

Personalising a Sketchbook with Mark Making and Collage

[By Andrea Butler](#)

During a short course on landscape with artist Jane Weatherley at [Edinburgh University](#), Jane talked to us about creating a sketchbook that acquired character through a 'history of use' and handling, what she termed the 'aesthetics of accumulation'. Jane tasked us with creating an 'auratic' sketchbook to record our experiences of the landscape, and this resource documents how I explored mark making techniques and collage to personalise my sketchbook, creating a range of exciting surfaces to draw into.

(auratic: 'of or relating to the distinct quality or essence of a person, work of art or/and object'. lexis.com oxford).



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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.

Using a Found Book for a Sketchbook

Developing Sketchbook Skills & Approaches

Welcome to the Developing Sketchbooks Skills & Approaches online course.

Developing Sketchbook Skills & Approaches aims to inspire and invigorate your sketchbook practice – whether you have been using sketchbooks successfully for several years or are new to sketchbook work. We really hope you find the course useful and we hope you're excited about your sketchbook journey!

Please read the following carefully as it contains all the information you need to prepare for and access the course. If you have any concerns pls email info@accessart.org.uk

How does it Work?

The Developing Sketchbook Skills & Approaches course is made up of four modules, plus introduction. You can access these modules below:

[Introduction](#)

[Taking Ownership of your Sketchbook](#)

[Collage & Visual Association Exercise](#)

[Exercises to Develop Drawing Skills](#)

[Giving Your Sketchbook Legs, and Time to Reflect](#)

These exercises have been designed to help introduce you to some basic ideas in terms of sketchbook approaches, to help develop your “sketchbook habit”, and to provide you with a structured framework in which to practise your skills. The modules contain text, image and video. The video is hosted by YouTube so pls ensure You Tube is not blocked by your

provider.

If you would like to print out the module, simply click “Print Friendly” at the bottom of the page.

Tutorial groups and feedback

When you have tried the assignments, you have the option to upload your work for the AccessArt artists and other people on the course to comment on. This is a valuable part of the course so we encourage you to share your work (and your experiences). Please choose any of the tutorial groups marked available at the end of each assignment to upload your work, and follow the instructions below. Please also browse other tutorial groups as we know you’ll find the images posted by other delegates and comments of use. Please feel free to make your comments on the work of others too.

To upload your work

If there is a page in your sketchbook that you would like to share, you can either scan it, or take a photo of it, and save a copy to your computer ready to be uploaded as follows. Please make sure your image is around 500 px wide (not much larger) and is saved as a jpg.

You may upload two images per assignment.

Peer to peer comments are encouraged, and AccessArt artists/tutors will also support you in constructive ways. Equally we would encourage you to comment on other students work if you feel inclined – just hit reply under the image and make your comment. AccessArt will comment on 1 of your images, per assignment.

Comments and images need to be moderated so may not appear straightaway.

Preparation for the course

In preparation for the course, pls ensure you have the following at hand, ready for the assignments.

General:

- Drawing Materials (black pen, pencil, charcoal, rubber etc)
- Paper (all kinds depending on preference)
- Scissors, Glue, Tape, String

Taking Ownership of Your Sketchbook

Either:

- Assorted papers (can be recycled, white, scrap, tracing, graph...)
- piece of corrugated cardboard
- large elastic band

And / Or:

- A bought sketchbook – any preference.
- Selection of paper as before (scrap, recycled, tracing, graph, envelops – whatever your preference)

Collage & Visual Association Exercise

It would be good to start collecting a pile of old magazines – if you can get your hands on old gardening supplements or nature magazines, they'll come in handy and anything from children's magazines to glamour. The source of imagery for this exercise can be completely random and eclectic, but it would be good to have a nice pile ready for the 25th June.

As well as magazines you can look out for old wrapping paper, printed paper, postcards, old photographs etc..

Exercises to Develop Drawing Skills

Simple drawing equipment as above (pencils and black pen).

