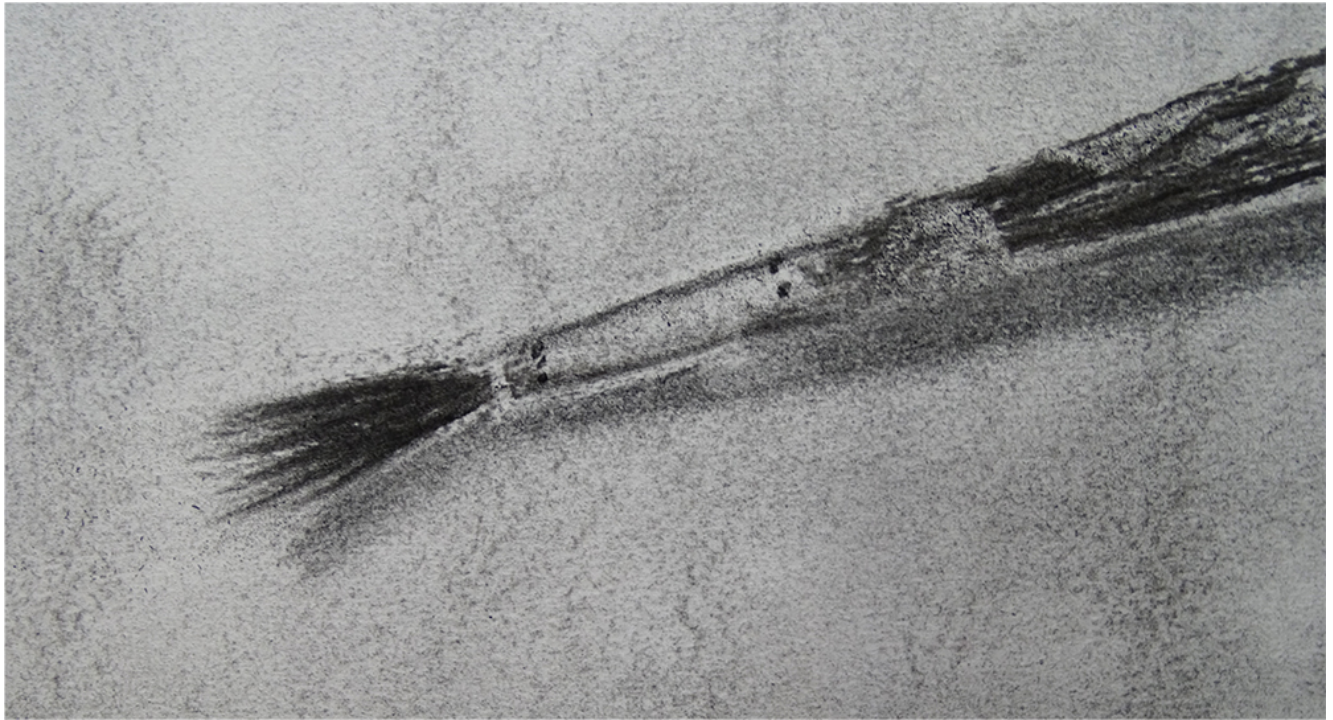


# Sketchbook Exercise: Drawing Brushes with Charcoal

By Paula Briggs



Capturing different qualities of a brush with charcoal

Each week during the AccessArt Art Lab for ages 11, 12, and 13 at Wysing Arts Centre, students will be working in their sketchbooks undertaking a five or ten minute exercise.

The sketchbooks have been kindly donated by Pink Pig International and as well as filling them with the drawing exercises, children are also encouraged to use the books to help explore ideas related to the main session. Creating sketchbook content like this which is a mixture of exercises and personal study should help fuel creativity and ownership.

[See all the sketchbook exercises undertaken during these sessions here.](#)

