

Sketch Your World: The Basics

[By Phil Dean](#)

'[Sketch Your World](#)' is a collaboration between artist Phil Dean and AccessArt, aimed at helping students 16 and above be inspired by their local landscape.

Set the scene for Sketch Your World by getting familiar with the basics of urban sketching.

In this resource Phil Dean breaks urban sketching down into two parts, helping to build your understanding of how to get the most out of urban sketching, and the practicalities of drawing outdoors.

Part One: Building Your Understanding

Watch the video below to find out how you'll get the most enjoyment out of urban sketching.

Pick a subject that interests you

There's no point in sketching something that doesn't excite you. You're more likely to get a great result with something that interests you. Start with whatever catches your eye – it could be a Coke can or a pinecone!



Remember that a drawing is not a photograph

Don't fall into the trap of trying to faithfully capture the scene you are drawing as if it were a photograph. A sketch is an expression of what you're looking at, not an exact reproduction. Keeping this in mind will loosen the shackles of realism and help you be more satisfied with the finished result. Don't get too hung up on the mistakes – learn to celebrate them!



Keep at it

Practise makes perfect, and a sketch a day is a great way to train your eye. Draw what might seem boring things such as bus journeys, sandwich shops, cups on desks and drab buildings. You'll quickly become adept at looking for interesting views, and soon your sketchbook will become a record of your travels.

