

Which Artists: Ava Jolliffe

By Laura and Ava Jolliffe

Ava Jolliffe is a talented 14 year old deaf/blind digital artist from the North West of England. Ava works to overcome challenges everyday to create beautiful digital portraits, and through her passion shows herself to be a positive role model and a strong advocate for her disabled peers. This inspiring post delves into the story of an exceptional teenager who truly demonstrates that art is the most powerful and accessible language of them all.



Ava wasn't born with her disabilities, when she was 3 years old she became very ill with a rare neurological condition. This illness has severely affected her vision and also left her profoundly deaf. Ava however has continually adapted to the challenges her complexities have presented her with, and although she gets very frustrated by her physical limitations she continually pushes herself to achieve and to advocate for her disabled peers.



Ava is very much inspired by strong individuals and their resolve to overcome the obstacles put in their way. She believes passionately in equality and that disability should not be seen as a reason to discriminate. She is an artist first, and a person with disabilities second. She wants to advocate for her deaf/blind peers, and show that whilst she has considerable complexities that she can be successful in her chosen career, and encourage others to follow their dreams.



To produce her art, Ava uses a digital medium. She works on a platform called FrameCast, she has tried other apps such as Procreate - but finds FrameCast more user friendly for her disabilities. Using an IPAD pro, allows Ava to work in high pixilation and to zoom in to work in smaller detail. Ava is certified blind and her vision field is extremely limited with multiple optical issues and the IPad is a larger tablet and very flexible to use.



Ava loves to show her work, but it is often exhausting and painful for her to produce her art - so she sees the sharing of it with others as the reward for her labour. By sharing her art as a disabled artist, she knows this opens often difficult dialogue about disabilities, and makes the viewer reassess their possible expectations and perception of deaf/blind

artist. Without this catalyst it may not happen - so this is much more than just a picture she is producing, it is also an opportunity for education and reevaluation by those engaging with her art.



Ava has always been a very determined young woman, she is quite formidable. She is very determined to be a positive role model and a strong advocate for her disabled peers. She loves art, it has been the absolute constant throughout her life, even through the most truly dark periods of illness. She wants to continue to build her career, and to draw wider audiences, to open conversations, to work collaboratively with others and large business to showcase her talent and her unique style.

