

Zoom Access Link: In the Studio: AccessArt Treehouse – Glimpses and Folds Sketchbook Challenge

In the Studio: AccessArt Treehouse – Glimpses and Folds Sketchbook Challenge.

Wed 6th May 2026 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm BST.

Join us for our next AccessArt [Treehouse](#) Challenge!

Discover a fresh, playful approach to drawing in this hands-on, 30-minute practical session that is suitable for all audiences.

In this session, we'll guide you through our Glimpses and Folds Sketchbook Challenge. You'll create a sketchbook filled with a series of drawings made from life. Each drawing folds away into a tiny sketchbook, revealing small glimpses of the moments and objects you've observed and recorded.

The activity encourages you to use iterative drawing methods to be curious, explore your surroundings, and think creatively about how you can capture 'glimpses' of what you notice. This is a useful grounding exercise to help participants settle and be mindful.

Join in with the activity or simply listen and watch along – everyone is welcome!

This event is free and only open to [AccessArt Members](#).

This session will be recorded and available after the event to [AccessArt Members](#) a few days after the event.

Log in below to access the link to the session.

If you have any issues logging in please contact andrea@accessart.org.uk.

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AccessArt is a UK Charity and we believe everyone has the right to be creative. AccessArt provides inspiration to help us all reach our creative potential.

**Splendour and Opulence
Inspired by Klimt**

What We Like About This Resource...

"We really love how Nichola devised and facilitated this activity, giving learners complete freedom whilst limiting certain elements such as colour palette. This activity incorporates a journeyful approach, in which the experiments all come together to form a shared outcome, and celebrate every learners exploration, which we love!" – Tobi, AccessArt

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visual notes



sculptural environments inspired by

hockney



Multimedia Response to Yayoi Kusama



AccessArt Offers Free CPD



We're delighted to share that from the Summer Term 2026, all AccessArt and collaborative CPD will be free for [AccessArt members](#).

Since launching our online CPD programme in 2020, we've offered a mix of free and paid sessions. As part of our ongoing commitment to helping teachers and educators provide a rich, diverse visual arts education, we're expanding this offer. From the Summer Term 2026, AccessArt members will be able

to attend any of our [collaborative CPD](#) sessions at no extra cost, as part of their membership.

Not a member? You can still join any of our collaborative CPD events by purchasing a ticket for £25. All our in house CPD (those not run in collaboration with Susan Coles and Mandy Barrett), will remain free and open to AccessArt members only, If you would like to become a member, we'd love to [welcome you to the community!](#)

We will be launching our summer term 2026 programme very soon, so do keep an eye on our [events page](#) for updates.

Please note, that all AccessArt members will need to verify their membership by including the email address associated with their membership, upon registering their attendance for our collaborative CPD.

Dizzy Tins

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Drawing Hands



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animating hands



redesigning food packaging



Sharing Feel-Good Art Moments



Those of us who have worked in the creative industries or in arts education have long known the positive impact the arts can have on our lives. As makers or teachers, audience members or learners, we have all experienced moments when we have felt somehow more alive, more seen, and more connected to others through our engagement with the arts.

AccessArt is passionate about the value of those moments. Added together, no matter how small, they are the golden nuggets that shine through the work we all do, and keep us going when things get tough.

Better still, when we share examples of how the arts have made a positive impact, passing them back and forth among ourselves and on to others, they help us collectively deepen our understanding of the value of a rich arts education for all.

[Send us your feel-good art moments](#) and we'll share what we can to help advocate for the importance of inclusive arts education for all. It's quick and easy to do, and here are a few prompts to get you started:

- Tell us about the ways you have seen the arts make a real difference to your pupils or learners. Share specific examples (please be mindful to anonymise) of action and impact,
- Or, tell us about the ways the arts have helped you – as an audience or as a maker – or both. How have the arts made your life richer?
- Or, tell us about the ways in which you have found AccessArt helpful. Share any impact you have seen, as a result of using our resources, approach and philosophy.

Thank you!

Paula Briggs, AccessArt

CPD Recording: Drawing Progression Across the AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum

Adapting AccessArt: Woolly Scarves and Long Sketchbooks

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Cardboard Figures

You May Also Like...

