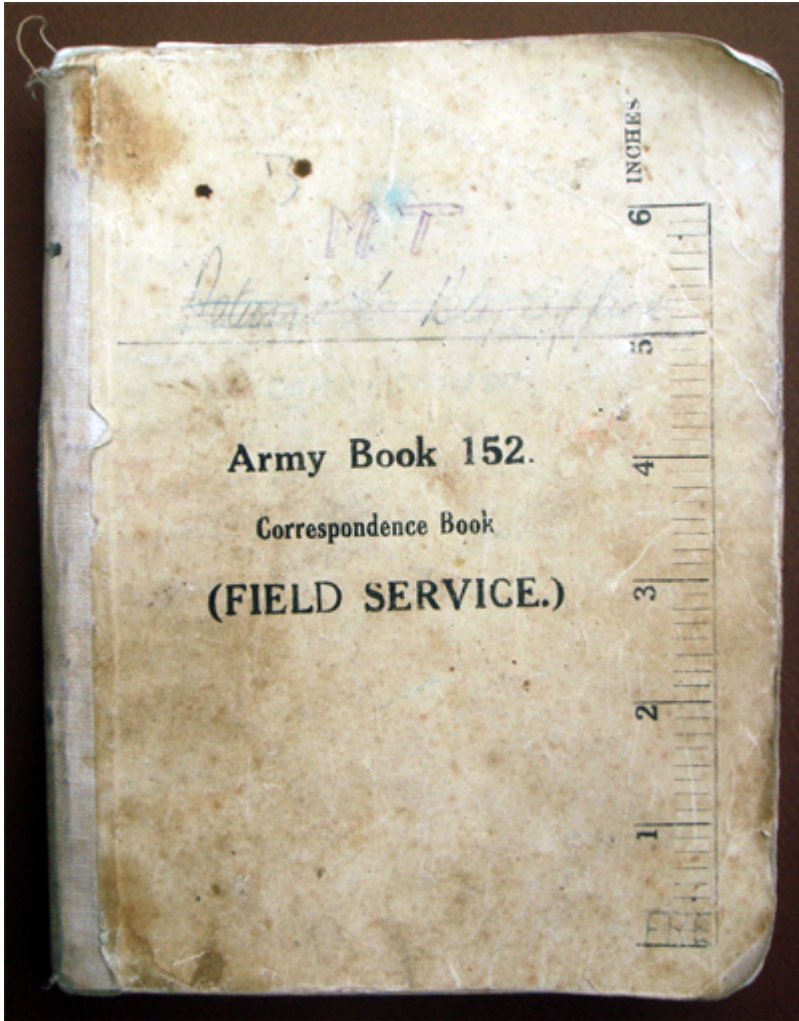
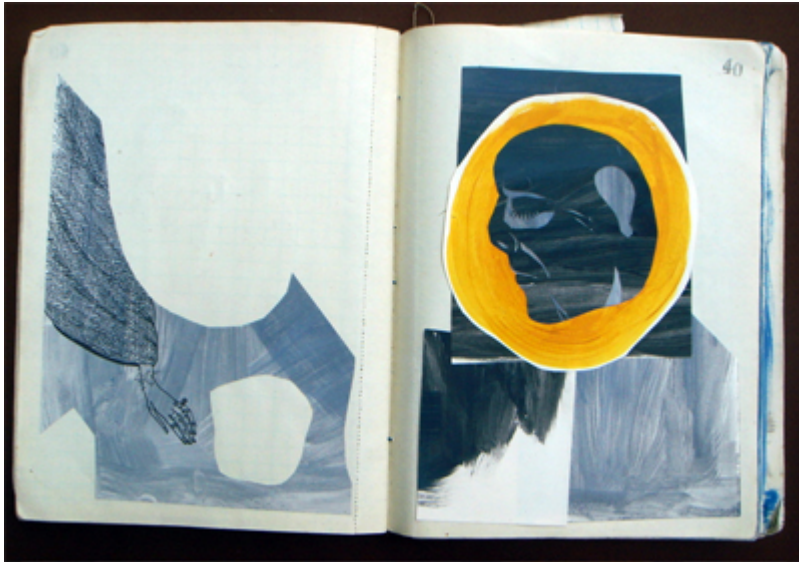


# Jo Blaker – Sketchbook

By [Jo Blaker](#)



This book belonged to my grandfather, who used it during the Second World War for keeping records of things like soldiers equipment. Now it is my sketchbook.



