

DrawAble: Making a Folded Sketchbook By Paula Briggs

[By Paula Briggs](#)

As part of [DrawAble](#), Paula shares a simple way to make an artist's book, suitable for children aged 5 and upwards (especially suited to key stage 2). The project uses recycled paper and whatever drawing materials you have at hand. The exercise encourages children and teenagers to shape their drawing not just informed by drawing subject matter, but also informed by the surface you are drawing on.

You can adapt the focus of this activity to suit the audience. For example you might theme the book around objects or people around you, around things from the garden, or around your imagination.

This activity is taken from [Drawing Projects for Children](#).



Notes for Teachers

What is the aim of this exercise?

This project offers children and teenagers the opportunity to be inspired not only by the thing they are drawing, but also by the surface upon which they are making the drawing. The project encourages experimentation, and challenges what a drawing might be. Working quickly and fluidly encourages exploration of drawing materials.

There is plenty of room for personal exploration and the project can be focussed around specific themes to link to other work.

What age can this exercise be used with?

This resource can be used with ages 8 and upwards. Is particularly suitable for secondary-age learners (ages 11-16).

What materials will the learners need?

One large sheet of paper (A1 or A2 works best), scrap or recycled paper, a variety of drawing materials, glue stick and scissors.

How long does this exercise take?

This exercise will take between 30 minutes and 1.5 hours

How do I measure success?

Success can be measured by the creation of 8 individual drawings on different drawing surfaces. More able or engaged children will show they can sensitively make choices about drawing material/subject matter and drawing surface. They will either be able to articulate their decision making, or it will be apparent in the drawing.

Risk taking should be recognised – for some children this will be apparent in mark making and exploration of drawing medium, with each drawing feeling different to the other drawings. Other children may need encouraging to make slightly larger drawings which “occupy” the page.

What can we try after this exercise?

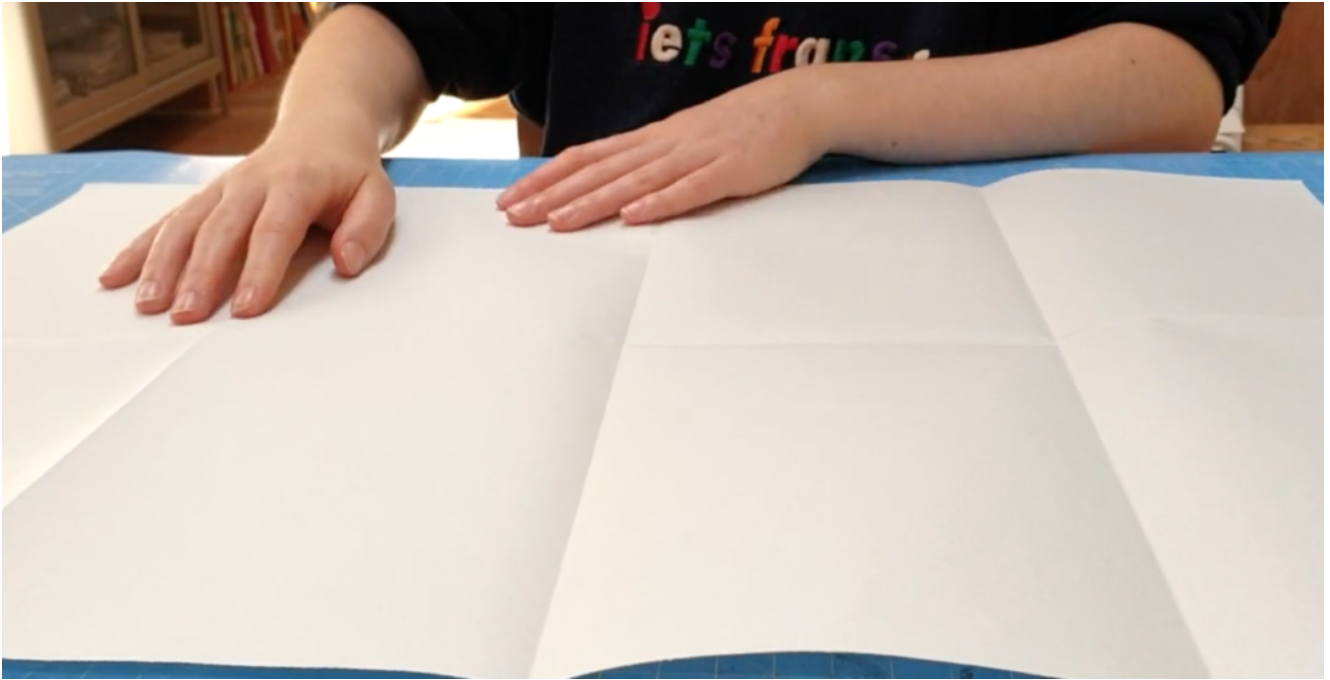
Try the [drawing sessions here](#).

