

Botanical Fairies

By [Rachel Thompson](#)

In this table top post, AccessArt team member [Rachel Thompson](#) demonstrates a simple collage activity using flowers from the garden to create a Fairy collage.



Despite the challenging times, feeling the warmth of the sun and the new growth of spring is something I've been thankful for over recent weeks. With this in mind, I wanted to do a simple collage activity that used flowers and plants as inspiration. This is an early years resource and is great for encouraging figurative drawing skills as well as observing colour and design. Of course, older children could also enjoy this process, and may be able to create more complex botanical work.

For this activity, I used a couple of books as a starter, both of which are regularly dipped into by my 5 year old daughter. Firstly, one of the well known and loved [Flower Fairy books](#) by Cicely Mary Barker and secondly, [Fairie-ality: The Fashion from the House of Ellwand](#), a beautiful book of fairy costumes made with flowers. Older children doing this activity may be able to create more detailed botanical collage, akin to David Ellwand's lovely work.





We started by going into the garden to observe and discuss the flowers that are now blooming beautifully in all the spring sunshine we have been having. We picked a few - making sure to leave plenty for the bees!

We also had a lovely vase of tulips inside, that were just passing their best - and so these petals formed the bulk of what we used.



Pansies in a pot showing their lovely two tone colours. We discussed how the petals looked like ballet skirts.



A purple wall flower provided some small delicate flowers



Inside now, and pulling off a few carefully chosen tulip petals.



The collected petals arranged on a tray.

Next, it was time to design and draw a fairy! Depending on the age of your participants, this stage could take all of four minutes (as with us) or could take your child on an imaginative journey, and take considerably longer...





Once the fairy has been drawn, invite your child to make choices as to which flower petals work best for the different elements of their dress. In our case, the idea was floated of using some greenery to contrast with the pink petals - but my daughter preferred to use just the petals so that's what we went with.



Adding smaller flowers along the top of the skirt created a lovely contrast.



It's good to use the opportunity for children to develop their scissor skills for this activity. Trimming petals makes an interesting change to paper and some minutes can be spent just snipping and trimming little pieces of petals, even if they don't make it onto the final collage!



The final collage with some colour added using pencils - a simple exercise in collage and colour composition but something fun to do at this time of year to bring some spring colour in from the garden! The activity could be extended into creating more fairy characters, and even using old fashioned clothes pegs and fabrics to create something more 3 dimensional. Another idea would be to make a chain of fairies using fan folded paper.

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FAIRIE-ALITY

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You can see more of Rachel's resources [here](#).

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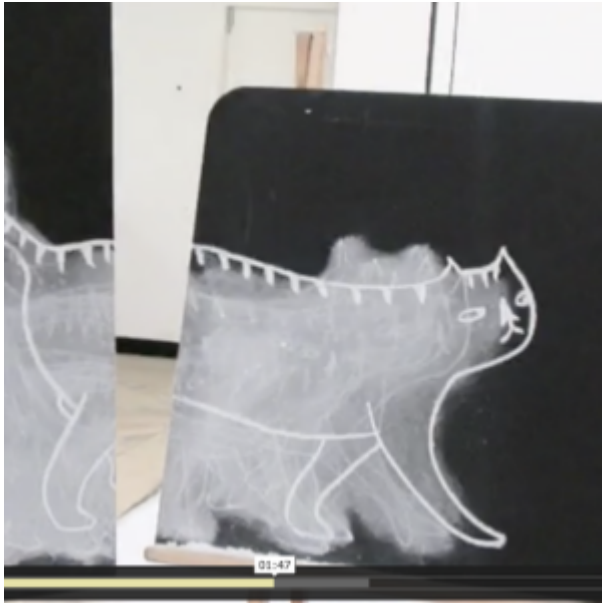
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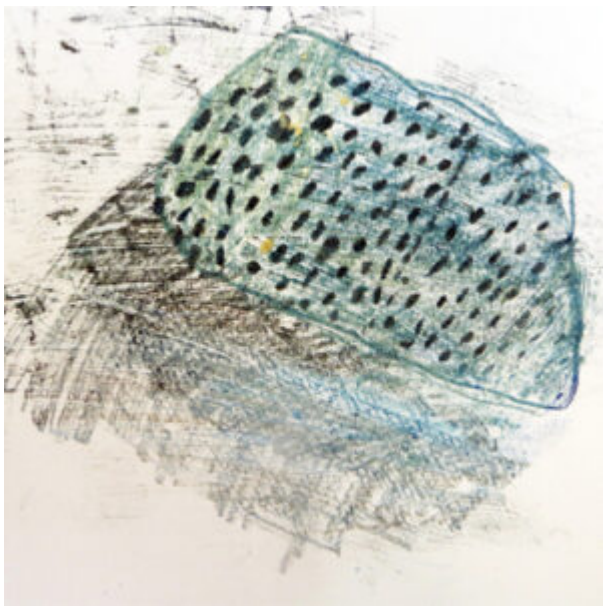