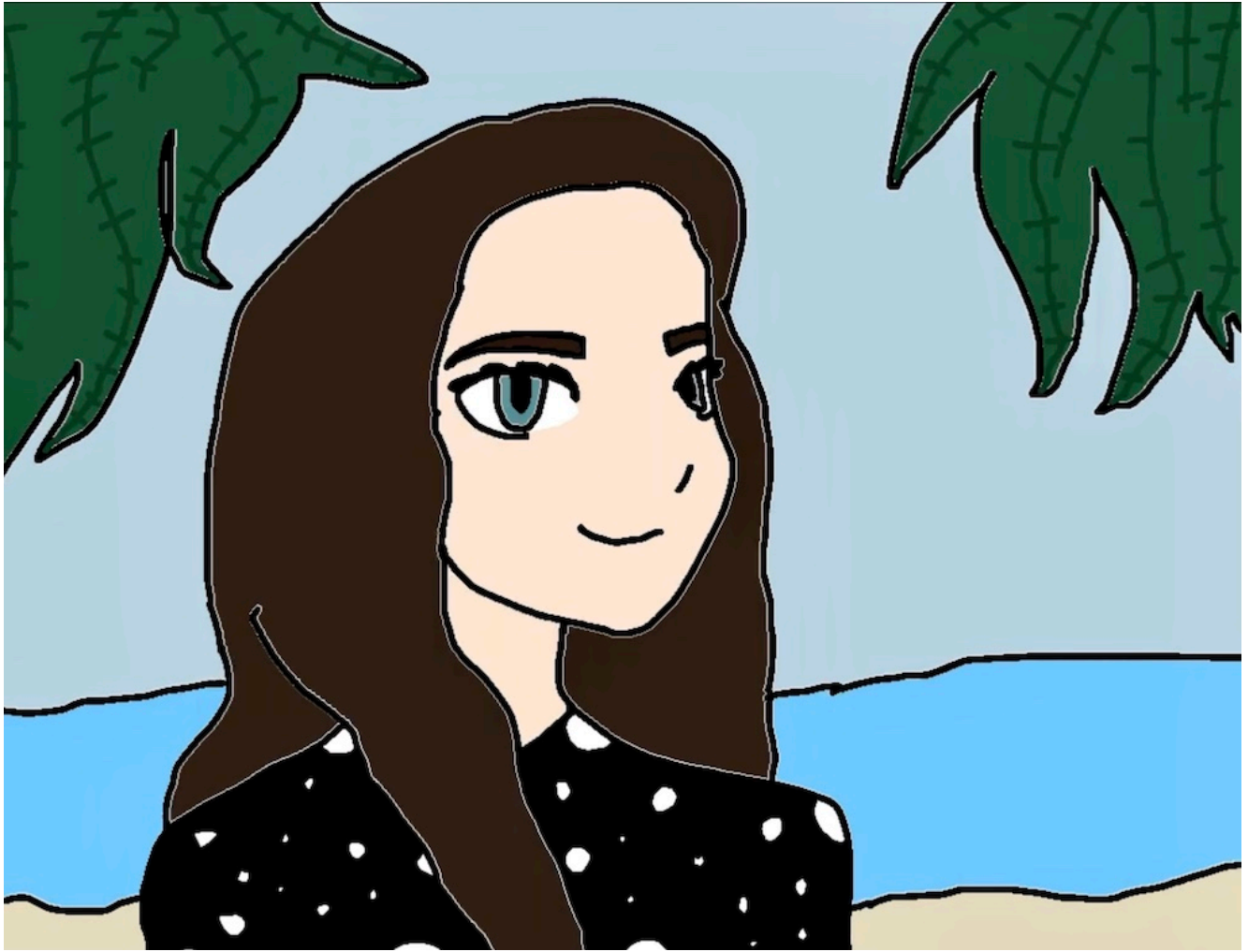




She has been working recently on animation, a children's book and has a couple of exciting opportunities have presented themselves to her which she has been exploring. But her first love and always will be is to produce accessible Art for all people to enjoy, she really is quite the digiteen artist.



Ava and her art are inextricably entwined, you cannot have one without the other. Like Blackpool rock, if you cut her in half she will have the word Art running all the way through the centre of her. No day goes by without her drawing, she is passionately an artist, it's her true love.



This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 850 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

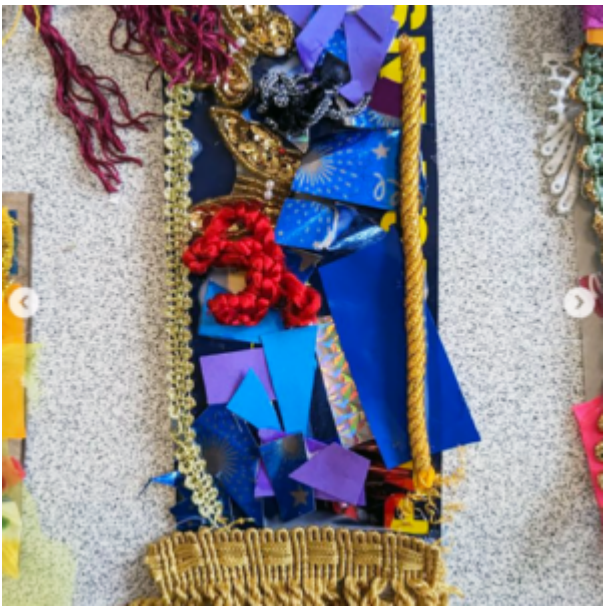
We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

Which Artists: 2B or Not 2B

**Sketchbook Journey At
Haslingfield Primary School**

Creativity Medals

**See the Resource Used in
Schools...**





What We Like About This Resource...

