

Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings

This resource shares how schools might use Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings to inspire creativity in the classroom. [See this resource as part of a pathway for use in schools here.](#)

The Shelter Drawings can be used to:

- Develop visual literacy skills
- Explore watercolour, ink and wax resist
- Explore how to convey form in drawings by using contour lines
- Explore Chiaroscuro (light / dark) to convey mood
- Explore perspective to build sense of claustrophobia / confinement
- Explore themes of shelter, confinement, safety, being trapped

Context & Background



Tentoonstelling beeldhouwwerken Sonsbeek Arnhem. Family Group (Henry Moore), Bestanddeelnr 905-1531.jpg

Henry Moore was a sculptor and draughtsman.

When introducing his drawings to children, it's important to remember the fact that he was a sculptor - his drawings have a characteristic "sculptural" feel. Understanding this will help children explore how they convey form in their own drawings. Moore's sculptures were monumental, inhabiting the landscape, but his studio was full of small maquettes (models) inspired by fist sized pieces of flint and bone. Even his drawings of these small objects feel "sculptural" and solid.



Three Reclining Figures 1975 HMF 75(8) watercolour wash, charcoal, chalk, gouache on blotting paper 263 x 217mm photo: The Henry Moore Foundation archive, Michel Muller. Reproduced by kind permission of the Henry Moore Foundation

The Shelter Drawings



Row of Sleepers 1986 by Henry Moore. Reproduced by the Henry Moore Foundation

Some records say Moore made his shelter drawings after taking shelter one night in 1940 in Belsize underground station, when Moore was fascinated by the families camping out underground. Other records say Moore took many underground journeys and saw the figures in the platforms as the trains passed by.

Returning to his studio, the Shelter Drawings were often made

from his memory of the experience. The images capture feelings of confinement and claustrophobia; the figures are anonymous but relationships between figures are clear. The figures in the underground, often seated or reclining, also reminded Moore of his sculptures.

See the clip above at 10 minutes 30 seconds for images of Moore making his Shelter Drawings

[See this resource as part of a pathway for use in schools here.](#)

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 850 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring Form Through Drawing



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Form Through Drawing' pathway](#)

Watercolour Washes Inspired by the Tapestries of Henry Moore



Portrait Club

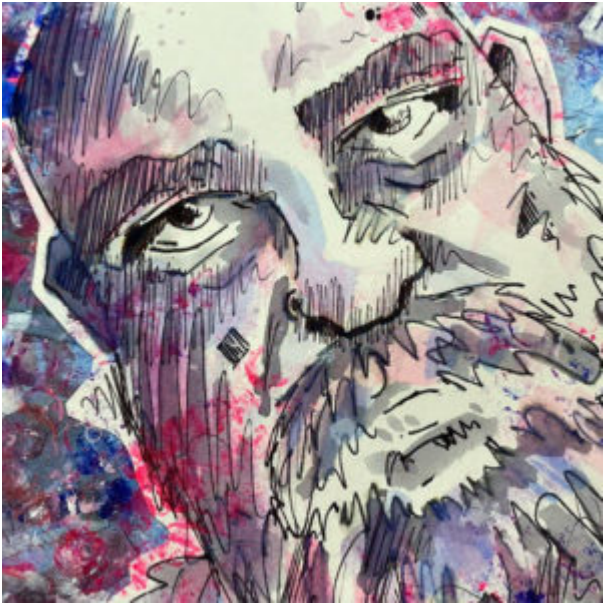
What We Like About This Resource...

“We’re really grateful to Jake from Draw Brighton for sharing this activity which became so well received during lockdown 2020.

This is the perfect reminder that wherever we are in the digital or physical world, we have our eyes, hands and faces, and drawing provides a wonderful opportunity to come together in small groups to make sketches of each other. Use this activity as an ice breaker before a workshop, or as a transition activity between classes or events. Thank you Jake!” *Paula, AccessArt*

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Pathway: Exploring Identity



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Identity' pathway](#)

