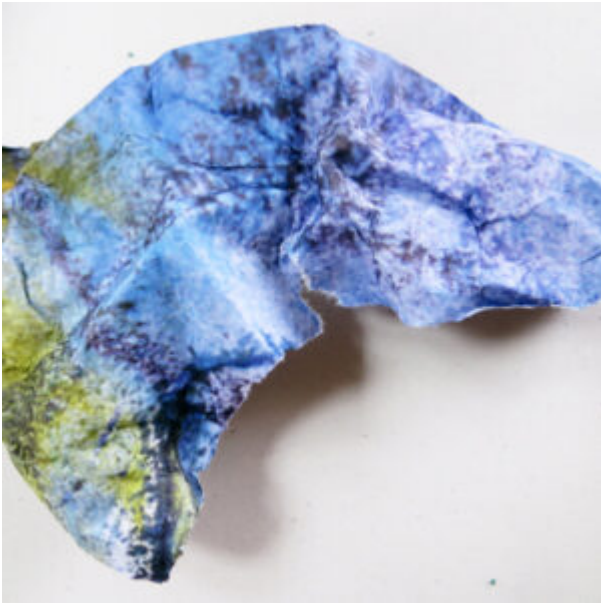
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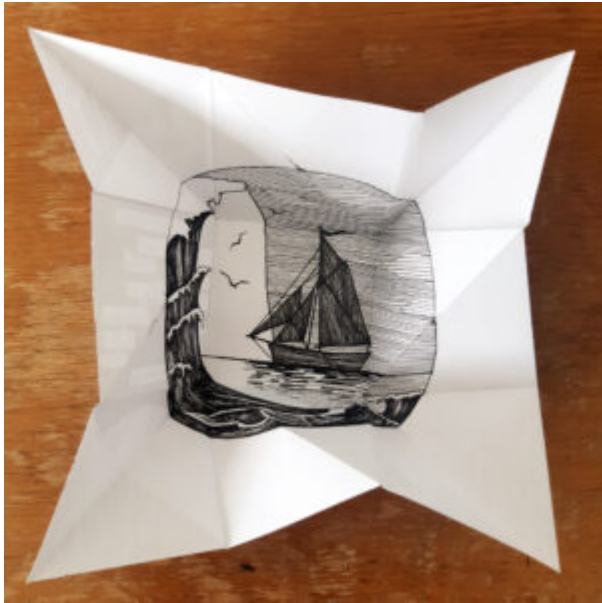
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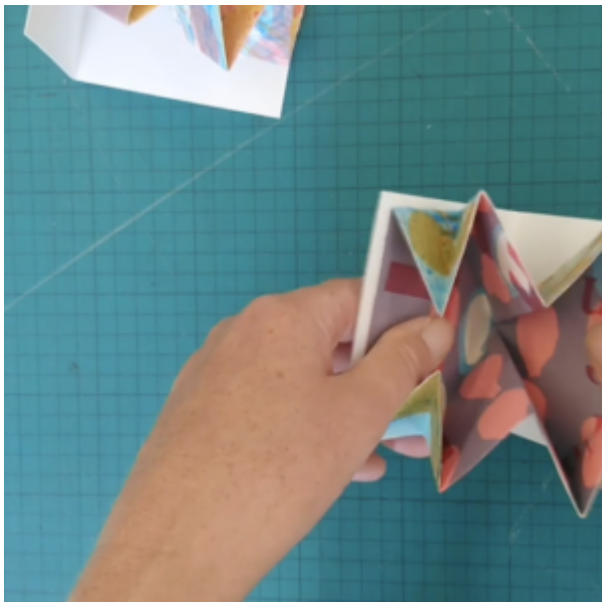
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and Making



This is featured in the 'Telling Stories Through Drawing and Making' pathway

Pathway: Drawing and Making Inspired by Illustrators



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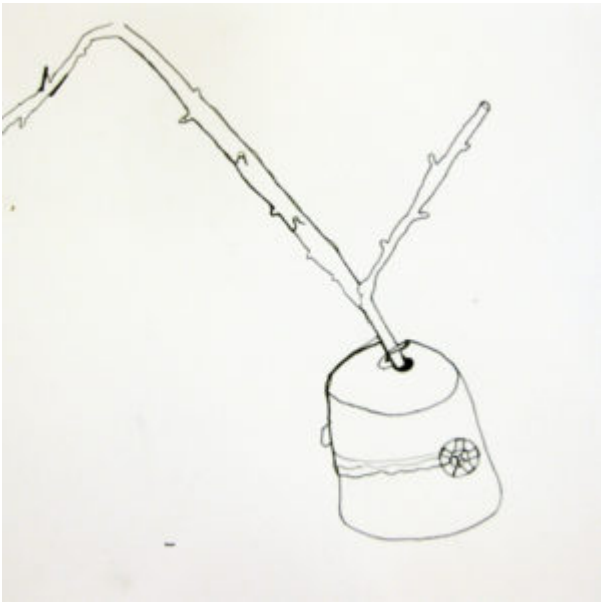
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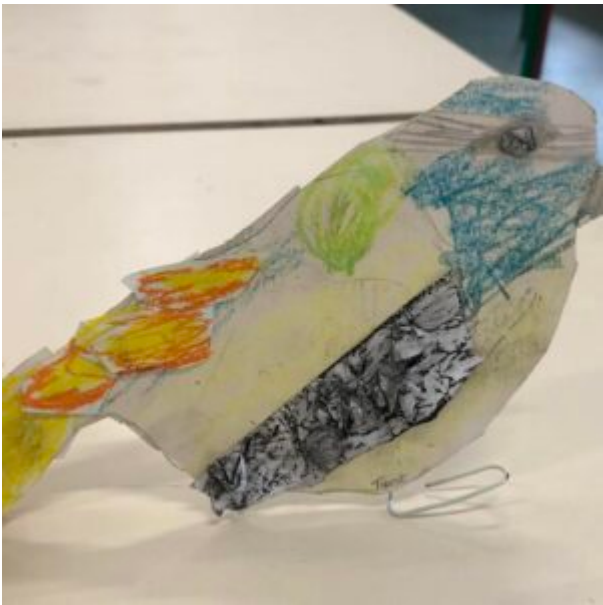
Talking Points: treehouses



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