“The sentiment behind this resource idea is lovely and it provides an opportunity to really develop some fine motor skills as well as independence of approach. Taking ownership of the medal design means the sense of achievement is heightened beyond the children just being given one. You can really imagine the positive energy that would surround this activity within a classroom, with each child working on a shared project but embarking on their own creative journey.” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

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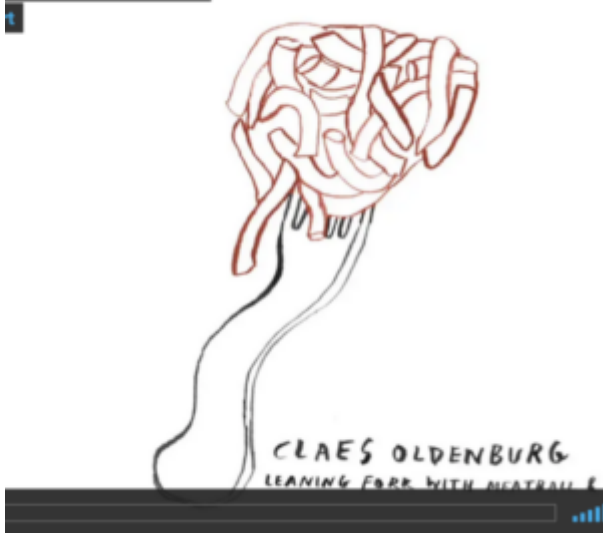
Pathway: Playful Making



[Featured in the 'Playful Making' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Introduction to sculpture

Sculpture.mp4



Clay Art Medals



Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



Talking Points: Linda BELL



Making Musical Instruments

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s great to see music being explored in this way, and combining it with making creates a really interesting immersive project. This activity would work well as part of an extended project looking at musical instruments around the world and some of the natural materials they are made from.” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art



[This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Linda BELL



Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



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drawing source material: orchestras



A Cheerful Orchestra



Touch Wood

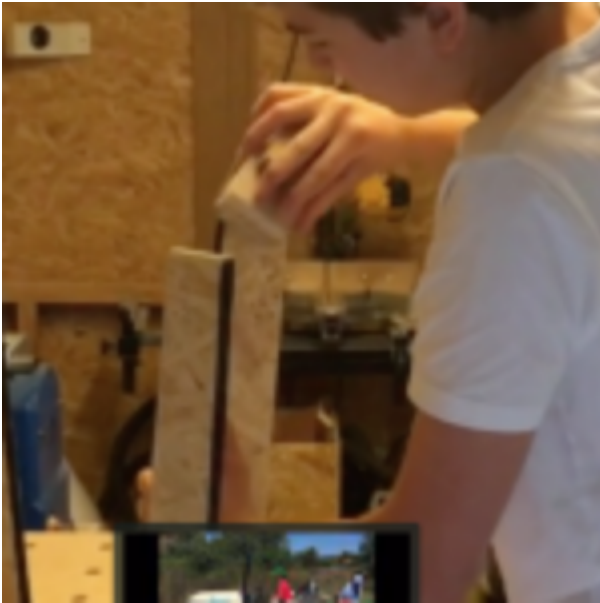
What We Like About This Resource...