Try other [DrawAble exercises](#) and projects.

To Begin

Take a large sheet of paper – A1 is best but A2 or A3 will work.

Fold the sheet in half, then in half again, and in half again (watch the video above), so that you have 8 “panels”.

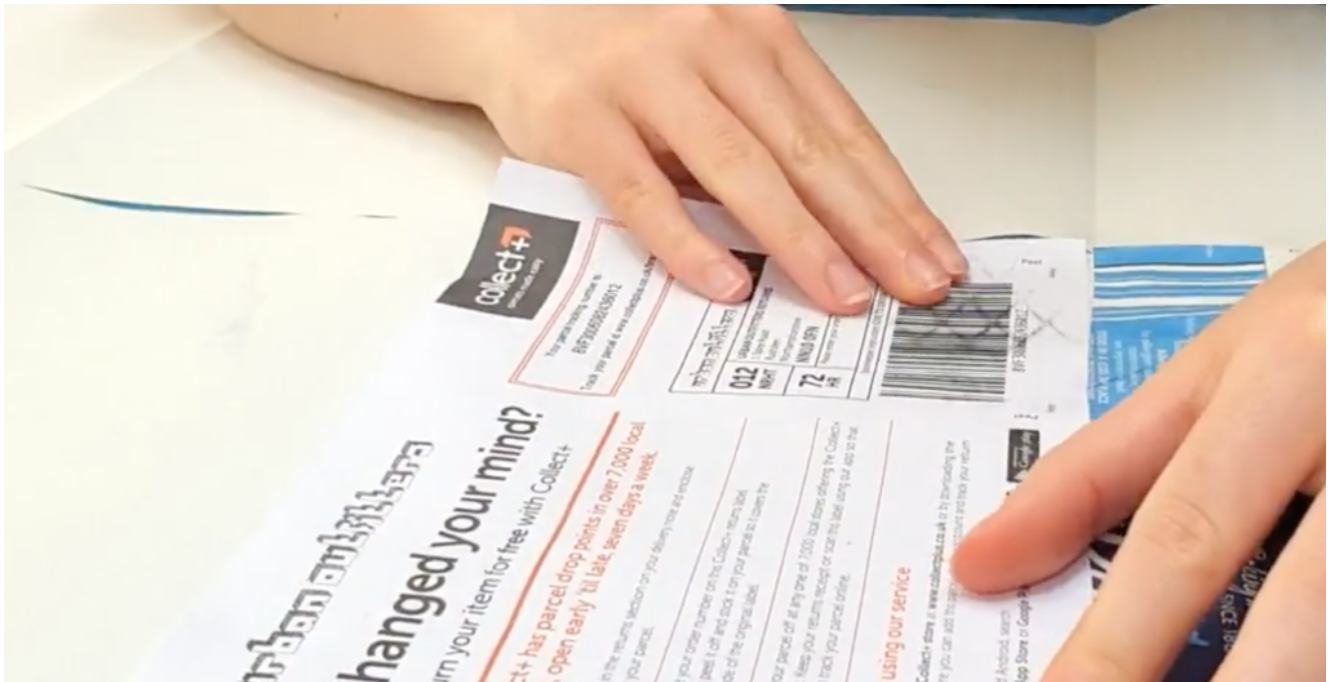


Make a cut as shown (this will enable you to fold the sheet into a “book” later).



Gather different types of used paper and cut or tear them into sheets the same size as the panels. You might use old envelopes, maps, newspapers, old sheets of notebooks etc.