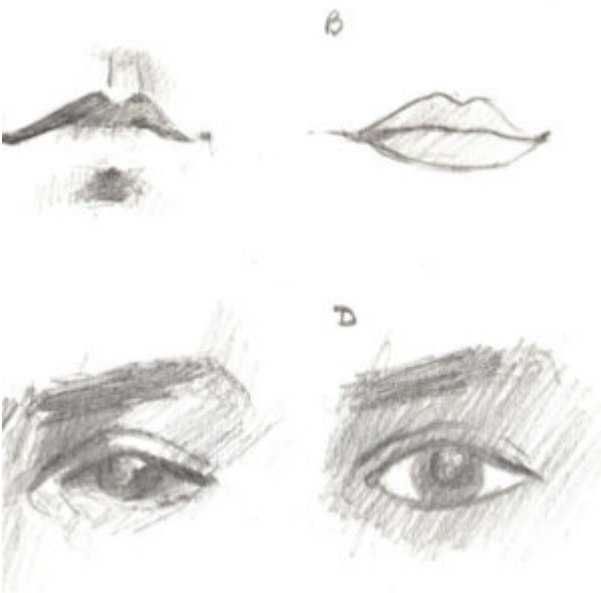
Talking Points: Njideka Akunyili Crosby



Making Physical or Digital Layered Portraits



Introduction to Portraits



Exploring Portraits in Graphite, Collage and Clay



**Ethos: Learning From
Participants**

Movement Maps

Diverse Mark Making

Last week we looked at how we can use sound to help develop our mark making in a very intuitive

way. Today we are going to look at how we can develop our mark making skills in a slightly more analytical way – through examining the work of other artists. By doing this, and by using our new mark-making vocabulary in the drawings we make, we can begin to understand how different types of marks create personality and meaning in our drawings.

As with all the AccessArt resources, we want to help learners aim high, but through a series of small steps. And at each of the steps we ensure we are encouraging open-ended, creative experiences so that the learning is really owned by the learner.

Find the recording of the In The Studio session exploring diverse mark-making below.

Activities which help learners identify new marks...

Finding marks through artists



thoughtful mark making



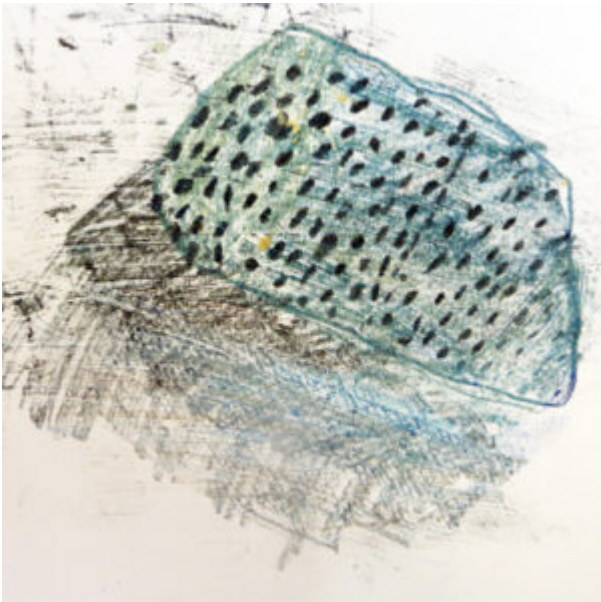
drawing clouds and mark making



Typography for children



Monoprint with Oil Pastel



Flat Yet Sculptural making



Making Sculptural Wild Things



Finding Marks Through Drawings Made by Artists

See This Resource Used In Schools





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Pathway: Typography and Maps



[This is featured in the 'Typography and Maps' pathway](#)

Pathway: Cloth, thread, paint



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Session Recording: Finding Marks Made by Artists

Developing Mark Making Skills - Drawing Exercise

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Finding Marks Through Drawings Made by Artists

By Paula Briggs

This resource shares a way to introduce learners to the diversity of mark making at their disposal when making drawings. By deconstructing drawings made by artists, we can begin to build our own vocabulary of marks, and start to make our own creative decisions about when to use a certain mark in a particular context, and understand how the marks we choose will affect the final drawings.

#Inspire

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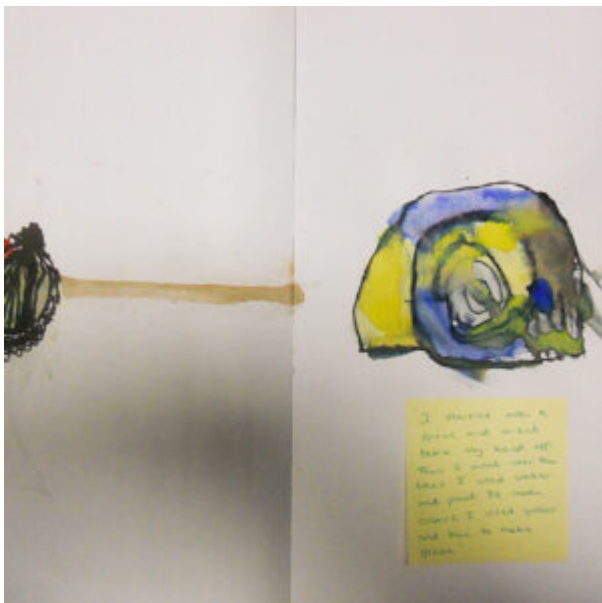
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See How This Resource Is Used in Schools...