Speech Bubble Challenge



alternative fashion



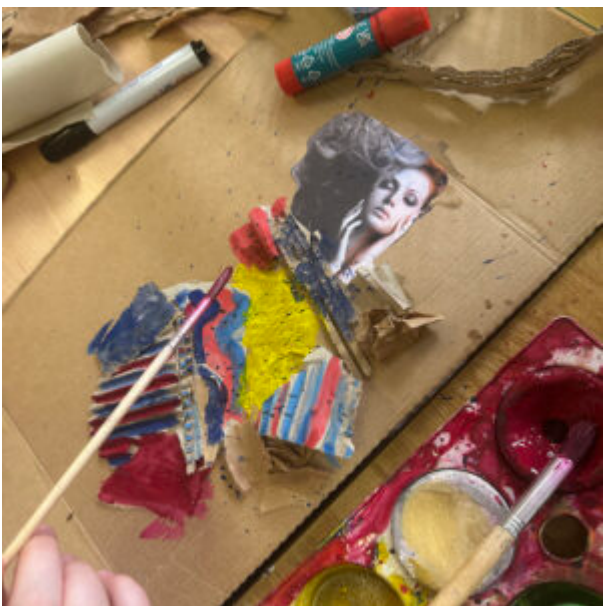
making 2d and 3d fashion designs



See This Resource Used in Educational Settings...









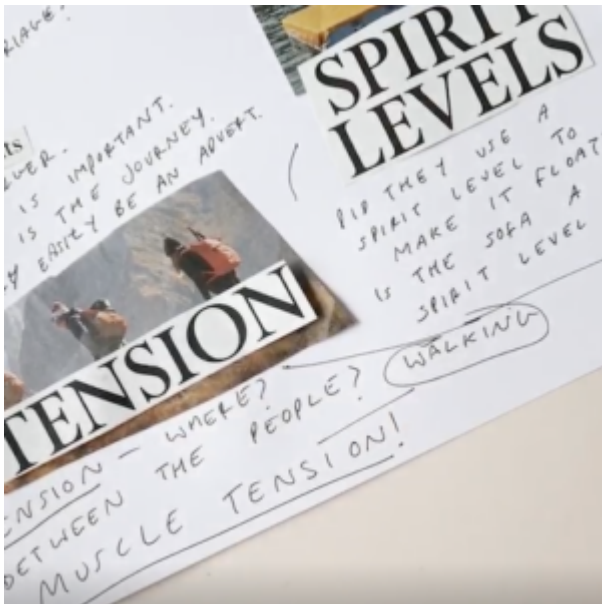
Speech Bubble Challenge

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Collaged Costume for Cardboard Figures



Word and image: creating new narratives



Talking heads



Talking Points: Beth Fraser

How can fashion challenge, distort, or reimagine the human silhouette?

Beth Fraser is a fashion illustrator who works with collage to create experimental silhouettes that exaggerate and distort the body, capturing personality and celebrating individuality. Operating between illustration and fashion, she uses surrealist-style collages to challenge and push the boundaries of beauty standards commonly found within the fashion industry.

Explore the work of Beth Fraser using the sources below, then discuss the questions provided.

Please Note:

This page includes links and videos from external sites, verified at publication but subject to change.

Teachers should review all content for classroom suitability.

[Report any issues](#), and check school firewall settings if videos don't play.

AGES 11-14

FREE TO ACCESS

Beth Fraser

Inspired by mid-century poster art and the cut-outs of Picasso, Beth Fraser is a fashion illustrator who combines collage with ink to create bold multimedia illustrations.

Watch the videos below to be inspired by her practise and [explore her collages](#).

Questions to Ask Learners

What do you notice about the shapes Beth Fraser cuts?

What do you like about Beth Fraser's work?

Looking at an illustration, how would you describe the character she has created? If they could talk what would they say?

How might the shapes a character is made from convey a certain mood or energy e.g. pointy and sharp or curvy?

What do you think the role is of a fashion illustrator and where might they work?

AccessArt to Help Shape the Refreshed National Curriculum for Art & Design

“We’re excited by the task ahead and committed to delivering a curriculum teachers enjoy and one that gives every child the chance to thrive creatively.”

AccessArt is pleased to announce that our CEO and Creative Director, Paula Briggs, has been contracted by the Department for Education (DfE) to help draft the new National Curriculum programmes of study for art and design.

Paula Briggs and Dr Will Grant (University of the

West of England) will be working on Key Stage 3 and transitions between Key Stages under a contract between the Department for Education and AccessArt. They will work very closely with Kaytie Holdstock (University of Worcester), who is working on Key Stages 1 and 2, and Michele Gregson (NSEAD), the lead drafter, who is working on GCSE.