## To Begin

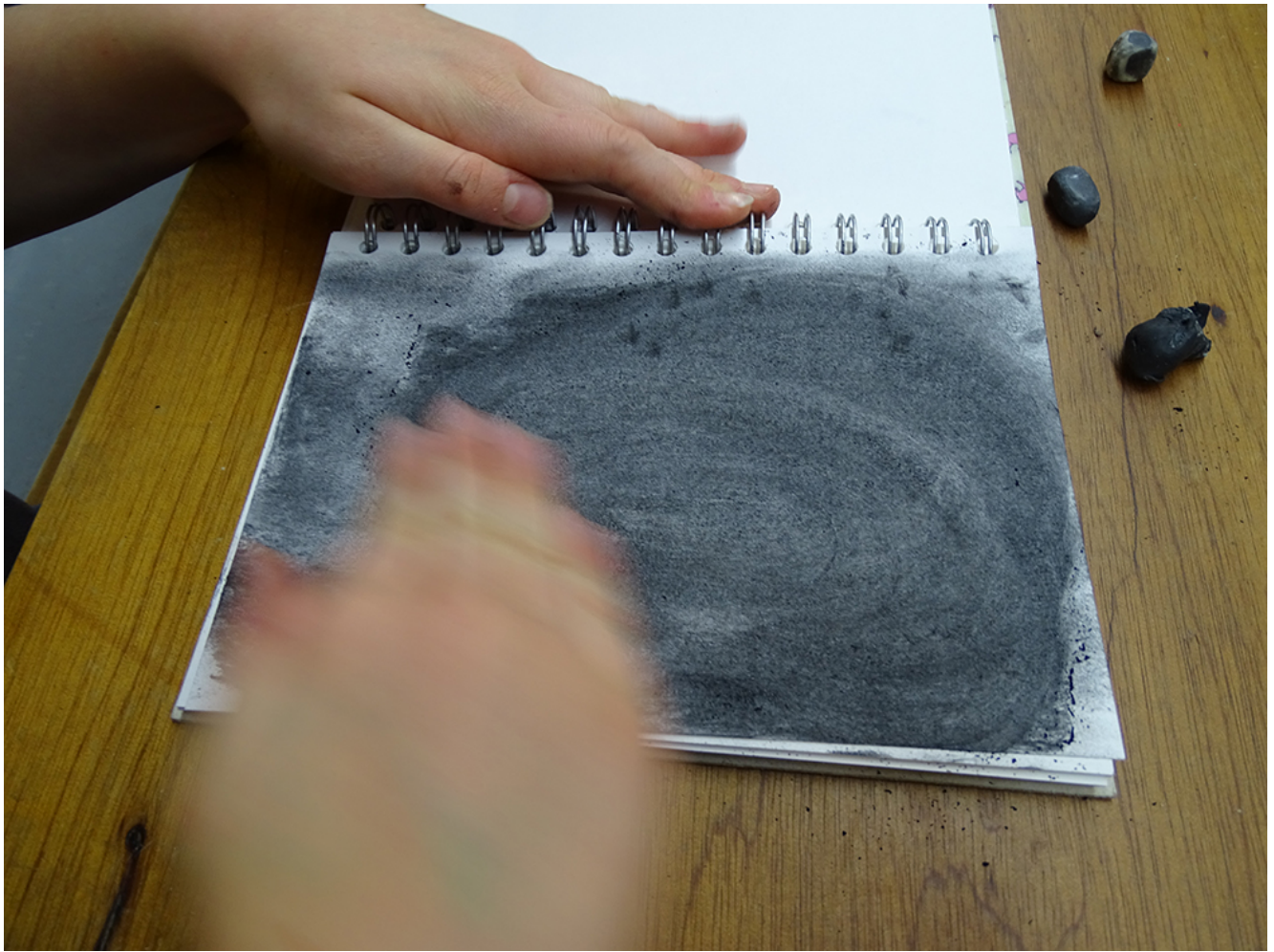
I wanted to give children the opportunity to begin an exploration of charcoal. In [last weeks exercise](#) we explored how we can use different grades of pencil to add interest and expression to our drawings. This week I wanted them to experience how they can use different parts of the charcoal (i.e. side, end) with different amounts of pressure (light medium, hard) to create varied and expressive marks.

The challenge to the children:

**Make a five minute drawing using different pressures and different parts of the charcoal to help communicate the particular qualities of a brush (the soft bristles, the metal, the wood)**