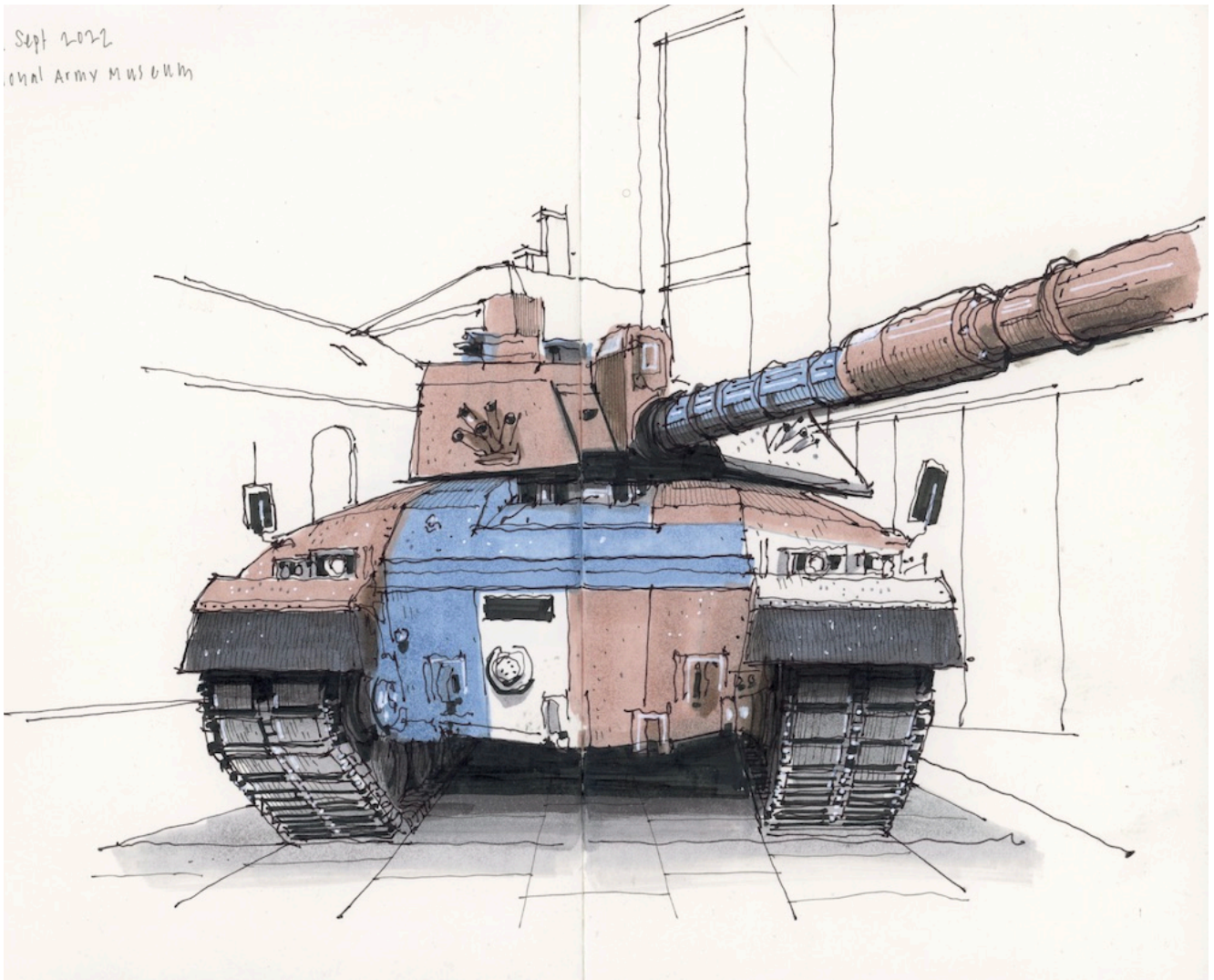


Part Two: Getting Started

Watch the video below for some practical tips for drawing out and about.

Get comfortable

I like standing to draw as it gives me space and the impetus to work quickly, but a seated position may be more comfortable and allow you to take your time. Find a location where you can easily sit on a wall or chair to give yourself more time to capture the scene.



Set yourself a time limit

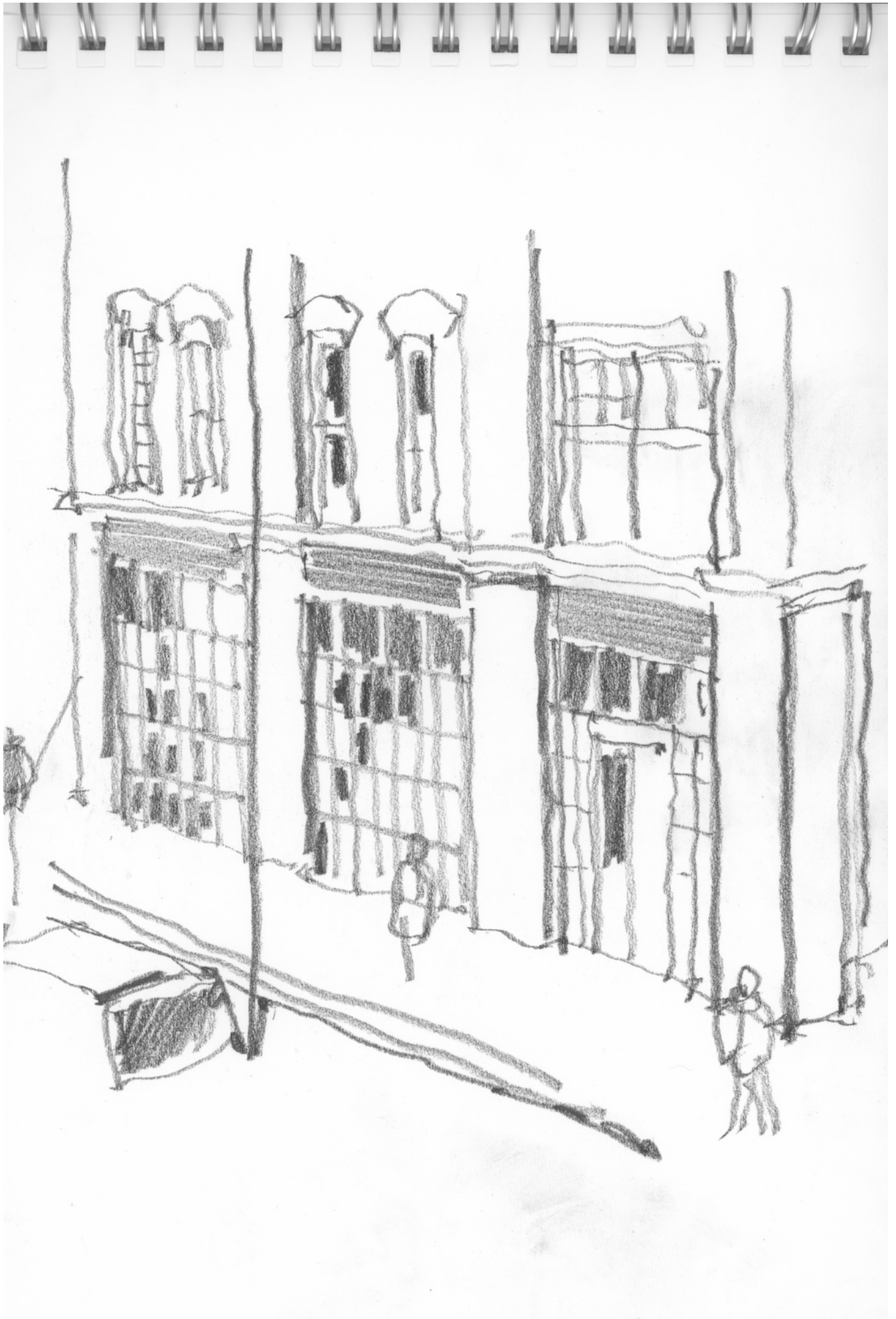
It can be useful to give yourself a time limit on your

