

Serendipity Drawing

This is the second of six resources in the series: ['Drawing for Science, Invention & Discovery Even If You Can't Draw'](#) by Paul Carney, educational consultant and author. The projects enable teachers of both art and science to approach drawing from a new perspective. You can see all of the resources [here](#).

[By Paul Carney](#)

Introduction: Many of the world's greatest inventions have occurred by chance. This activity shows you how chance plays an integral part of the making process in art and shows you how artists try to manipulate it to further their creative purposes.



Notes for Teachers

• Learning Objectives

- To discover new, abstract ways of drawing using chance and random events.
- To learn how to control and manipulate chance as part of the creative making process.
- To learn that the sciences often employ serendipitous triggers to spark information based ideas.

• Age range

The activity is suitable for 7-16 years.

• Time Required

The activity takes approximately one hour

• National Curriculum Targets: Art & Design

Key Stage 2: Pupils should be taught to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials (for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay), and learn about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Key Stage 3: Pupils should be taught to develop their creativity and ideas, and increase proficiency in their execution. They should develop a critical understanding of artists, architects and designers, expressing reasoned judgements that can inform their own work.

• National Curriculum Targets: Science

Upper KS2: The development of scientific thinking and the ways in which scientific methods and theories develop over time. They should encounter more abstract

ideas and begin to recognise how these ideas help them to understand and predict how the world operates.

Key Stage 3: The development of scientific thinking and the ways in which scientific methods and theories develop over time. Teachers should feel free to choose examples that serve a variety of purposes, from showing how scientific ideas have developed historically to reflecting modern developments in science.

Key Stage 4: The development of scientific thinking and the ways in which scientific methods and theories develop over time.

(The lesson might use scientific examples to illustrate serendipity such as the chance discovery of x-rays, penicillin, microwave ovens etc. It might also show how this lesson relates to artistic practice of Hans Arp to create chance collages.)

• **Things You'll Need**

A3 and A4 paper, spray ink bottles filled with Brusho ink powder or similar, assorted scrap objects with interesting shapes, black ink and brush or dip pens.

• **Extending The Lesson**

Use constant repetition of the exercise and allow pupils to take more control of the process; adding or omitting items, changing the art materials and allowing more freedom.

• **Supporting The Lesson**

Limit the use of objects and media, encourage them to think about the composition of the fallen objects and the spaces between them.

▪ Assessment Guidance

Confident outcomes should demonstrate greater manipulation of the materials in the process. They will show they can build greater tension in certain areas by building and layering colour and leaving space between some objects. They will use the black ink carefully and deliberately to create interesting visual compositions. Pupils with less successful outcomes will rely completely on chance and have not demonstrated how they have manipulated it to suit an intention.

▪ Artist Links

Hans Arp

https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/jean-hans-arp-untitled-collage-with-squares-arranged-according-to-the-laws-of-chance-1916-17/

Sophie Taeuber

<https://nmwa.org/explore/artist-profiles/sophie-taeuber-arp>

▪ Cross-Curricular

Investigating how chance discoveries have shaped understanding in other subject areas such as maths, history, English, music and technology for example.

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Simple Easter Sketchbook

Perseverance, Determination and Inventiveness: Building Nests

Year 4 pupils from Comberton Village College and Cambourne Village College feeder schools met for a Gifted and Talented Sculpture Masterclass led by AccessArt at Bourn Primary Academy. The session centred around an exploration of the materials and construction methods we might use to build inventive, sculptural nests.

Playing with tape, projectors, Wicky Sticks and so much more!

Accessible approaches for collaborative drawing with visually impaired students with Sara Dudman and Debbie Locke at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Devon

Astronaut Paper Body Casts by Gillian Adair McFarland

A non messy, big impact project in a day on the theme of space exploration to fit with Tim Peake going to the International

Barbie & Ken Transformation

This adaptable resource shares how we transformed Barbie dolls using paper, fabric, modroc and paint. We had great fun researching and designing costumes and exploring appropriate materials. By Paula Briggs

Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animal Parade – Week Three

This was the third and final session in a series of 'Animal Parade' workshops for children at Making Club at Milton Road Primary School where children painted their finished masks

Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animal Parade – Week Two

This was the second session in a series of three 'Animal Parade' workshops, where children at Making Club at Milton Road Primary School, made 3D animal masks.

After having chosen their animals and created unique designs based on their Carnival Mask Templates in week one, children

now attempted to cut and staple their creations to make them three dimensional.

Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animal Parade – Week One

To use our Carnival Mask Template to create animal masks for an Animal Parade at the end of this half term.

Long Legged Animals by Years 3 & 4 Making Club

Year three and four pupils explore making their own sculptures and to take on sculptural challenges like how to construct with a variety of materials, including Modroc, and (most importantly) how to make their creations stand.

Shipwrecked! A Shadow Puppet Play by Children Aged 10

As the winter nights draw in and it was dark outside and cosy inside, Friday Club students, turn the summerhouse into a theatre and make a shadow puppet play.

Paperback Figures: Collaged, Relief Sculptures

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Visual Arts Planning Collections:
Cardboard and paper



Book art with Primary children



Making 2d & 3d Fashion Designs with Painted and Decorated Paper



3D Drawing with Paper :

Texture – Surface – Structure

Artist Andrea Butler sets teenagers the challenge to create 3D forms from sheets of paper experimenting with structure and texture using manipulation techniques.

Years 3 and 4 D&T and Making Club

A collection of resources by Sheila Ceccarelli based on her Brilliant Makers Club for year three and four pupils at Milton Road Primary School, Cambridge. Children were encouraged to experiment, think and engineer creative solutions by working on simple projects, with individual and independently generated outcomes.

40 Minute Cardboard and Double-Sided Sticky Tape Engineering Challenge

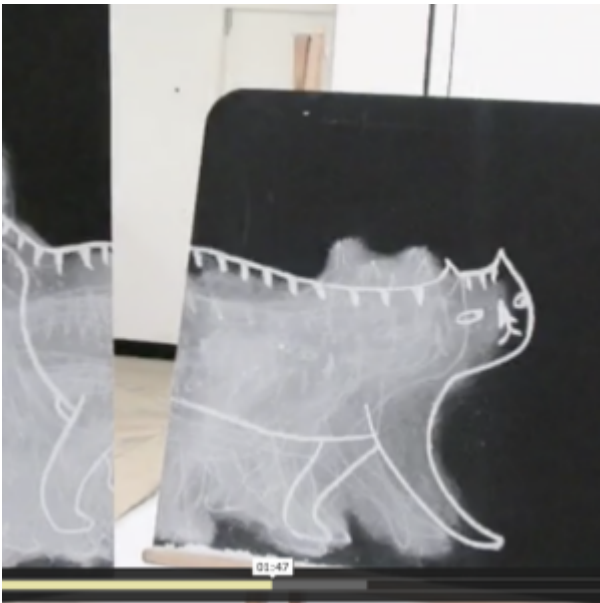
This workshop was all about getting year three and four Brilliant Makers at Milton Road Primary School to think about the biggest challenge for any maker: how to make something stand up.

Paper Pigeon Project

Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animating Articulated Beasts

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Talking points: Making drawings move



Talking Points: paper cut puppets



Talking Points: Lauren child



Talking Points: Lotte reiniger



Painting the Light and the Dark...

Show Me The Shadows

Cantus Arcticus (Concerto for Birds and Orchestra) Op.61:

Images Inspired by Music