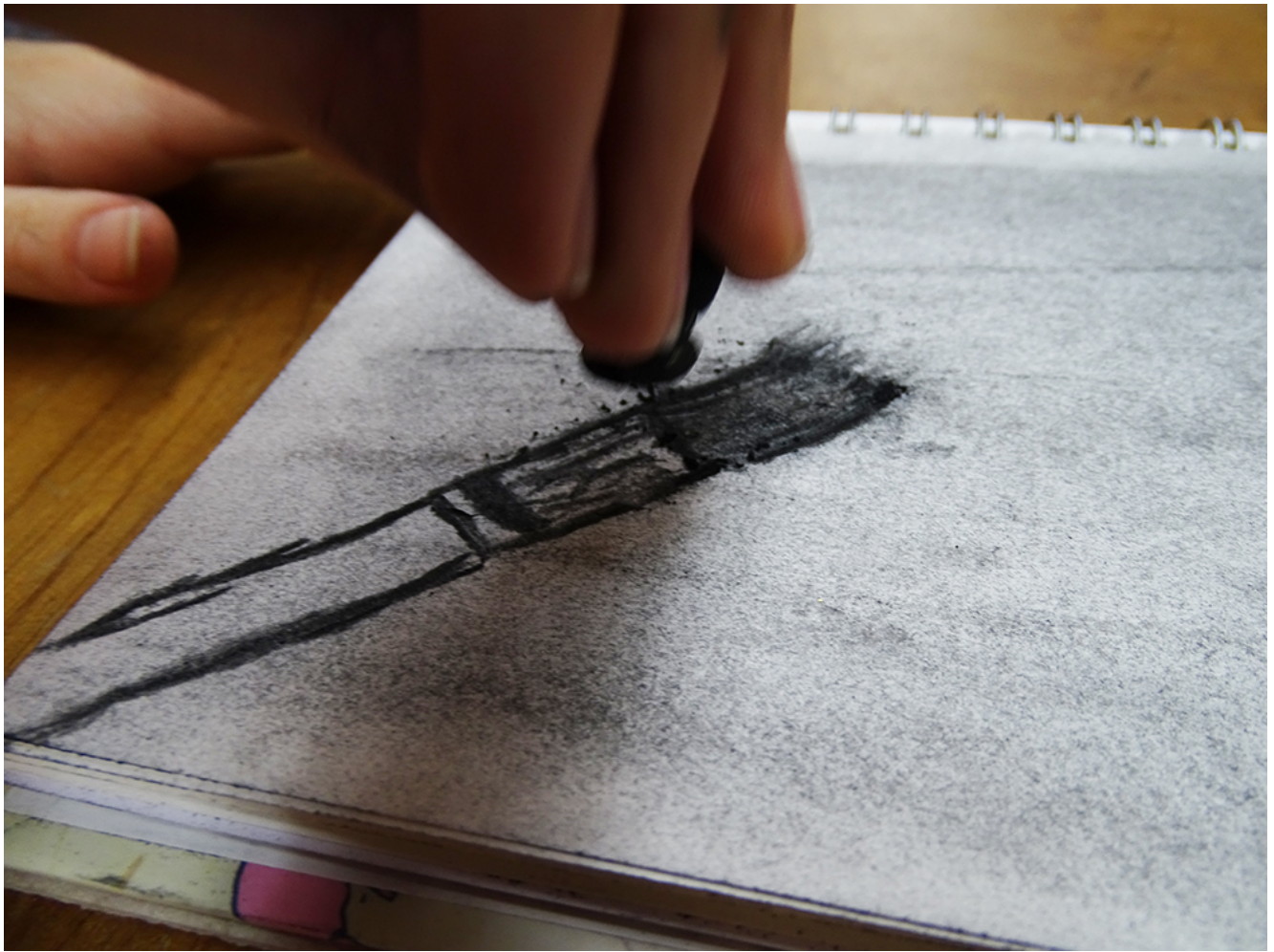
Children were also encouraged to create a "ground" by laying down charcoal and knocking it back with their fingers. Children also used putty rubbers to create white space amongst the grey tones.

Working to the five minute limit meant children did not overwork their images, which is easy to do with charcoal.