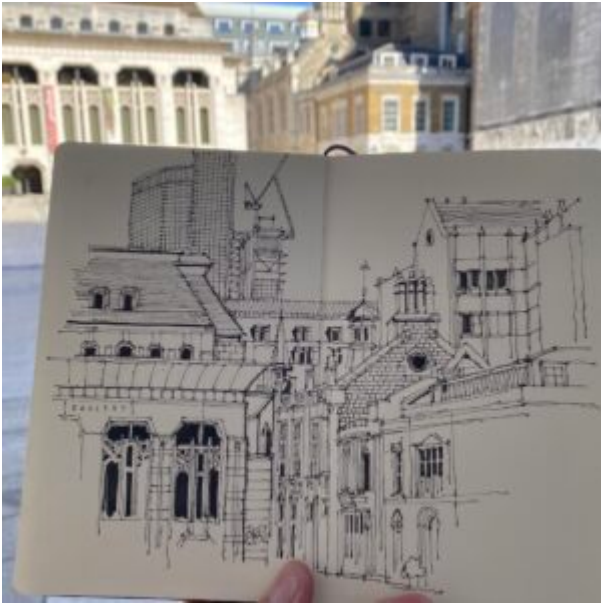
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Pathway: Spirals



[This resource is in the 'Spirals' pathway.](#)

the drawing journey



Layered Colour Gestural Drawing



**DrawAble: Making Layered
Portraits by Mike Barrett**

Part Three

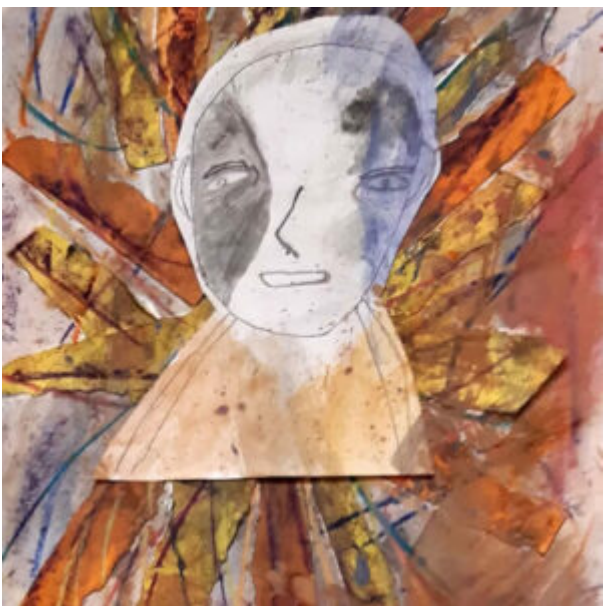
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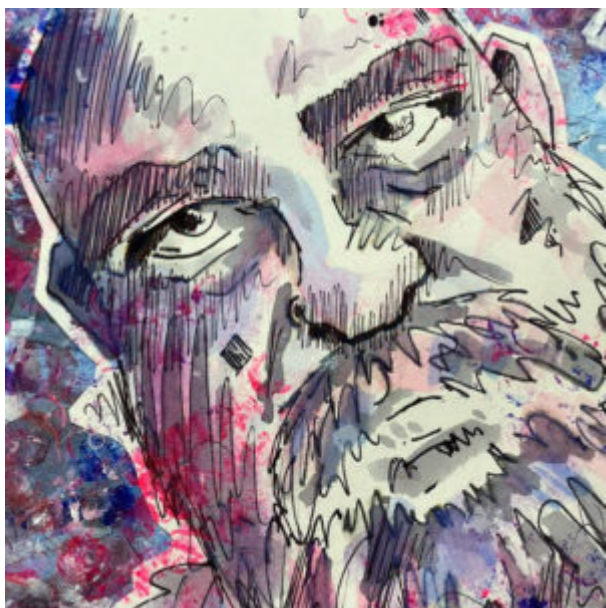




