

# Experimental Mark Making Tools

[By Andrea Butler](#)

Inventing your own mark making tools is a great way to bring together making and drawing.

You can experiment with lots of different objects and materials to make drawing tools. It's a creative challenge to attach the object or material to the handle and the marks you make will be influenced by how much ink your tool will hold - fabric will absorb a lot more ink than say, a piece of dried seaweed. Each tool will have its own character and unique set of marks and of course, you can make your tools as decorative as you like, painting the handles or binding them with tape, fabric or thread to personalise them even further.



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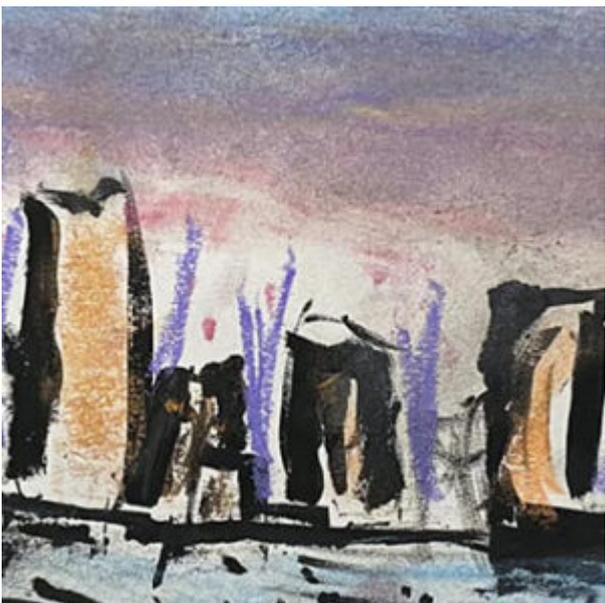
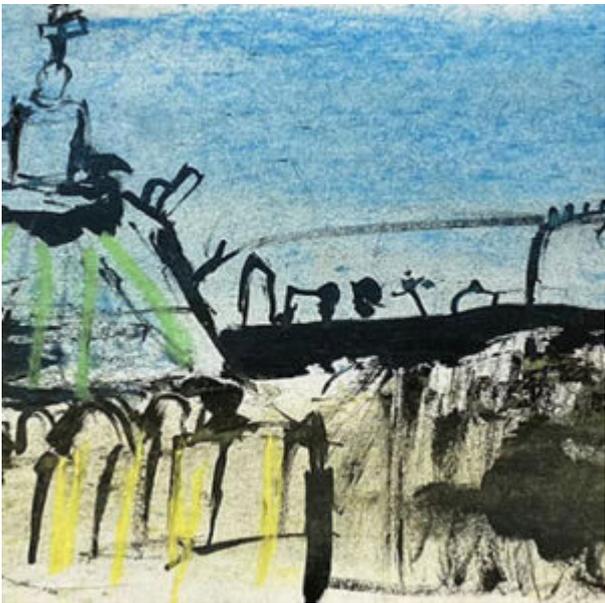
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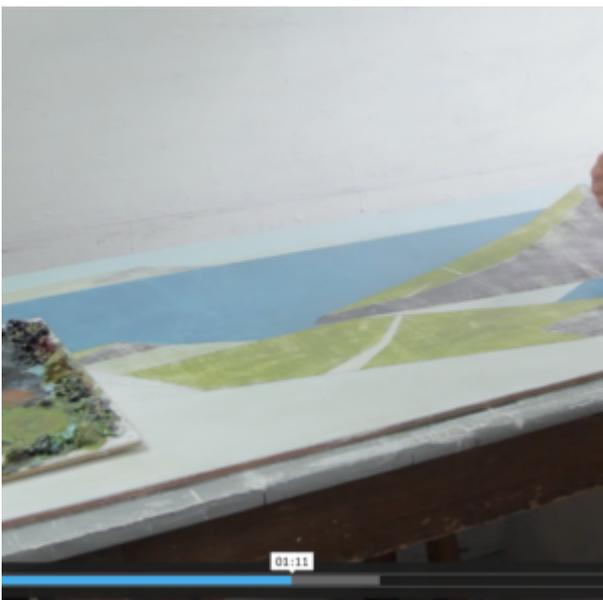
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# Which Artists: Tatyana Antoun

# What We Like About This Resource...

*“The research phase of a creative project can be presented in many different ways, and can even be an art form in itself. Here, Tatyana demonstrates how her sketchbooks became a medium through which*

*she expressed her thoughts, refined her ideas and explored materials. We believe sketchbooks to be a powerful tool for children to take ownership of their ideas and travel on their own creative journey, without necessarily knowing the destination. Take a look at our [sketchbook journey](#) for more sketchbook inspiration” – Rachel, AccessArt.*