drawings. This helps to focus the mind and instil your drawings with energy, and it forces you to move on to another view. Quick sketches often capture much more than an overworked piece.



Work in a medium that you feel comfortable with

I love drawing with pen – straight in, with no pencil. But I'm very aware this requires a lot of confidence and my advice to beginners is always to start with a medium you feel comfortable with. This might well be pencil or charcoal, both of which are quite forgiving.



Stop and come back to it later

Don't be afraid to call time on a sketch even though it's not 'finished'. Remember, you are the one to decide what's finished and what's not. A great tip is to take a quick photo of the view you're sketching on your phone and then use the image as a reference for adding more detail, tone or colour later on.



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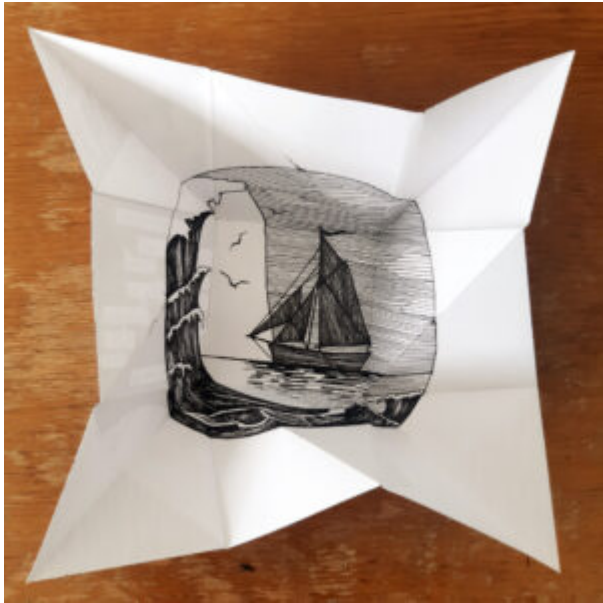
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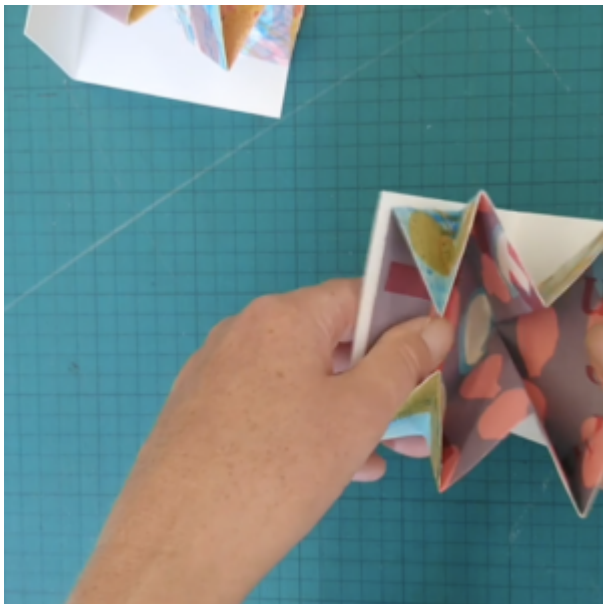
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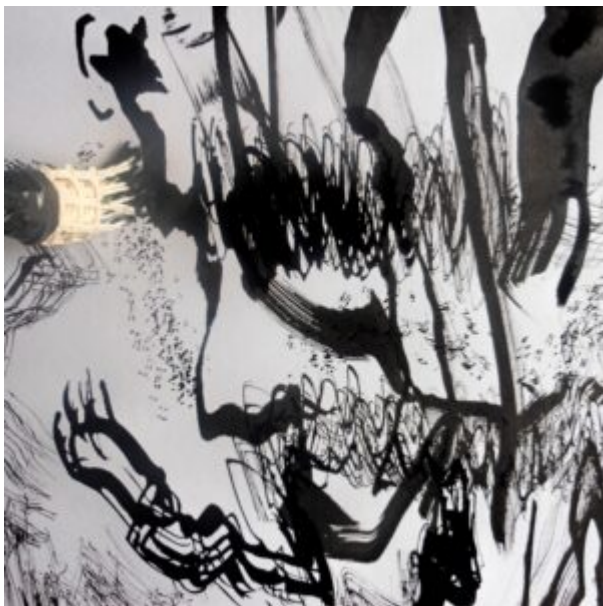
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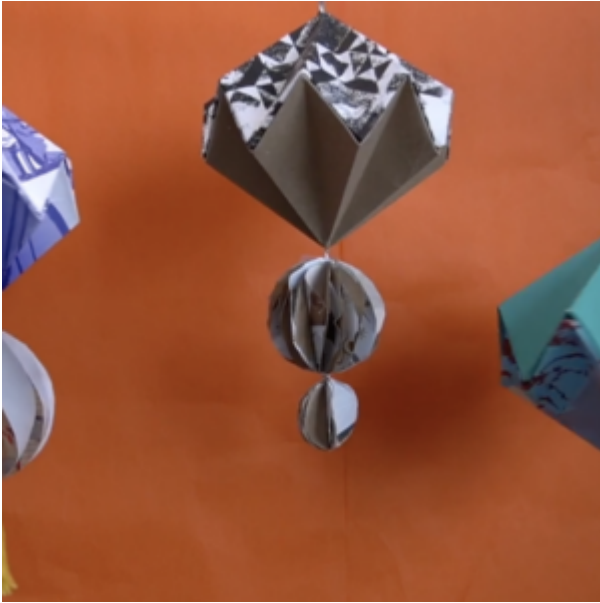
paper bowls