Drafters were appointed by the DfE following the release of *Building a World-Class Curriculum For All*[\[1\]](#), the Curriculum and Assessment Review Final Report published in November 2025. They were selected for their extensive subject expertise and their ability to collaborate with other stakeholders to help deliver the government's recommendations[\[2\]](#), which include a commitment to "revitalise arts education as part of the reformed national curriculum and through high-quality support for teachers of these subjects."



Paula has been advocating for the importance of arts education for all for over 30 years. Both a practitioner and a thought leader, she co-founded AccessArt, a registered charity with the sole aim of advancing visual arts education, and has guided the organisation's growth with passion and expertise. AccessArt is now one of two subject associations for art, representing over 24,000 members who use its resources in schools and communities.

"We're looking forward to working closely together to ensure all pupils benefit from a rich, inclusive and relevant arts education. We know that schools need a curriculum that is engaging for pupils and rewarding to teach. That means greater diversity and representation; clearer support for non-specialist teachers, alongside flexibility for specialists; and stronger progression from key stage to key stage and through to GCSE. We're excited by the task ahead and committed to delivering a curriculum teachers enjoy and one that gives every child the chance to thrive creatively." Paula Briggs, CEO AccessArt

"This appointment recognises the depth of expertise within the art education sector and AccessArt's longstanding contribution to inclusive, high-quality creative and progressive curriculum thinking. Paula's and Will's voices will be crucial in this work." Susan Coles, Trustee AccessArt

Notes

Please contact paula@accessart.org.uk

[1]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/curriculum-and-assessment-review-final-report>

[2]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/curriculum-and-assessment-review-final-report-government-response>

[What Is AccessArt](#)

[What Makes AccessArt Special](#)

[Paula Briggs, CEO AccessArt](#)

2026 – Time for a New Relationship?

CPD Recording: What's Next for Art, Craft & Design in

Schools?

CPD Recording: AccessArt Treehouse Challenge: Drawing with Two Hands

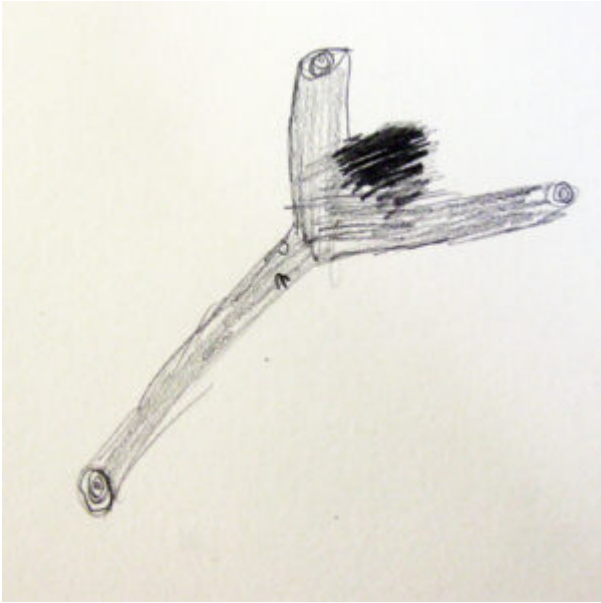
Drawing With Two Hands

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see three shapes



Feely Drawings



Ten minutes, five times a week



CPD recording: drawing with two hands



AccessArt Response to the Curriculum & Assessment Review and to the Government Response to that Review

On November 5th 2025, the Curriculum and Assessment Review Team, headed by Professor Becky Francis CBE, published their final report, [Building a World Class Curriculum for All](#).

The government published [their response](#) to this review.

As a Subject Association for Art, and a Visual Arts Education Charity, this post shares AccessArt's initial response from an art, craft and design subject perspective.

Key Successes Within the Curriculum and Assessment Review (CaAR):

- **The EBacc has been removed. Introduced in 2010 by the Coalition Government to measure school performance based on a student's GCSE results in the core subjects. The Review has listened and recognised that the EBacc results in fewer pupils taking arts subjects.**
- **Progress 8 will be reformed to include equal weighting for arts, languages, and humanities. Progress 8 is a school performance measure that shows how much progress pupils have made from the end of primary school (Key Stage 2) to the end of secondary school (GCSEs).**

During the CaAR process, the review team remained certain that Art, Craft and Design as a subject was doing well – a viewpoint contended by many subject experts. The CaAR therefore makes the following recommendations:

“We recommend that the Government:

Makes limited revisions to the Key Stage 1 to 3 Art and Design Programmes of Study to clarify and exemplify the knowledge and skills pupils should develop, including through their own creative practice, reflection and critical engagement.