Let Me Inspire You: Mike Barrett

You May Also Like

Pathway: Exploring Identity



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Identity' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Njideka Akunyili Crosby



[Explore the work of Njideka Akunyili Crosby](#)

Talking Points: Yinka Shonibare



[See how Yinka Shonibare uses pattern to express identity](#)

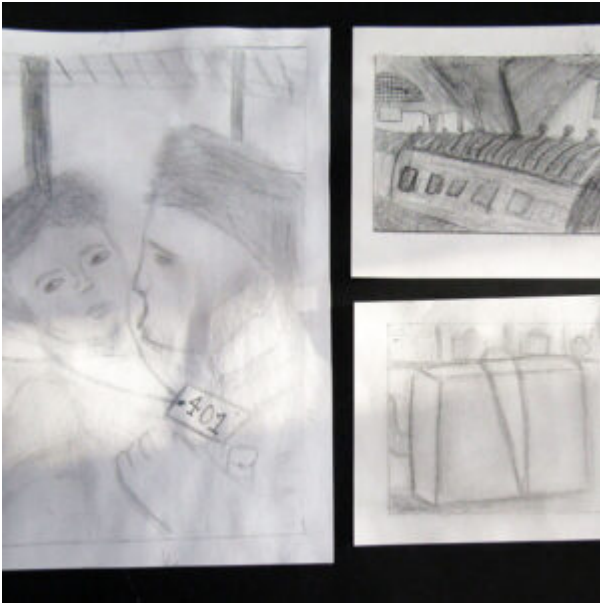
DrawAble: Making a Folded Sketchbook By Paula Briggs

DrawAble: Straight Line Drawings with Lorna Rose

Drawable: The 3 Panel Drawing Challenge with Rozi Hathaway

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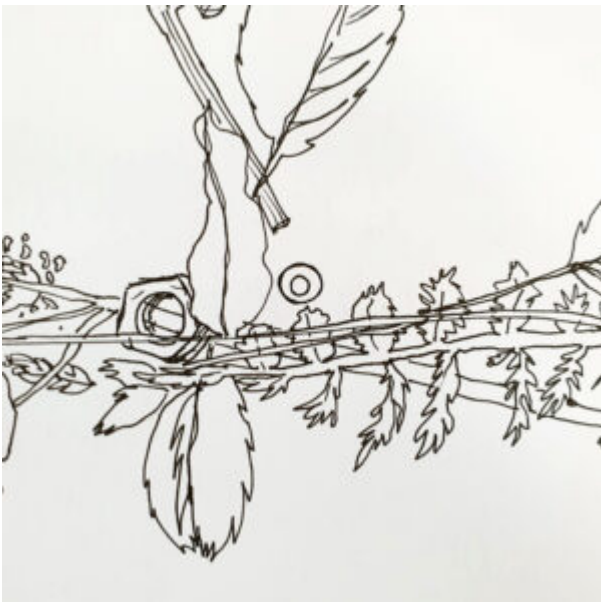
Mark Making & Sound: Part One

You May Also Like...

Mark Making & Sound: Part Two



Mark Making & Sound: Part Three



Pathway: Music and art



[This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway](#)

Drawing to a Slow Rhythm



Inspired by Miro



Drawing to Music



Making a Scroll Drawing

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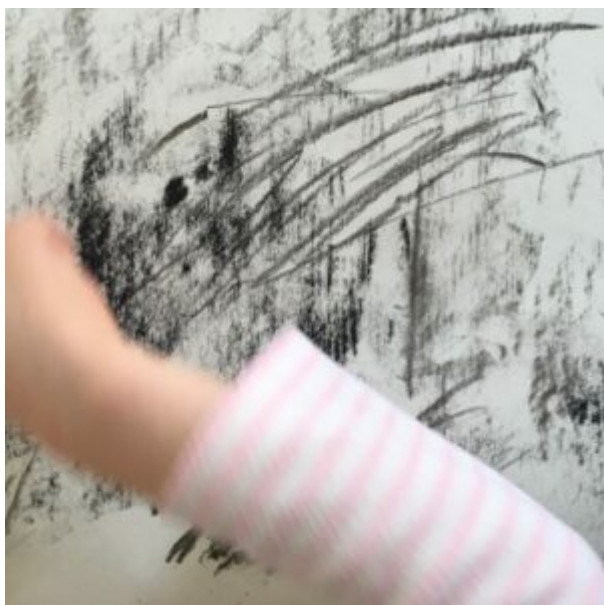
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Pathway: Gestural Drawing with Charcoal



[Featured in the 'Gestural Drawing with Charcoal Pathway'](#)

Session Recording: exploring Charcoal



Molly Hausland



The ancient art of konan



Drawing Source Material:

Nests

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

Please note that this page contains links to external websites and has videos from external websites embedded. At the time of creating, AccessArt checked all links to ensure content is appropriate for teachers to access. However external websites and videos are updated and that is beyond our control.