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Introduction to Colour Pencils

Session Recording: Expressive Painting

Collecting Colour in my Moodboard Book

What We Like About This Resource...

"It's really nice to see that although Rachel Parker works quite digitally, her process from the beginning is very tactile. Rachels books act as a really great source of inspiration, helping to break down the creative blocks that we all get from time to time. Having a sketchbook dedicated to colour means that as well as working with colours that you already love, you can test new colour palettes and see colours from a new perspective. I especially love how Rachel picks up on the different tones in colours by looking at the way light hits it in order build her colour palette around those supporting tones as well as big statement colours." – Tobi, AccessArt

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Collecting Colour

What We Like About This Resource...

"It's great to see how a simple exercise such as colour collecting, which can be done in a classroom setting, is also used in a professional capacity. This gives the activity a clear context and purpose. It's nice to see Rachel's decisions being made in real time, it demonstrates how artists are constantly reflecting on and self evaluating their own decisions. Rachel also shows us that she sometimes gets colour palettes from photos that she's taken herself, this is really exciting because it demonstrates how the artists experience is central to their work. Students will be able to bring their own experience and personality to this activity by having complete control over what their colour moodboard becomes."
– Tobi, AccessArt

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How Colour Collection Inspires My Work

What We Like About This Resource...

“Rachel’s work is so vibrant and full of joy, it’s really exciting to see how she starts to form creative ideas around colour. Rachel highlights the importance of colour trends but also gives herself the opportunity to create her own trends which adds a level of playfulness and personality to her colour exploration. Seeing her colour books translate into fabric demonstrates a real clarity in her decision making process.” – Tobi, AccessArt.

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Escaping Wars and Waves – Encounters with Syrian Refugees

What We Like About This Resource...

‘This resource really demonstrates how art can successfully bring awareness to important humanitarian issues, promote inclusivity and can give a platform to those who otherwise wouldn’t be heard. The links between text, photos and drawings are really strong and demonstrate the creative process used by Olivier from start to finish. I really like the inclusion of suggestions for students within the post, which encourage students to learn more about their community and to understand the experience of being displaced. This in turn will hopefully inspire the next generation to be part of an inclusive and empathetic society.’ – Tobi, AccessArt