Stick them down.



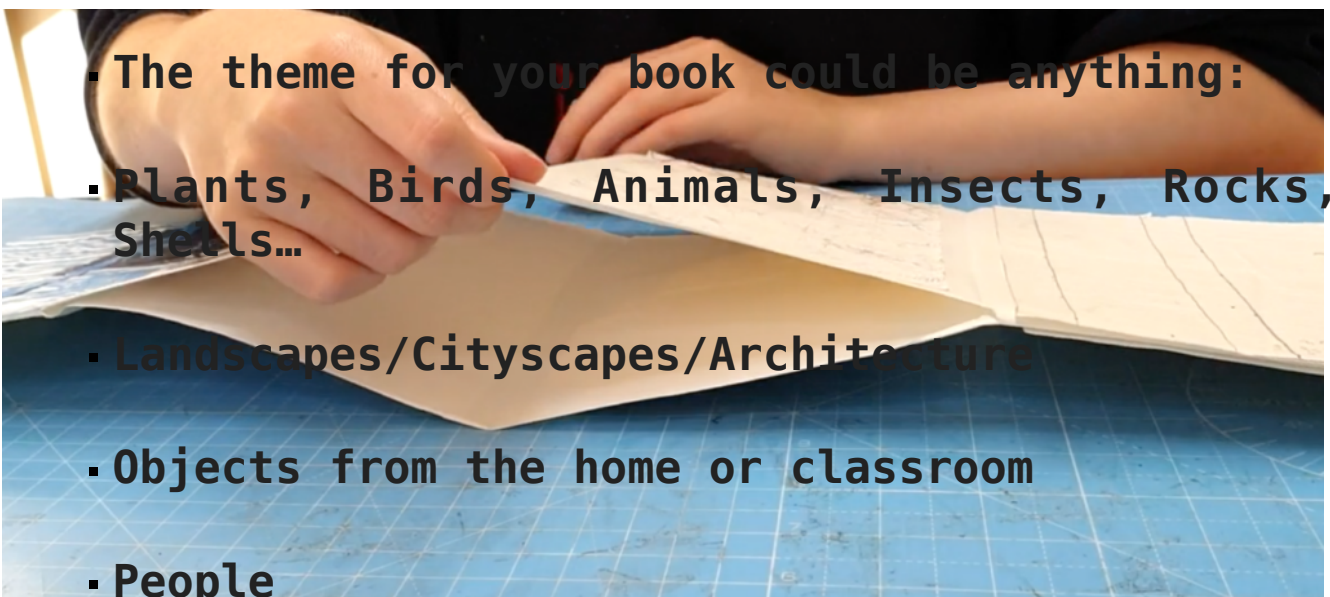
Gather different types of used paper and cut or tear them into sheets the same size as the panels. You might use old envelopes, maps, newspapers, old sheets of notebooks etc.

Stick them down.

Once all 8 sheets of recycled paper are stuck onto your larger sheet, fold the sheet as described in the video above to form a “book”.



Making the Drawings!



- **Fashion**

- **Things from your imagination**

Whatever the theme is for your book, you will need 8 different things to draw (8 shells, 8 views out of windows, 8 people, 8 scenes etc).

Choose your first object/scene and get ready to draw... BUT before you start drawing choose a page from your book to make the drawing on. Which page would you like to draw on? Which drawing surface do you think this object or scene will work on?





Whatever you are drawing, look carefully at the subject matter, and think carefully about how the drawing surface might affect the kinds of marks you make. Be experimental and take risks. Explore different drawing materials in response to the drawing surface and drawing subject matter. Work intuitively.

Don't let each drawing take too long. Keep moving forwards. You can always revisit a drawing later. Keep each page fresh and whenever you change your subject matter choose a new page which you think suits that subject matter. Keep exploring!