“You can get a real sense of the environment in this post and how this could provide so much inspiration for creative projects. We are aware there the challenges to exploring the outdoors when many schools are in towns and cities. A way around this could be to have a regular collection of natural objects within the classroom and using them as a stimulus to respond creatively in sketchbooks or in extended projects” – *Andrea, AccessArt*

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[Woodland Exploration](#)



A Passion for Woodworking



Visual Arts PLanning: Tees, Forest and Landscapes

Which Artists: Su Blackwell

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s really interesting to hear how Su’s career path evolved organically, and how experimenting with different disciplines such as ceramics and sculpture whilst studying Textiles at the RCA began her journey towards paper craft and books. We really like how the small book sculptures inspired the larger scale set designs for The Snow Queen. They transfer so effectively to the stage and you can imagine how engaging it would be for a young audience to recognise letters and words on lampposts and other scenic elements”. – *Rachel, AccessArt*

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Set Design for Primary Aged Children

Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings

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Pathway: Exploring Form Through Drawing



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Form Through Drawing' pathway](#)

Watercolour Washes Inspired by the Tapestries of Henry Moore



Working with Dogwood

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s lovely to see a resource that centres on a particular material and the scope it offers. I particularly like how the dogwood is used here to make wooden beads. This idea could be developed further by looking at how wood has been used to make jewelry throughout history and within many different cultures.” – *Rachel, AccessArt.*

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[A Passion for Woodworking](#)



[Woodland Exploration](#)



Visual Arts Planning: Trees, Forests and Landscape

Which Artists: Toby Pritchard

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s a really positive thing for an artist to share the concept of the creative journey. At AccessArt we believe journeys are pretty important and we are pleased to show this in action through Toby Pritchard’s post. We particularly like the anthropomorphic element, and how this really brings life to Toby’s work.” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

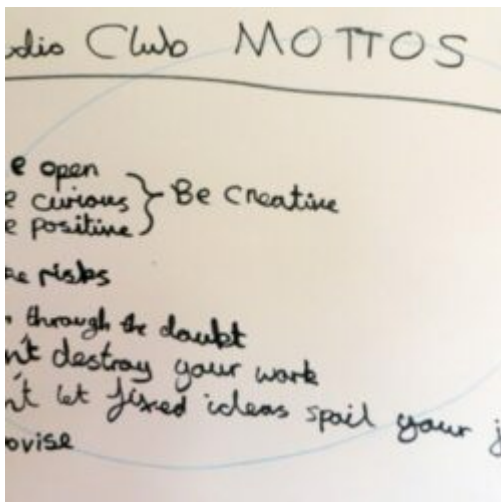
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Anthropomorphic Animal Paintings



Exploring Animation



Teaching for the Journey not the Outcome

Dropped Cone Sculptures with Julia Rigby

What We Like About This Resource...

“There’s a really fun element to this activity which is you can imagine all children really enjoying! The idea of food on large scale is a great starter for a sculpture project and an early exploration of working in 3D. What’s really positive to see in this project is how the children used their sketchbooks to design their ice creams prior to working in 3D. They then had the opportunity to re visit and refine their ideas as they worked. This provides a solid foundation for the concept of design development and design through making- both of which underpin any visual arts or design project or profession. For more support on how to develop sketchbook practice in your setting please see our [Sketchbook Journey](#)” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

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Portrait Club

What We Like About This Resource...

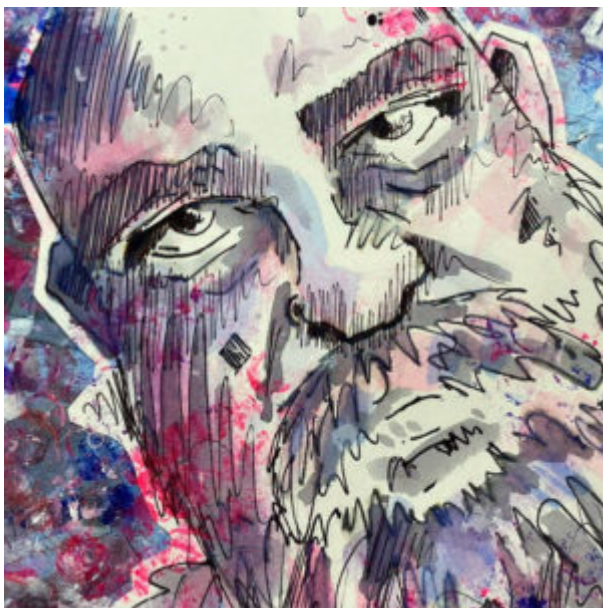
"We're really grateful to Jake from Draw Brighton for sharing this activity which became so well received during lockdown 2020."