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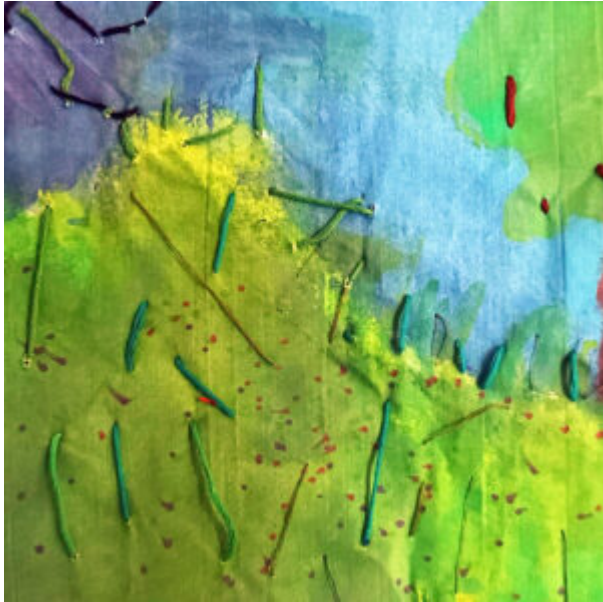
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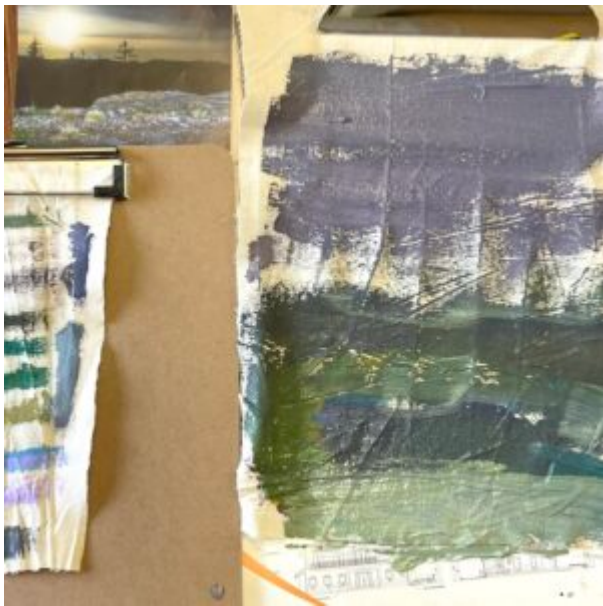


















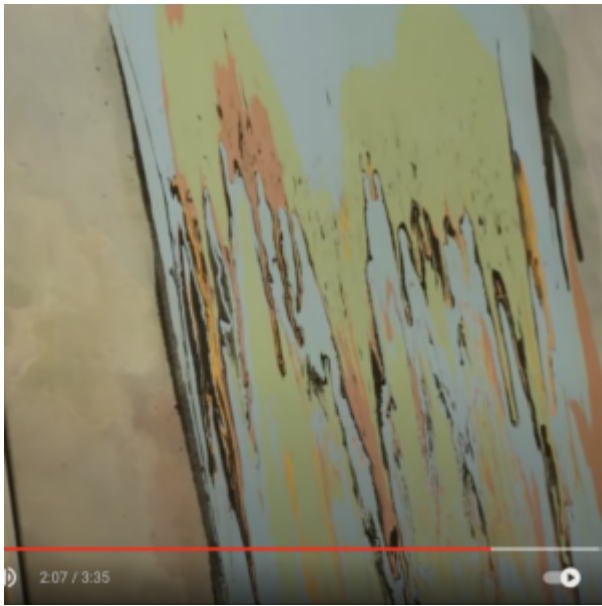
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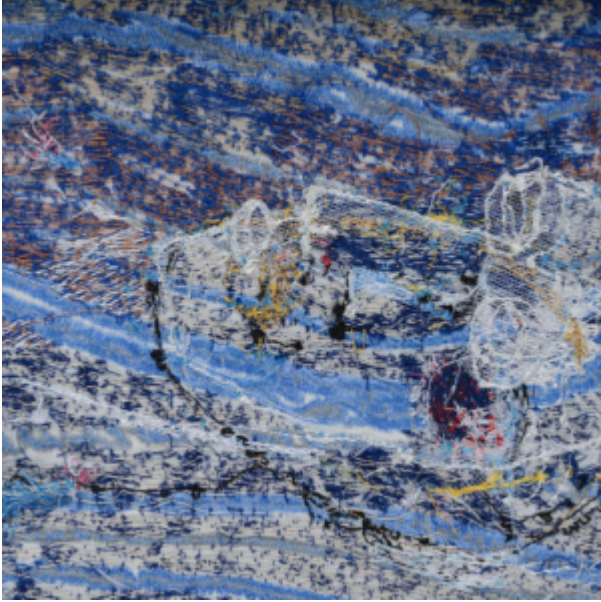
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