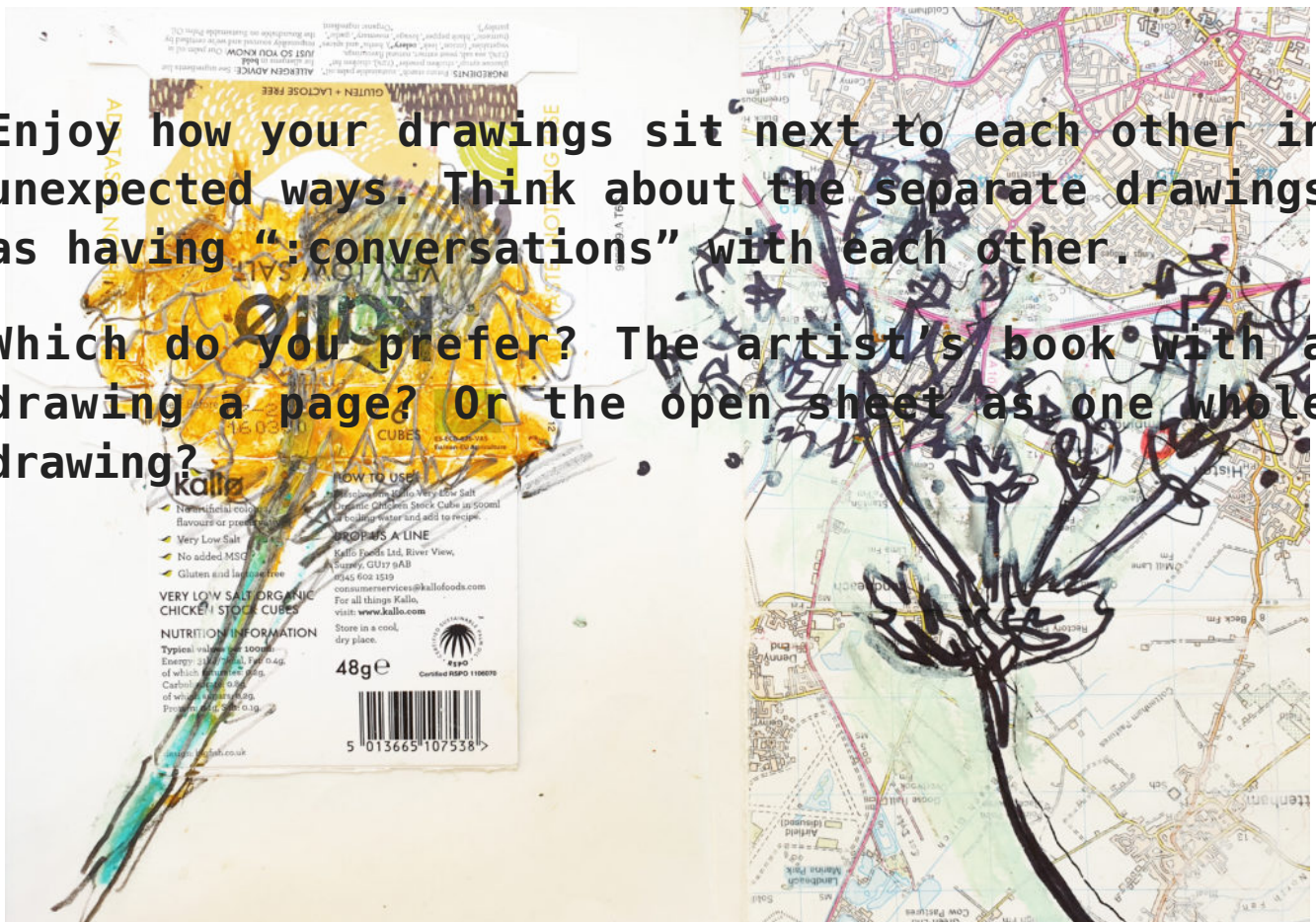


When all 8 panels are finished, open the sheet back up! As well as an artist's book, you also now have one large drawing!



Enjoy how your drawings sit next to each other in unexpected ways. Think about the separate drawings as having “conversations” with each other.

Which do you prefer? The artist's book with a drawing a page? Or the open sheet as one whole drawing?