Laying down a ground





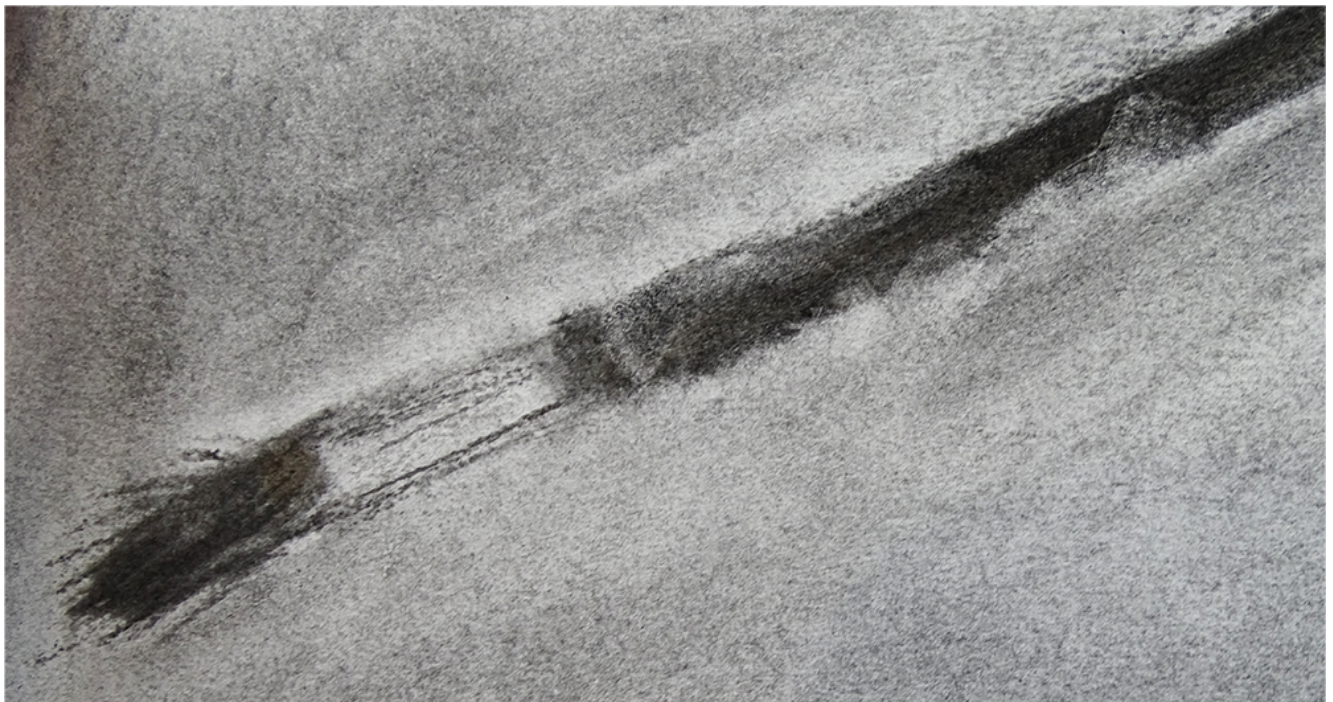
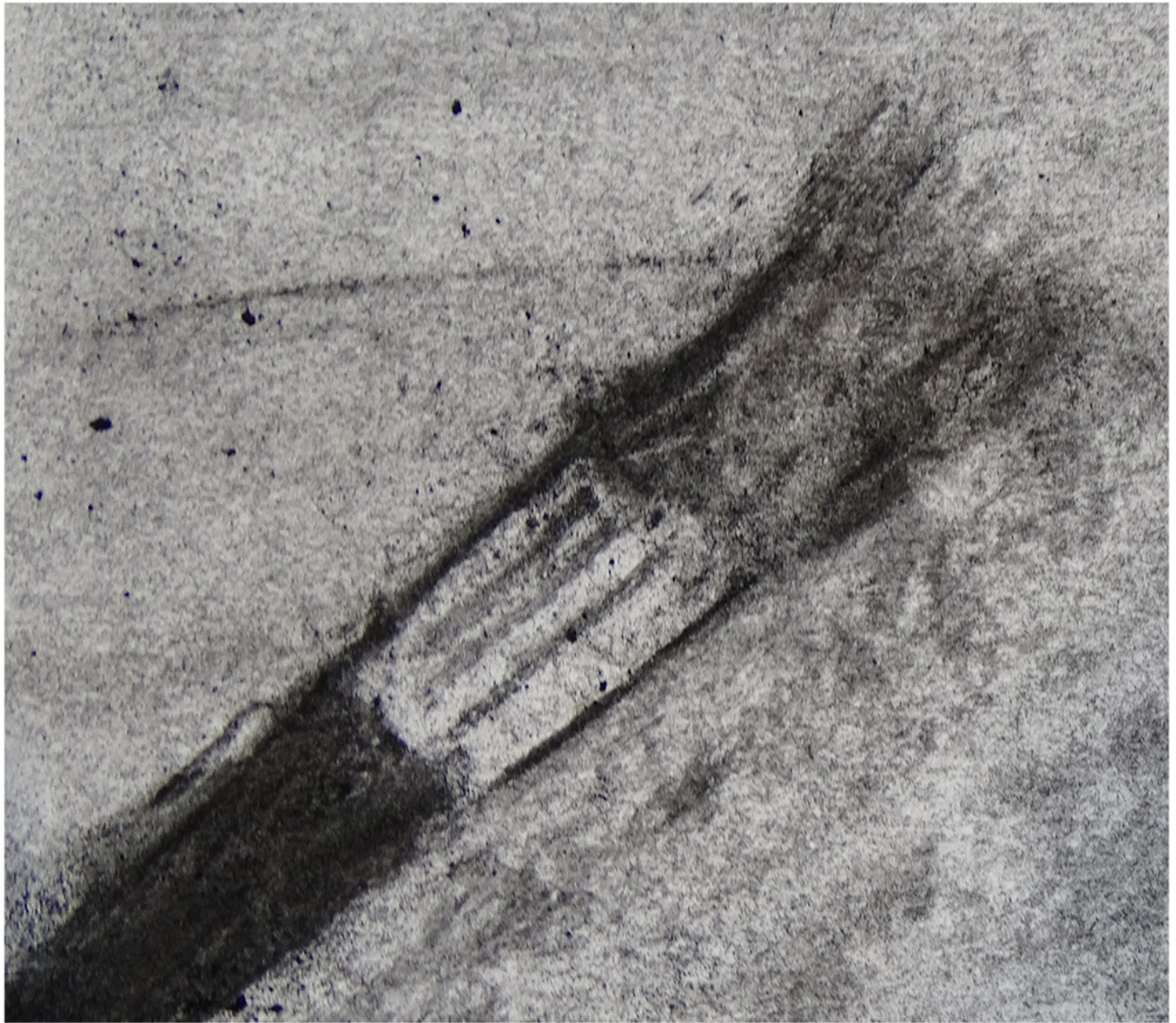
Using the charcoal in different ways