- *Works with Ofqual and awarding organisations to clarify the volume and range of coursework students are expected to produce for GCSE Art and Design.” (pp 55 & 56 [CaAR](#))*

Encouragingly, the [government's response](#) to the CaAR goes much further, and AccessArt is grateful for the explicit messaging within their response. In particular, we celebrate:

- *“Improve arts education – we will revitalise arts education as part of the reformed national curriculum and through high-quality support for teachers of these subjects.” (p9, second bullet point of the Executive Summary)*
- *“The curriculum should be enriching in every single subject, including the arts subjects which are a fundamental part of the rich and broad education. The arts subjects are an entitlement rather than an optional extra and are disciplines in their own right, with unique pedagogies that the best schools teach with expertise and rigour. For example, the study of creative subjects can allow pupils to harness the process of creative endeavour, generating original works, fluency of*
-

communication and teamwork. Under this government, access to a high-quality arts education will not be the preserve of the 15 privileged few, but the entitlement of every child. That , is why we are committing to revitalise arts education as part of the reformed national curriculum and through high-quality support for teachers of these subjects.” (p14)

It is a huge win that the language the government uses around the arts indicates that, at long last, they are beginning to understand the arts as unique subjects, with unique demands and which bring very particular and powerful values to society.

Additionally:

- “The response commits to ensuring that the new programmes of study have the right level of specificity to support effective sequencing, including for foundation subjects.”*
- That “Arts & Culture” are one of five core enrichment areas. (p40)*

Opportunities yet to be Developed

There are several additional areas that AccessArt views as opportunities; however, these either currently lack the necessary detail to provide

reassurance that they will have the intended impact or have been omitted from the documents altogether.

The Purpose of Art, Craft and Design Education

Whilst the government's response does acknowledge the need for a rich curriculum with the arts at its centre, it would have been positive to see a statement in the CaAR or the government response that explicitly recognises the value a rich arts education brings to the whole child – and the benefits to individuals and to future society of learning *through* the arts as well as *about* the arts.

PE receives rightful acknowledgment of the personal and social benefits of the subjects:

“Redrafts the purpose of study for PE, retaining the importance of competitive sports, but clarifying the significance of providing all pupils with opportunities to learn in a physical environment and emphasising its physical, social, cognitive and emotional benefits that complement and enhance overall academic performance and general wellbeing.”

The [CLA Capabilities Framework](#) makes it clear the benefits of a rich expressive arts education for all, and the DfE are keen to encourage Curriculum Coherence across subjects, developing skills like oracy. A single sentence recognising the ways art, craft and design as a subject contribute to a

holistic education would be welcomed. Whilst this is recognised within Enrichment Entitlement, it is also important that these qualities, values and capabilities are recognised within the curriculum subject itself.

Enrichment Entitlement

AccessArt, of course, welcomes the inclusion of art and culture within the Enrichment Entitlement for all pupils; however, we await further details on how this will be implemented. In particular, we caution against the loss of any statutory entitlement within the subject area itself. We are also interested in seeing what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that *all* pupils receive the same high-quality enrichment offer.

National Centre for Arts and Music Education

The proposed National Centre for Arts and Music Education was announced earlier this year. As there appeared to be no consultation before its announcement, the [CLA undertook their own consultation which can be found here](#). There is still no real detail on what the centre is to be, or how it is to be funded. Whilst we welcome the Centre in principle, we await the detail before we comment.

Progress 8

We welcome the idea that the creative subjects are to be placed on equal footing with languages and

humanities, and we understand that further consultation is underway to inform the exact format of the “buckets”. However, we are concerned that schools will carry forward the legacy attitude that the arts are not to be valued as much as other subjects, and we look to the government for messaging to counteract this. We are also concerned that if there is an uptake in Art GCSE, we will not have the specialist teachers to meet the need in many schools due to previous declines (see below).

Art as a Unique Subject: Assessment

Whilst Ofsted and the government response to the Review both recognise that art is a unique subject with unique qualities and requirements, neither the government response nor the CaAR itself makes it clear what these unique qualities are. In turn, many SLTs do not understand these either, and we see many teachers struggle being asked to apply similar metrics and processes to art as are applied to other subjects. We believe there is a very real danger that with increased and continued testing at Primary and KS3, SLT and teachers will fail to understand that a) they do not need to apply the same metrics and processes to art as other subjects, and b) that any kind of assessment in art can have the unintentional impact of stifling creativity and exploration.