This is the perfect reminder that wherever we are in the digital or physical world, we have our eyes, hands and faces, and drawing provides a wonderful opportunity to come together in small

groups to make sketches of each other. Use this activity as an ice breaker before a workshop, or as a transition activity between classes or events. Thank you Jake!" Paula, AccessArt

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Pathway: Exploring Identity



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Identity' pathway](#)

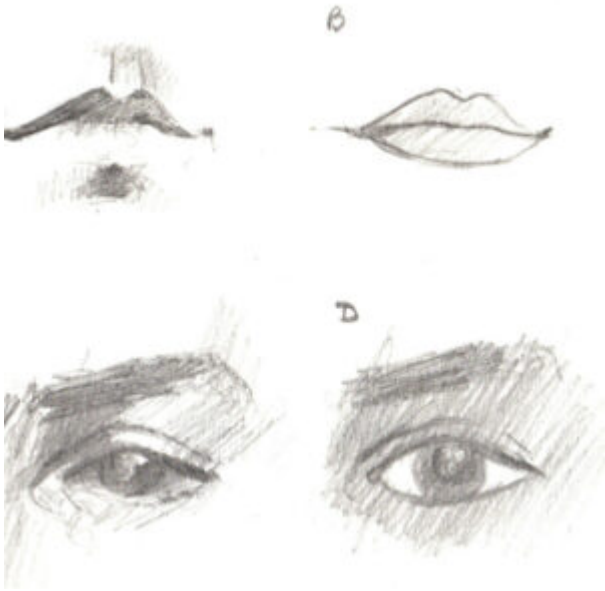
Talking Points: Njideka Akunyili Crosby



Making Physical or Digital Layered Portraits



Introduction to Portraits



Exploring Portraits in Graphite, Collage and Clay



Which Artists: We are out of

Gabby Savage-Dickson: Etching

What We Like About This Resource...

“These are such beautiful and evocative images – certain to inspire. There is a lot of potential for schools to explore Gabby’s work as a way to inspire pupils to create their own imagery inspired by literature, or inspired by imaginative writing by pupils.

Although etching might not be particularly accessible to many schools, there are low tech ways of approaching the process (see below) which mean pupils can explore similar ways of working in the classroom.” *Paula, AccessArt*

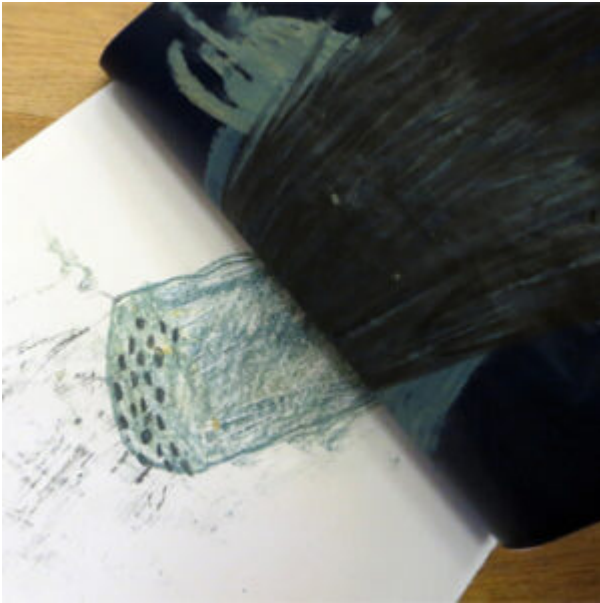
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Printmaking Using Packaging



