

Drawing Small

Relax into this drawing exercise and don't put pressure on yourself to make an amazing drawing. Sometimes making a drawing can feel like a big ask, especially if you think that drawing is not your thing (we'll prove that wrong!). The aim of this exercise is to help you tune in to drawing as an activity. This exercise is suitable for children aged 4/5 and upwards through to adult.

So let's start small and take it one tiny drawing at a time!

You Will Need:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Collection of small objects (see below)



Selection of small objects



To Begin

Your challenge is to draw a collection of tiny objects – by tiny we mean things which are roughly the size of a five pence piece – things like small shells, pebbles, leaves, beads, screws. Popcorn also makes a good subject matter and even dead flies if you can find a few ☐

Start by scattering the objects over a large, clean sheet of paper. Take a pen or sharp pencil, and make sure you are near to the objects so that you can really see all their detail.

Begin by making sketches on the page, amongst the objects themselves. You should be making tiny movements with your fingers and hands – drawing from the wrist, but other than that draw however you feel most comfortable. This exercise is just to help you focus, relax, and begin to coordinate hand

and eye, so don't worry too much about results or technique.

Make as many sketches as you like, on as many sheets as you like.

As you draw, become aware of the relationship between looking and drawing. Let your eyes flit between looking at the object and looking at your sketch – it's easy to concentrate more on your sketch and to forget to keep looking at the object. Ideally you should look at the object for a few seconds, then your drawing for a few seconds, then the object, then the drawing...

Also begin to become aware of how you can change the the marks you make in response to what you see. For example experiment with how much pressure you use, in different parts of the drawing.

There will be no mistakes and you can't really go wrong. You are just making quick sketches. Each sketch should only take a couple of minutes.... Enjoy drawing small!

Repeat this exercise over a few days, each time choosing a different "small" object, and you'll soon see how the marks you make change and improve.



Small drawing by Zak

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

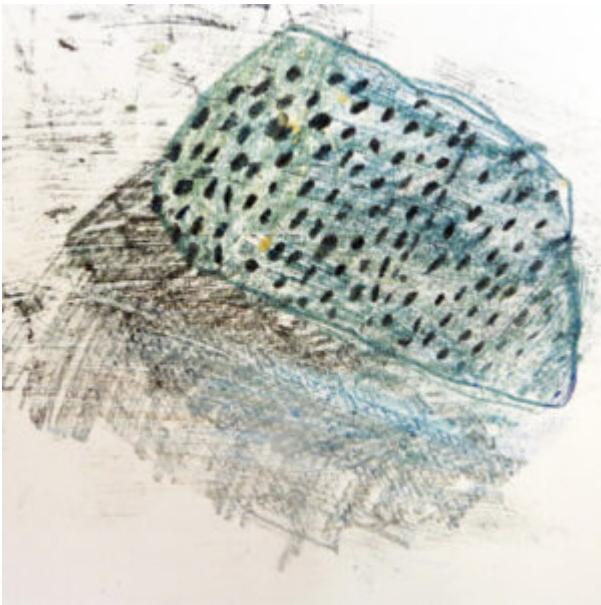
AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

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.

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Pathway: Exploring the world through mono print



[This is featured in the 'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway](#)

Drawing Large



Life Drawing Class: Visual Impressions

Foreshortened Sketches

Cupid and Psyche: How a Fifteenth-Century Renaissance

Panel Became the Most Loved Painting in Cambridgeshire

Sheila Ceccarelli tells the story of how Cupid and Psyche, painted by Jacopo Del Sellaio, an Italian Renaissance artist, came to become the most loved painting in Cambridgeshire. Inspire is an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrates the creativity of our local schools. It champions the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for children and young people. A chance also to see Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche on display next to the children's work.

Bubble Drawings

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

Anthropomorphic

Animal

Paintings

This painting activity looks at giving human characteristics to animals. Anthropomorphism is making something which is not human, more human like for e.g Miss Piggy, Mickey Mouse and the characters created by Beatrix Potter. This activity was inspired by the paintings of two contemporary artists who use anthropomorphism in their work, Ken Hoffman and Svjetlan Junakovic.

Nib & Ink Mark Making Still Life

Many thanks to accessArt Young Artist Rowan Briggs Smith



Young Artists



Painting A Rainbow Forest

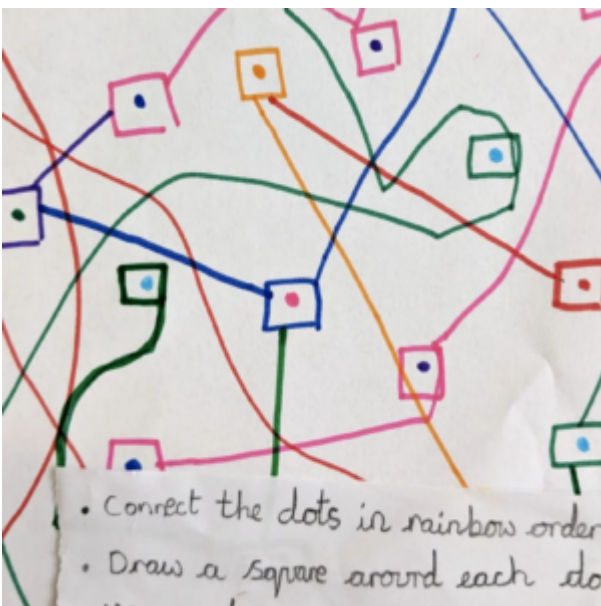
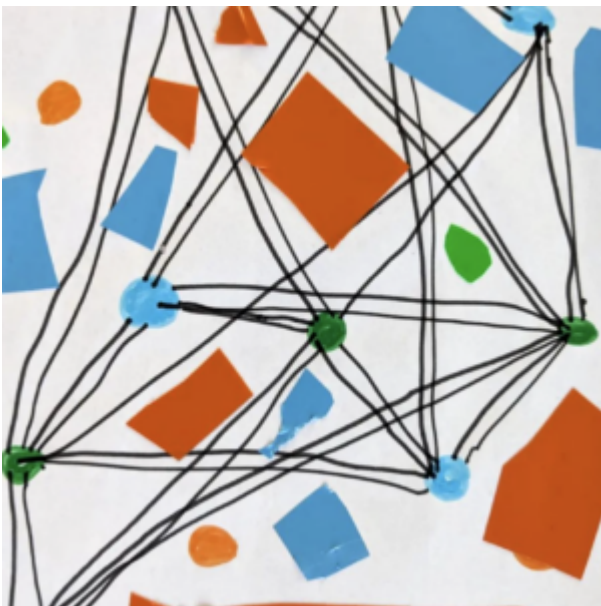
Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils paint their own large scale, colourful forest inspired by AccessArt's resource 'Painting A Bluebell Forest'. Rachel shares her process in this resource.

Layers

Teenagers draw on layers of acetate to make a palimpsest with Melissa Pierce Murray.

Rules and Resolutions

See This Resource Used In Schools...





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Pathway: Exploring pattern



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

Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



Drawing in the Dark: Developing a Visual Language

For Remembrance Day

Anne-Louise Quinton creates a project for her Year 9 pupils to commemorate Remembrance Day. The teenagers worked collaboratively to create a collaged frieze of paper soldiers in response to an artwork by John Singer Sargent and a war poem by Wilfred Owen.

Japanese Sushi Inspires Our Art

Jan Miller leads a project enabling children to explore materials and learn from another culture by creating colourful, large-scale mixed media drawings inspired by food from Japan. This activity is suitable for older KS1 and KS2 children.

Spotting Potential and Nurturing a Young Talent

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Visual Arts Planning Collections:
Portraits



Assessment & Progression



Taking on the Inktober Challenge

Artist Morag Thompson Merriman taking on the Inktober Challenge and generously shares her process with AccessArt.

Three Approaches to Drawing

Melissa Pierce Murray proposes three approaches to challenge habitual ways of drawing by expanding the repertoire of marks and approaches.

Modelling the Head in Clay

Part 2 – Preparations

This post looks at two preparations for making a clay head: drawing to help us learn to see the form in the round, and taking measurements from life.

This is the second post in a series of resources showing how teenagers modelled a clay head over the course of a term.

Basic Concepts in Drawing & Painting by Hester Berry



AGES 4 TO 11

Resources created by painter [Hester Berry](#), which aim to introduce some basic drawing and painting concepts to primary-aged children and their teachers.

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Explore Resources...

Shape



[Hester explains how seeing shapes objectively can help our drawing skills.](#)

Colour



Simple, progressive exercises to explore colour mixing in a dynamic way.

Tone



Hester explains how we can use tone in drawing and painting to help describe form, atmosphere, and context.

Portrait



[Hester shares simple exercises to kick start drawing portraits.](#)

Teaching Children to See Shapes Objectively by Hester Berry