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Unesco: Celebrating the Power of Making!

Inspired by Paula's recent rousing film, 'It's in Our Hands', artist Jan Miller pulled images together from her own teaching to illustrate the things the children in her classroom do with their hands

Children's Community Project

Bubble Drawings

Flying Minpin Birds

Roald Dahl's The Minpin Birds inspired Arbury school pupils to design and make their own birds for a tiny Minpin to ride upon. Alongside this project, the class drew their own maps of imaginary worlds and imagining themselves as Minpins.

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

Thinking Silhouettes

Abstract Face – Relief Sculptures

In this construction and painting resource, students make an abstract face, relief sculpture from cardboard, adding colour, texture and metal findings. This resource was inspired by the work of Kimmy Cantrell, a self-taught contemporary artist who uses asymmetry to question long-established views around beauty.

Anthropomorphic

Animal

Paintings

This painting activity looks at giving human characteristics to animals. Anthropomorphism is making something which is not human, more human like for e.g Miss Piggy, Mickey Mouse and the characters created by Beatrix Potter. This activity was inspired by the paintings of two contemporary artists who use anthropomorphism in their work, Ken Hoffman and Svjetlan Junakovic.

‘Meet and Make’ Teacher CPD Event and Resource Share

See how teachers, museum educators, the local scrap store and arts organisations were brought together for a making session inspired by Brilliant Makers at Arbury Primary School, Cambridge with year three teacher Eilis Hanson.

Nursery Night Time Collage

Inspired by the AccessArt Village, artist Rachel Thompson works with pre-school aged children in St Matthew’s Nursery School, Cambridge to make their very own night time scenes with collage and wax-resist.

Use Scrapstores!

Art in Schools: Linton Heights Junior School

Talking Points: Lucy Engelman

A collection of sources to explore the art of Lucy Engelman.

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Please [let us know](#) if you find a 404 link, or if you feel content is no longer appropriate.

We strongly recommend as part of good teaching practice that teachers watch all videos and visit all websites before sharing with a class. On

occasion there may be elements of a video you would prefer not to show to your class and it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure content is appropriate. Many thanks.

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AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

AGES 14-16

Lucy Engelman

Lucy is an illustrator living in Pittsburgh, PA in the USA. She is an illustrator using traditional methods of line drawing. Her work often shows her fascination and love for the natural world. Her work has appeared in magazines and books and often beyond the printed page through collaborations with chefs and farmers, creating imagery for clothes, home goods wallpapers.

Explore images of Lucy's hand drawn maps on her website [here](#).

Watch the video below to learn more about Lucy, the way in which she works and her ideas

surrounding maps.

Questions to Ask Children

Can you describe some of the landscapes Lucy was in during this video? How did those places make you feel?

Can you think of a place near where you live that is similar?

Do you think a map always has to tell you where to go? Why? Why not?

Art Curriculums: How to Get Started and Avoid Overwhelm

Artist Studio Series: Emma Sandham King