Please [let us know](#) if you find a 404 link, or if you feel content is no longer appropriate.

We strongly recommend as part of good teaching practice that teachers watch all videos and visit all websites before sharing with a class. On occasion there may be elements of a video you would prefer not to show to your class and it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure content is appropriate. Many thanks.

Nests

Use the film below to enable children to explore drawing nests. Try to create a sense of momentum – for example you might pause the video 4 times and ask the pupils to make a 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute and 4 minute drawing at each pause.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to qualities of the nest.

Try the same exercise using different materials, ie handwriting pen, ink and nib, pastel, watercolour...



Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Davis, United States. Original public domain image from Wikimedia Commons



Bird nest hanging on a tree. Free public domain CC0 photo.



Birds nest in tree, nature photography. Free public domain CC0 image.



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**Pathway: Sculpture, Structure,
Inventiveness & determination**



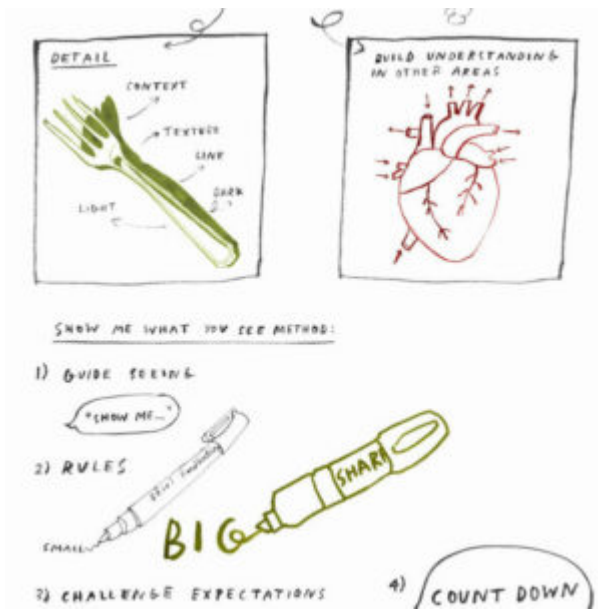
This is featured in the 'Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness & Determination' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



[Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise](#)

Drawing Source Material: Drone Footage over Natural Landscapes

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

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This resource is free to access and is not a part of AccessArt membership.

FREE TO ACCESS

Drone Footage Over Natural Landscape

Use the film below as source material to enable an exploration of drawing natural landscapes. You can also try to find drone footage of your own environment, or that of areas relating to projects you are covering in school.

Pause the footage at points which catch your eye and invite the children to make timed drawings –

15 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 2 minutes or 1 minute.

Vary the drawing materials you use and work in sketchbooks or sheets of paper of different sizes and textures. You may also like to make multiple line drawings over one page – each with a different colour or line weight, to describe different pause points in the same film to capture a moving landscape.

Dixie National Forest, Utah

Howqua Hills, Australia

Reading, UK

The Netherlands

This Source Material Features in...

Pathway: Cloth, thread, paint



This is featured in the 'Cloth, Thread, Paint' pathway

Pathway: Mixed Media Land and city scapes

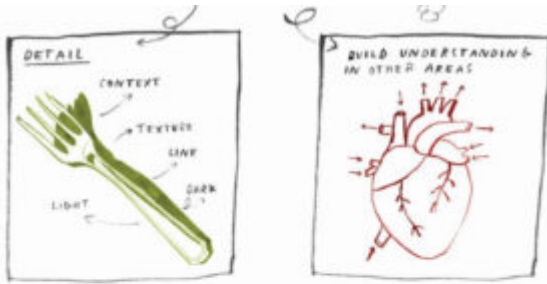


This is featured in the 'Mixed Media Land and City Scapes' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see



SHOW ME WHAT YOU SEE METHOD:

1) GUIDE SEEING

"SHOW ME..."

2) RULES



3) CHALLENGE EXPECTATIONS

4) COUNT DOWN