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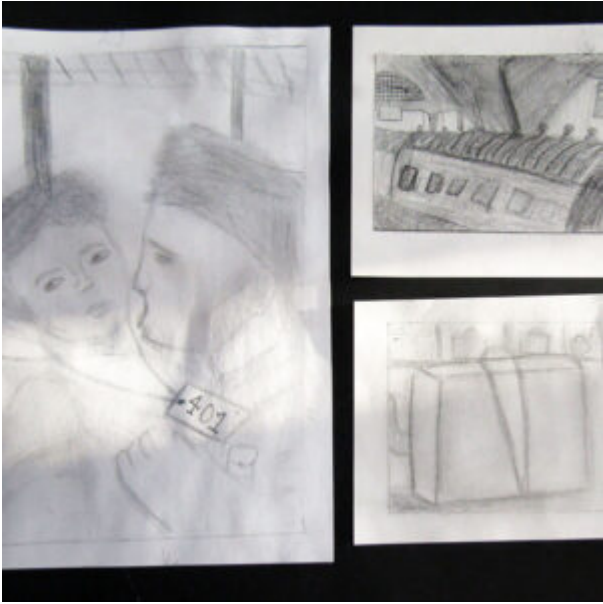
We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

**DrawAble: Straight Line
Drawings with Lorna Rose**

**DrawAble: Making GIFs with
Lizzie Knott**

**Drawable: The 3 Panel Drawing
Challenge with Rozi Hathaway**

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Making a Scroll Drawing

**Draw your Granny and Grandpa
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The Nonna Maria Drawing Challenge by Luca Damiani

**“Missing You” – Pavement Art
Response to #SchoolclosureUK**

Drawing Large

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Pathway: Gestural Drawing with Charcoal



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Session Recording: exploring Charcoal



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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

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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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You May Also Like...

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



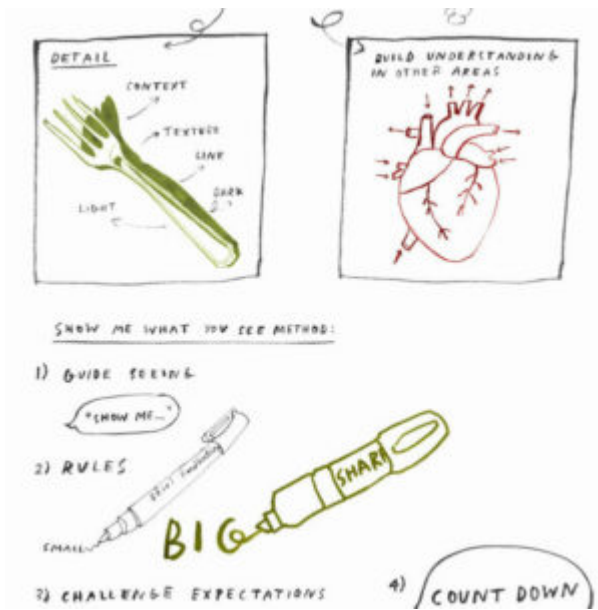
This is featured in the 'Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness & Determination' pathway

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

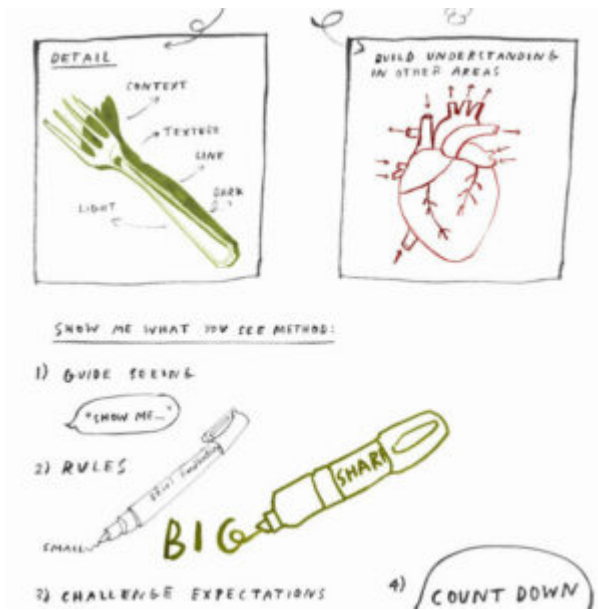


This is featured in the 'Mixed Media Land and City Scapes' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