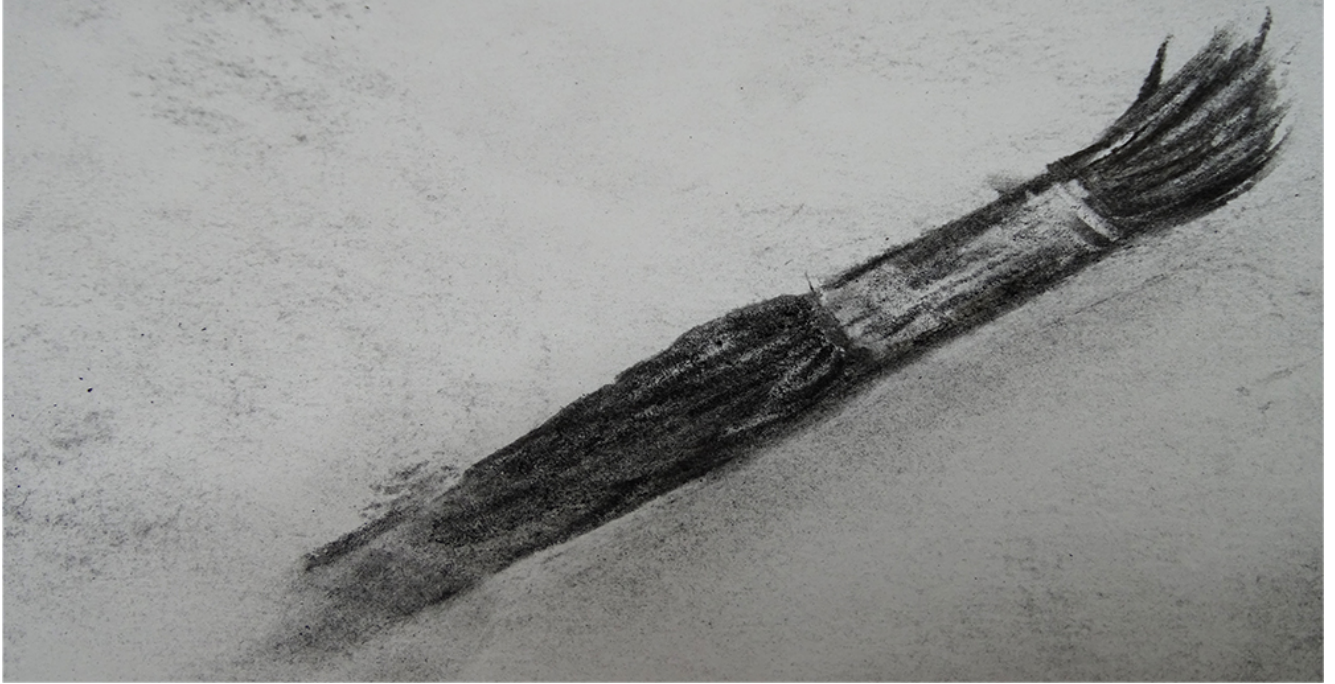






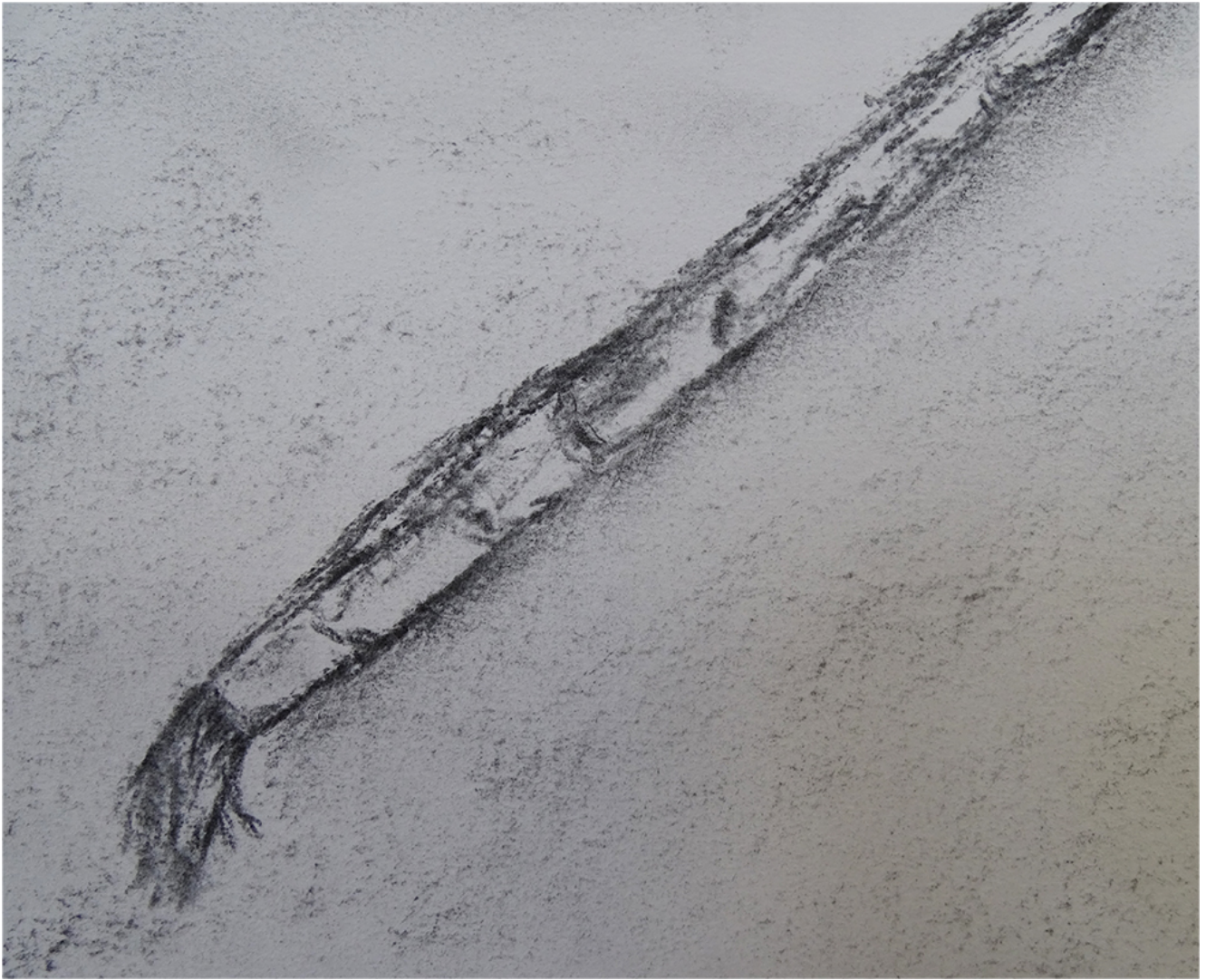


Charcoal drawing of a brush.