For me sketchbooks are a place to draw, paint and write. They are miniature worlds and a private place where I can say, do and draw what I like and how I like. It doesn't matter how things look – you can always turn the page and forget about the bits you don't like. This makes a sketchbook exciting to look at – you never know what is coming next.

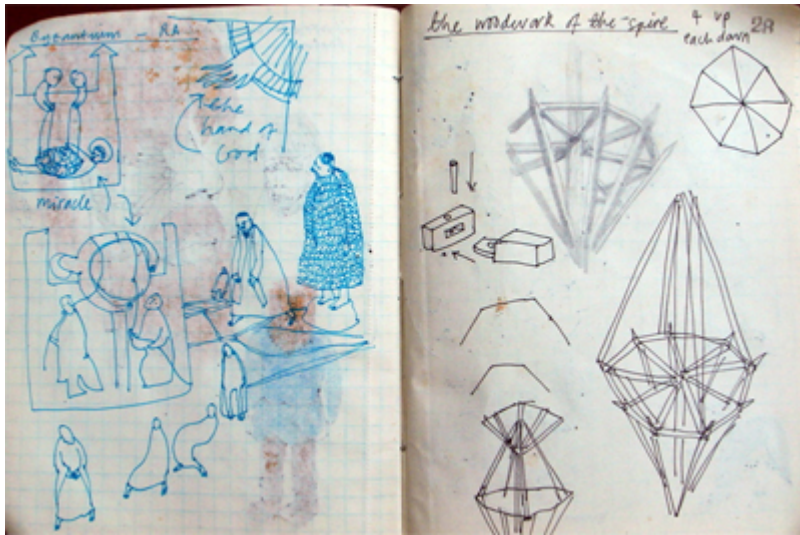


In my sketchbooks I make drawings from my

imagination and observational drawings of people in public places such as cafes, libraries and train stations. It's interesting to see how these different ways of drawing meet and mix within one book. I'm interested in people so my sketchbooks are full of quick drawings of the faces, clothes and bodies I see. Whilst I make these drawings I try to experiment with lines and pattern because this makes the process more fun.



Sometimes I just blob paint on a page in a colour I really like and then leave it. When I find it again a few weeks later I might draw on it, cut it up to use in a different picture or just leave it and wait for another day to use it.



While I draw stuff pops into my head – like words or phrases, ideas for a project, or ideas for another drawing. I jot these down as I draw and then leave them. They just exist as little ideas written down until a few weeks, a month or years later I find them again and get an idea of a way in which I would like to use them. At this point I usually start to work on them outside of my sketchbook. I'll copy and cut them up, add them to another image or re-draw them on a larger scale or in a different way. This process is really satisfying and is why I don't tear pages out of my sketchbooks or throw them away.



Over the years my sketchbooks change as I do. When I look at an old sketchbook I remember all sorts of little things about my life at the time I used it. For me, this unique connection to my own past can only be made in and found in this place.

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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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## **Emma Davies – an Artists' Sketchbook**

Artist Emma Davies shares some of her sketchbook pages and her sketch book processes

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## **Simple Stapled Sketchbook**

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# Benefits of Keeping a Sketchbook

Creative practitioners share what it is that makes them keep coming back to their sketchbooks.

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## Making a Washing Line Sketchbook

Making a washing line sketchbook is a great way to introduce children to some of the key ideas relating to working in a sketchbook. It's a nice sociable event which gets children to actively experience some useful sketchbook skills. Getting older children to work with younger children, and involving teachers too, can really help the energy of the workshop. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

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## Naomi Cotrufo – Mixed Media Embroidery: Story Telling with Pictures

Naomi Cotrufo – mixed media embroidery artist, shares her ideas and images about story telling with pictures.

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# Sketchbooks as a Tool to Enable Personalised Learning

Sketchbooks can be a vital (and natural) tool with which to encourage children to personalise their own learning experience. This post explores how we can encourage children to own their sketchbook and how that ownership leads to a personalised learning space

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# Drawing from Life with Children & Making Cartoon Characters

Looking at ways to combine children's passion in drawing cartoons with developing their observation and mark making skills. This resources demonstrates how we encouraged children to draw from life, and then develop their drawings and make cartoon characters. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

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# Use of Sketchbooks in Primary

# Schools

This resource explores when schools might want to use sketchbooks within the school day

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## What's in a Name?

How does the name we give our "sketchbook" help define it's purpose?