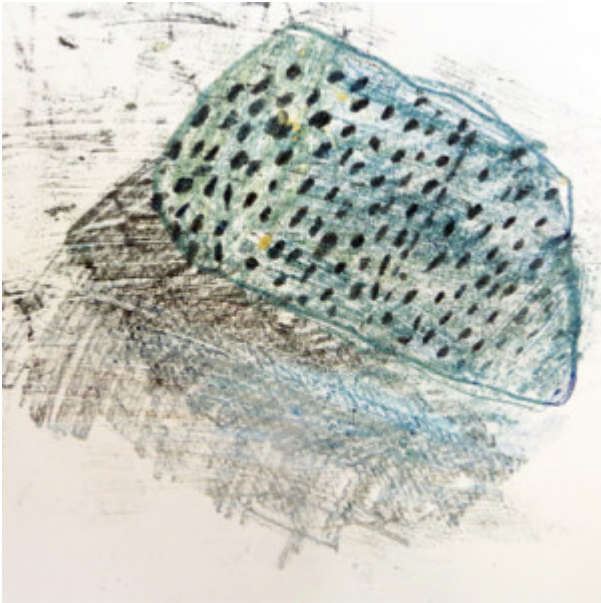
Show me what you see



Drawing Small

You May Also Like...

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

Research: Life Drawing & Adolescents

Foreshortened Sketches

Wall Drawings with Tape

Nib & Ink Mark Making Still Life

Many thanks to accessArt Young Artist

Rowan Briggs Smith

Young Artists



Graffiti

In this class teenagers work with Melissa Pierce Murray and take inspiration from the motivations and methods of Graffiti artists.

Layers

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

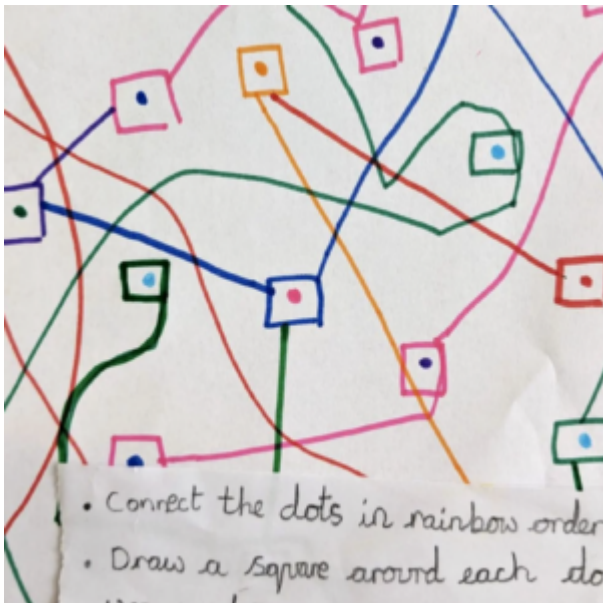
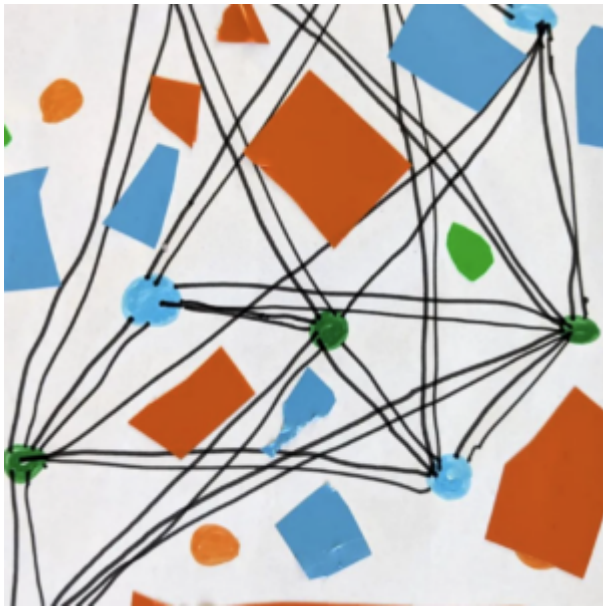
Simple Animation: Making a Flick Book

Flick books are a great way to make simple animations.

Rules and Resolutions

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Pathway: Exploring pattern



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

Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont