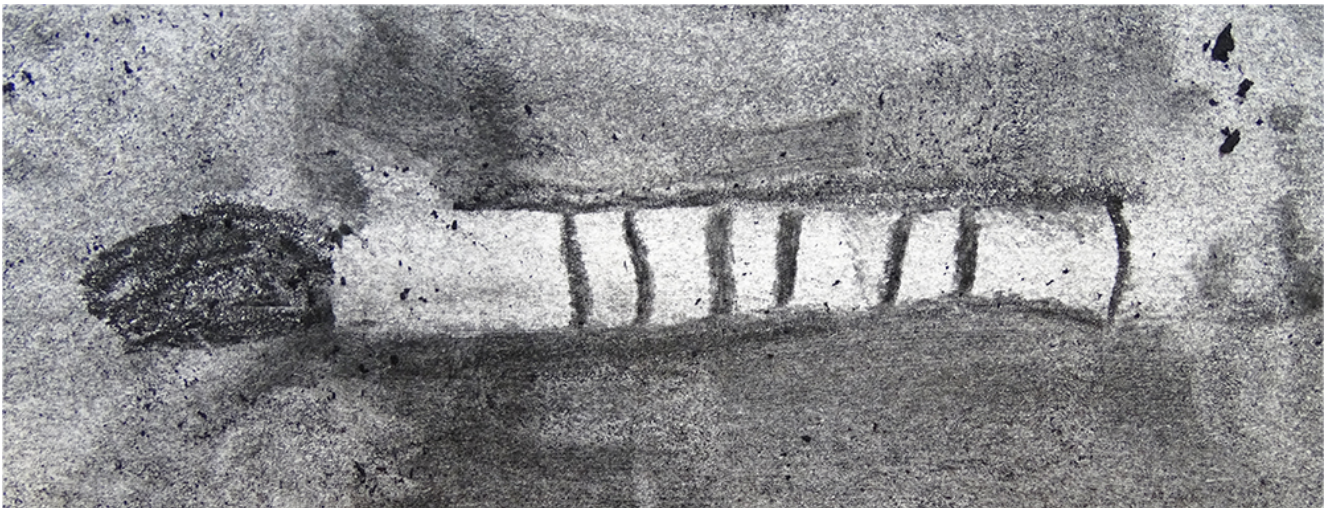
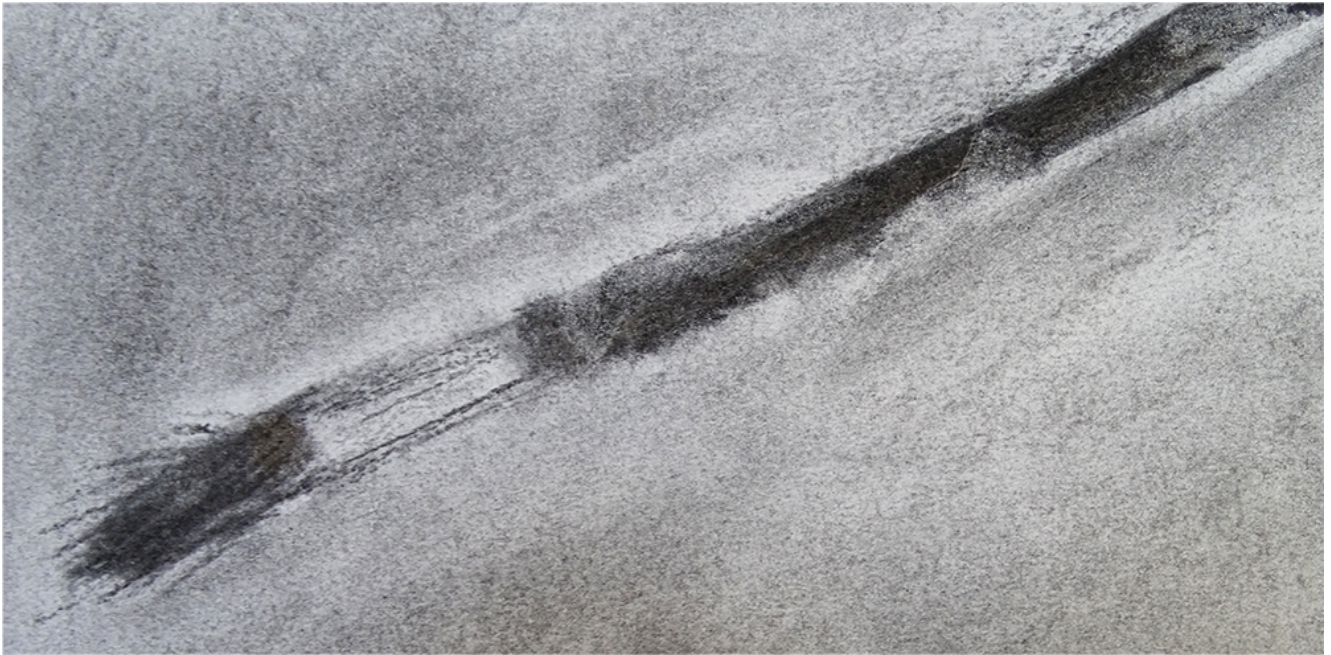