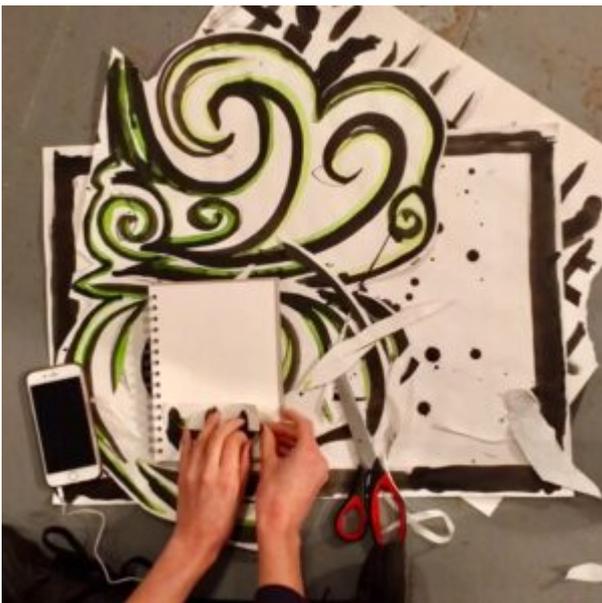
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[Sketchbooks and Thinking Skills](#)



## Sketchbooks for Designers – an Introduction for Children



## Using Sketchbooks to Take Ownership of Ideas

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# Which Artists: Merlin Evans

## What We Love About This Resource...

So often, we hear talk of the distinction between science and art, and no more so when teenagers proceed through their education and they are encouraged to choose one route or another. In reality, creative thinking helps scientific understanding and a scientific approach can inform and inspire art.

It's so refreshing to read and see Merlin's experience and understand how she works between these two areas – in her words *“mixing subjects, and seeing how they work and intersect is where inventions take place!”*

We also love the way her work embraces the *felt* world of being human, as well as the *known* world. We're sure many young people will find Merlin's work of interest and reassuring when they are pressured to choose *“art or science”*.

## You May Also Like...

Drawing for Learning





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# **Exploring, Associating & Connecting – a Sketchbook Exercise**

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## How I Use Sketchbooks & Drawing

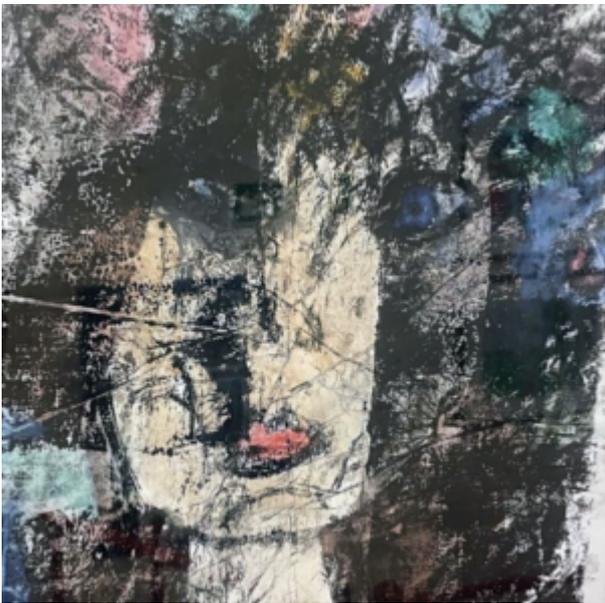
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### Kitchen Lithography

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**What Is A Drawing Tool?**

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**Making is Hard**

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**What Is The Purpose of Drawing?**

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# **What Is Drawing?**

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**Creating Patterns**      **Repeat With**  
**Rachel Parker**

**What We Like About  
This Resource...**

*“This is a great activity for*

*really tuning into colour and shape. The process is ultimately quite a refined one (ie making a pattern balanced and repeated 'correctly') – but there's plenty of scope for exploring pattern in a more experiential way prior to the refinement page. Try one of the recommended resources below to introduce pattern and begin with some open ended activities to build skill and confidence."* – Andrea, AccessArt

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# Pathway: Exploring pattern



This is featured in the  
'Exploring Pattern'  
pathway

**Talking points: Andy  
Gilmore**



**talking points: Louise  
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**Inspired by Rachel Parker**



# Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape and Texture



**Block Printing Repeat**

# Patterns



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**Making A Banner At  
Woking College**

**What We Like About**

# **This Resource...**

**Working collaboratively towards a shared aim provides an alternative experience to working on individual projects. Creating together encourages listening, peer feedback and creative problem solving – all of which are hugely valuable in all areas of education” – Rachel, AccessArt**

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## Animal Habitat Mural



ry schools

Such an impressive effort was also made by the high sch

## Collaborative Public Mural



## Mural and Workshop Project

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# Wish List

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# **Which Artists: The Life & Works of Madge Gill**

## **What We Like About This Resource...**

**“The life of Madge Gill that Sophie Dutton recounts here gives us real insight into the challenges that Madge Gill experienced, and how these challenges would have been common among women at the time. When we study the work of Artists, it adds a rich context**

to our experience of their work  
to consider their personal  
history, and helps us ask  
questions like 'why do you think  
the Artist painted in this way  
or was inspired by this subject  
matter?' If you introduce your  
class to Madge Gill, begin with  
looking back over her younger  
life to try and better  
understand her motivations as an  
Artist" – *Rachel, AccessArt*

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# How I Use Drawing and Sketchbooks