Instead, AccessArt would like to see it stated explicitly that it may not be in the pupils (or

schools) best interests to attempt to assess art in similar ways to other subjects. Such a statement would in effect give schools permission to educate themselves on more appropriate ways to assess art, and therefore avoid a situation created through misunderstanding of the subject area which risks damaging pupils' relationship with their own creativity.

Art as a Unique Subject: Knowledge and Sequencing

Likewise, it is important that schools are clear on the unique forms of knowledge within art, craft and design, and crucially, how pupils accumulate, embody and demonstrate this knowledge. CLA have written an article on the [types of knowledge in art here](#).

And again, whilst the reviews talk about Curriculum Coherence, it is worth adding here that coherence and sequencing might look very different in expressive arts subjects to other subjects, and that those differences are profound. An example of this would be where purposeful "dissonance" could play a vital part in enabling creativity in art lessons, as a counterbalance to "coherence".

Clear messaging from government would show it understands and is ready to promote these differences of approach, to the benefit of the subject.

Curriculum Change

If we are to see effective curriculum change as a result of the CaAR, even with the modest changes the CaAR recommends to art, craft and design, we do need to acknowledge:

- *Initial Teacher training and CPD* – In 2024/25, the government funded 680 Initial Teacher Training (ITT) bursaries awarded for Art and Design. [Future bursaries have now been withdrawn](#). There is already a [shortage in specialist art teachers](#). We have yet to hear how CPD will be funded (and how it will be provided) for teachers to enable them to reskill.
- *Budgets for Materials and Resources* – Earlier this year, we surveyed [school budgets for art materials](#). Without budgets being addressed, schools will continue to find it hard or even impossible to resource a curriculum.
- *Oak* – Frequent mention of Oak National Curriculum resources is made in both the CaAR and in the government's response to the review:

“Bodies such as Oak National Academy may be able to support teachers in this area by providing teachers with resources, progression scaffolds and exemplification of good practice.” (p53 CaAR)

“In addition, we note that this ambition could be supported in a number of additional ways, such as exemplification resources (such as those produced

by Oak National Academy) and encouraging publishers and exam boards to continue to offer a wide selection of texts and accompanying materials.” (p78 [CaAR](#))

“Such practice might be bolstered through exemplification resources, such as those published by Oak National Academy.” (p86 [CaAR](#))

It is clear that the government considers Oak has a role to play in delivering any redeveloped curriculum. As an organisation that turned down the opportunity to create resources for Oak, AccessArt raises the following points:

- Although Oak is branded as an “arm’s length body” AccessArt feels it is perhaps too easy for the government to reach for Oak resources as a solution to the curriculum. We would argue that this risks negating the vast and extensive expertise outside Oak, provided by Subject Associations such as AccessArt.
- Oak has yet to deliver on its original intention of signposting external content providers, thereby acting as a barrier to a fair and open playing field amongst suppliers. This point is supported by BESA. [The Judicial Review proceedings brought by co-claimants the British Educational Suppliers Association, the Publishers Association, and the Society of Authors relating to the Department for Education’s operating model for the arm’s length body Oak](#)

[National Academy will resume from today \[30 September 2025\].](#)

- We express concern about the Oak AI tool which teachers are encouraged to use. Whilst the content it delivers may look worthy, it takes an educated or knowledgeable human (a trained teacher) to decide if it is appropriate and correct. Teacher training and CPD has a vital role to play, and AI should not be seen as a cheap alternative.

AccessArt Summary

We recognise this is just the beginning of the proposed changes, and we are ready to share our passion and expertise:

- We will continue to develop the work of AccessArt, as Subject Association for Art, helping thousands of schools develop their aspirational visual arts education offer.
- We will continue offering our expertise to Government.
- We will continue presenting our ideas at the All Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design Education.
- We will continue to share our expertise and support others via:
 - NEU Arts & Minds Campaign

- **Museum and Gallery Task Force (CaAR)**
- **CLA, Save our Subjects Campaign and beyond**

**Paula Briggs, CEO & Creative Director, AccessArt
November 2025**

Adapting AccessArt: Plinth People

**This Project Uses The
Following Resources...**

Plinth people: Sculptural Self Portraits



Quick Clay Figurative Sketches



Landscapes Inspired by John Piper

**How I use my Sketchbook as a
Painter and Maker, by Rowan
Briggs Smith**

**CPD Recording: The CLA
Capabilities Framework: What
Is It and How Might It Inform
Art Education in your School?**