Many thanks to the children from the AccessArt Art Lab

[Many thanks to Pink Pig International for the Sketchbooks](#)

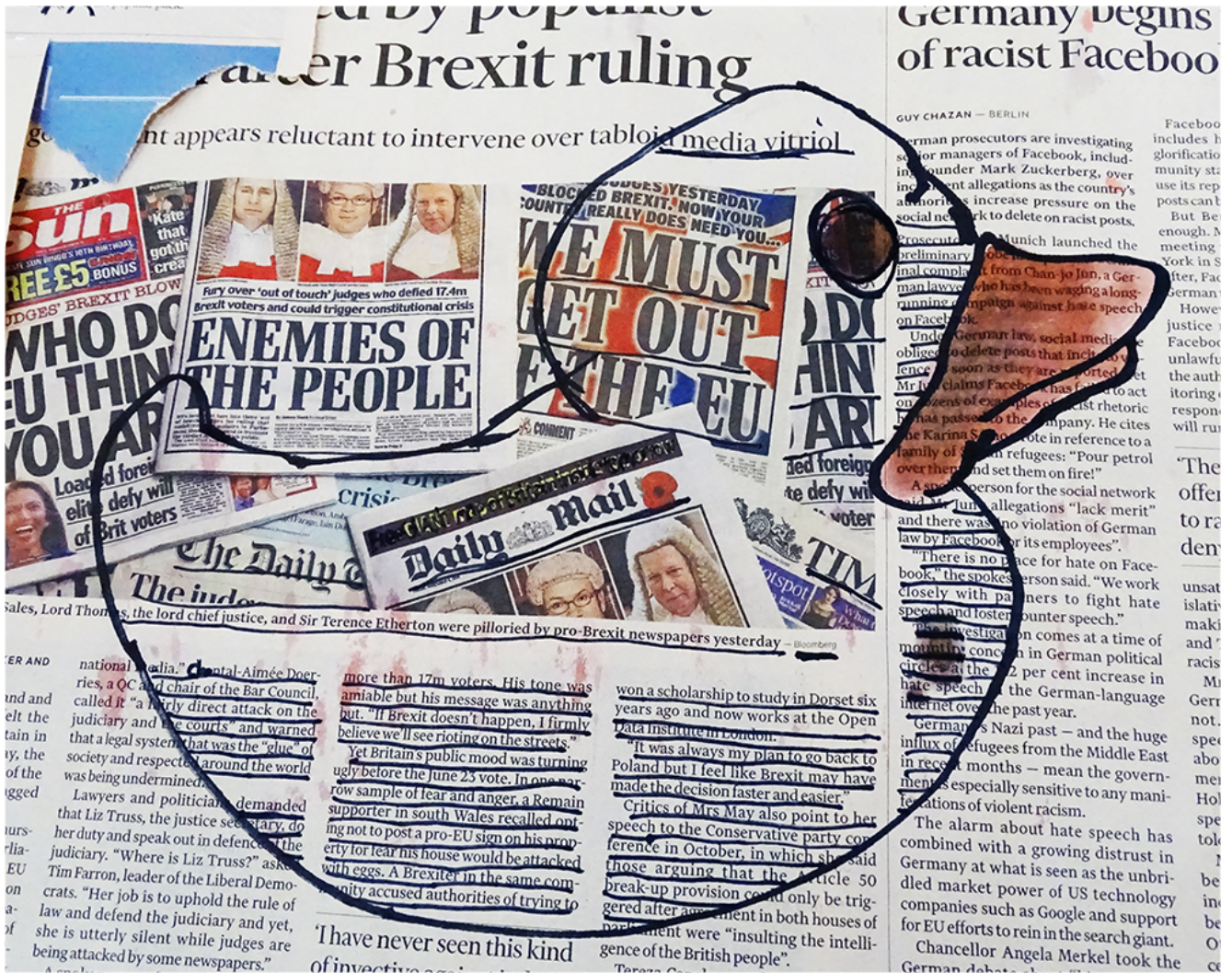


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# Filling a Sketchbook: Sketchbook Exercises

What is a Canvas?





Making drawings which compete with the background

Making a Charcoal Animation





Inspired by the animations of William Kentridge

**Making Ruler Drawings**



Using 2 grades of pencil and only straight lines

**Drawing Brushes with Charcoal**





Using varied marks to capture the qualities of brushes

Many thanks to Pink Pig International for the sketchbooks





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## Making Sketchbooks at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to make sketchbooks and explore them as a physical space to connect and collect ideas and observations from museum collections.

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# Using Sketchbooks, Drawing and Reflective Tools in the 20th Century Gallery at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore 20th Century paintings and sculpture, through using sketchbooks & drawing as tools for looking and remembering.

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## Filling a Sketchbook: Ruler Drawings

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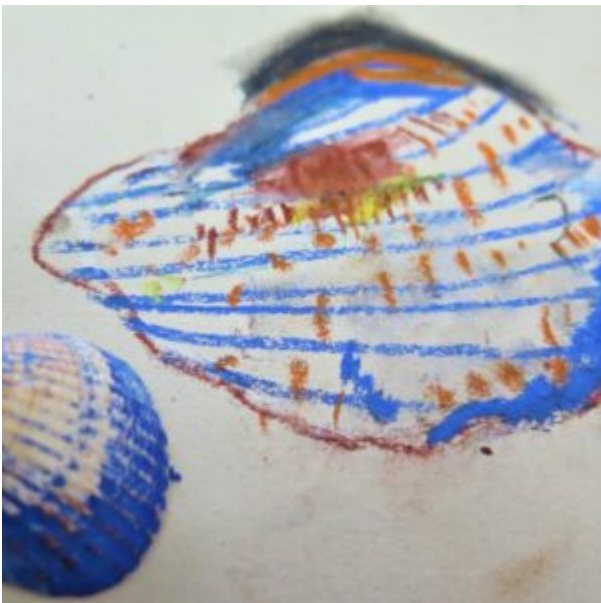
**Pathway: Exploring Form Through Drawing**





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

**The drawing journey**



**See Drawing Projects for Children for more Drawing Exercises**



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## **Early Primary Sketchbook Exploration**

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## **Developing Sketchbook Work with Pink Pig Sketchbooks**

**Find more drawing and making ideas!**





[Drawing Projects for Children and Make, Build, Create. Blackdog Publishing 2015/2016](#)

