

Thoughtful Mark Making

By Paula Briggs

This week in the **AccessArt Art Club for ages 6 to 10**, we started with a mark making exercise to help the children understand the importance of *looking* when drawing, and also of *thinking*, to help build their confidence in making creative decisions during the drawing process.

Teachers can read key points about this activity in a classroom setting by clicking the links below.

- **Click to Read: Using Thoughtful Mark Making in a Classroom Setting**

The Thoughtful Mark Making is a great exercise to introduce to children, and one which can be usefully referred to in future drawing lessons. It is suitable for all ages from 5 upwards. Benefits include:

- Helps children develop mark making skills to improve drawing outcomes.
- Helps children "look" more closely.
- Helps children understand how they can use a single drawing medium in many different ways.
- Helps children become confident in making their own creative and informed "drawing decisions".

- **You Will Need...**

- A set of cards with different marks on: Simply fold and tear a sheet of paper until you have 8 or so "cards". On each make a particular type of mark: a dash, a dot, single line cross hatching etc...
- A sheet of paper for each child.

- An object to draw near each child: a fossil, a key, a piece of fruit, or a feather...
- A handwriting pen or a sharp B pencil for each child.

▪ **Summary of the Exercise**

- This exercise will take between five and fifteen minutes*.
- Invite the children to look carefully at the subject matter (which should be a single object placed near to each child).
- Hold up a card and invite the children to begin to draw their object, using only the type of mark on that card.
- Repeat with each card until the children have made a single drawing comprising lots of different types of marks.

*Read from the "**Thoughtful Mark Making**" section down the page.

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Diverse mark making

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