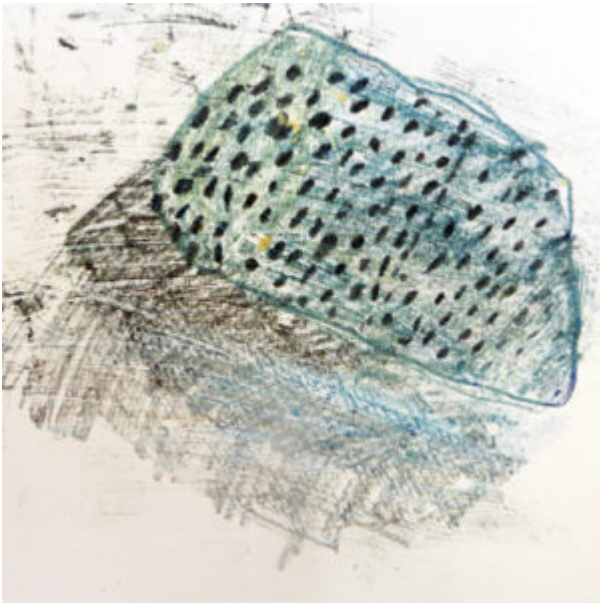
Taking your Sketchbook into the World, and Reflecting

No special requirements.

Drawing Small

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Pathway: Exploring the world through mono print



[This is featured in the 'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway](#)

Drawing Large



Walking and Drawing

Decorative Clay Coil Pots

Artist educator Sharon Gale working with KS1 & KS2 students at the Weston Park Art Club shares a clay pot making resource: "This is not the traditional way of making coil pots but it's lots of fun and by using different paint effects, the end results can be very interesting. We worked on this project for two, two hour sessions".

‘Painting’ with Plasticine

In this resource, students create an A4 plasticine painting on mountboard, in a theme of their choice. The artwork is completed with a painted border using water based paints. This project took six, one hour sessions to complete but if you can't allocate that amount of time, reduce the size of the mountboard to A5 or smaller.

Clay Art Medals

In this three stage resource, students make a circular medal from clay depicting their own profile, look at examples of fun lettering and devise a short, fun or meaningful phrase to paint inside their portrait profile.

Burton Hathow Ducklings

Newly hatched ducklings are the inspiration for a collection of paintings by Years 2 and 3 at Burton Hathow Preparatory School. Head of Art, Rachel Burch shares the activity.

The Wildflower Meadow

Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils explore simple drawing, collaging and painting techniques to create beautiful artworks inspired by a summer meadow.

Clay 'Portrait' Miniatures

This two stage clay and painting resource by artist/educator Sharon Gale is very versatile because essentially the miniatures are blank canvasses. In this particular workshop, the subject matter had to link with KS2 Geography and the topic of rivers. Students were asked to research their favourite creature or plant, that made the British riverside its home. They made their miniatures from clay and painted their chosen wildlife onto them.

Painting A Rainbow Forest

Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils paint their own large scale, colourful forest inspired by AccessArt's resource 'Painting A Bluebell Forest'. Rachel shares her process in this resource.

Santa comes in all Shapes and Sizes: Yr 3 Make Bouncing Santas!

A fun end of term project that would also be perfect to do at home – making model Santas with character! Jan Miller share a process to make 3D model Santas using simple materials and processes. This activity can be used with children aged 7 to 14 (any KS, 2, 3 children).

All That Glitters...

Teacher and artist Jan Miller shows year three pupils works by the artist Andrew Logan. Pupils then have fun playing with materials that glitter and sparkle, developing their design and making skills to produce personalised brooches, decorative images of celebrities and gorgeous treasure glitter boards. Finally, they explore portrait drawing, creating a sparkly 'selfie'!

Drawing in the Dark: Developing a Visual Language

For Remembrance Day

Anne-Louise Quinton creates a project for her Year 9 pupils to commemorate Remembrance Day. The teenagers worked collaboratively to create a collaged frieze of paper soldiers in response to an artwork by John Singer Sargent and a war poem by Wilfred Owen.

Japanese Sushi Inspires Our Art

Jan Miller leads a project enabling children to explore materials and learn from another culture by creating colourful, large-scale mixed media drawings inspired by food from Japan. This activity is suitable for older KS1 and KS2 children.

Japan – Ceramics Inspire Painting and Painting Inspires Ceramics

Jan Miller shares a class project that uses the work of a contemporary Japanese ceramicist to inspire vibrant paintings in a variety of materials. The children then used their own art to design ceramic vessels.

Spotting Potential and Nurturing a Young Talent

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Assessment & Progression



Japan: Making Sushi – Recycled Style!

Inspired by research into Japanese culture, children explored the potential and limitations of paper and recycled materials, learning through play and experimentation to make 3D forms. The outcomes of this process were used to inform work created in a second medium of clay, using kitchen equipment to shape the clay and add textures.