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## Simple Easter Sketchbook

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## Teachers Start the New Year with Sketchbooks

AccessArt introduces teachers from English Martyrs Catholic Primary School in Worthing, whistle stop introduction to drawing and sketchbooks as tools for recording and thinking.

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# **Illustrating ‘The Jabberwocky’**

In this resource, AccessArt contributor Eleanor Somerset, illustrates how she worked with a group of 7-10 year old pupils and another of 10-15 year old budding artists, at the Little Art Studio in Sheffield, on a series of workshops to illustrate Lewis Carroll's The Jabberwocky.

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## **Make a Sketchbook, Ideas Book or Travel Journal this Summer!**

AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class worked during their final session this term, on making their own books for summer ideas (and delightfully their parents joined in at the end of the session and made their own books too)

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## **Teenagers Make Prompts to Overcome White Page Syndrome**

Fabulously inspired teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class made prompts to help each other overcome the



'white page syndrome'.

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# **A Model Studio by Susie Olczak**

A Model Studio by Susie Olczak: Teenagers explore skills that would be useful in a real life creative working environment

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

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## **Sketching from a Source and Using Photocopies to Develop a Sketchbook Approach**

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Get Drawing!**

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# Sketchbooks in Primary Schools – Curriculum Planning

[A new version of this page is available here.](#)