[MonoPrinting with Carbon Paper](#)

Gabby Savage-Dickson: Felting & Embroidering Sets

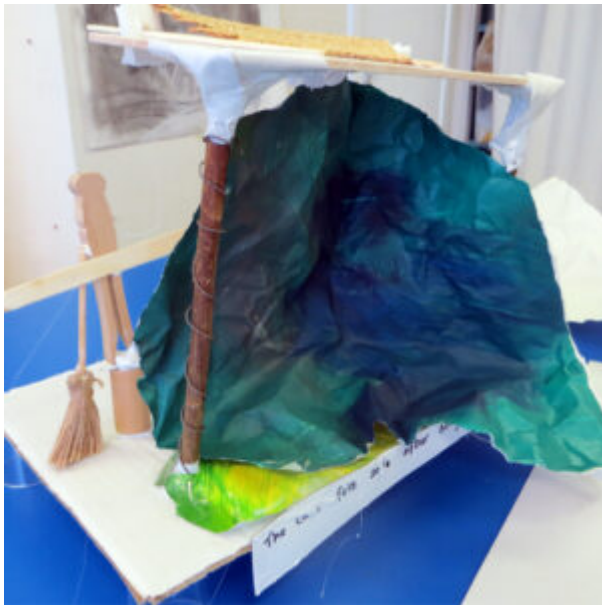
What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s really interesting to see how Gabby works across the different disciplines of textiles and illustration in her work, and you can see how the principles of each are present in these beautifully made felt sets. We enjoyed learning how she went between planning and making – showing

that the process of creating isn't completely linear, and that the journey of idea creation can happen through sketching ideas, but also through making itself" – *Andrea, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Set Design



[This is featured in the 'Set Design' pathway](#)

talking points: negative space by tiny inventions



[Explore the work of animation directors Max Porter and Ru Kuwahata.](#)

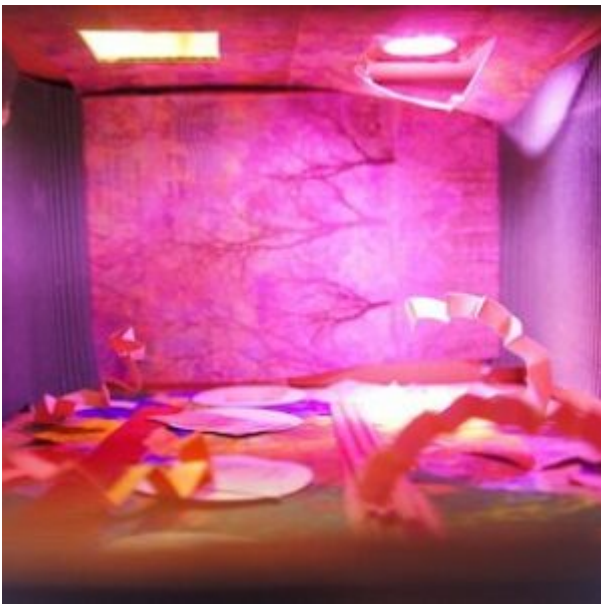
Making Mini Food



Stitched Homes



Mini World Light Boxes



Rosie Hurley: Esio Trot

What We Like About This Resource...

“Rosie highlights the importance of embracing a wide variety of interests and ways of working into our wider creative practice, resulting in wonderfully rich and very personal explorations and outcomes.

There are so many clues in this resource for teachers. Look out for how Rosie slows down her whole process into a series of interconnected stages, which weave in and out of each other. These include time for research (collecting and observing), analysing and revisiting, drawing, making and finally documenting.” *Paula, AccessArt*

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Pathway: Telling Stories through drawing and making



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Pathway: Set Design



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Gabby Savage-Dickson: Felting & Embroidering Sets



Year 3 Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake Homework



Draw, Paint, Build, Make: Gallery Project



Natsko Seki: Making Broadway Market

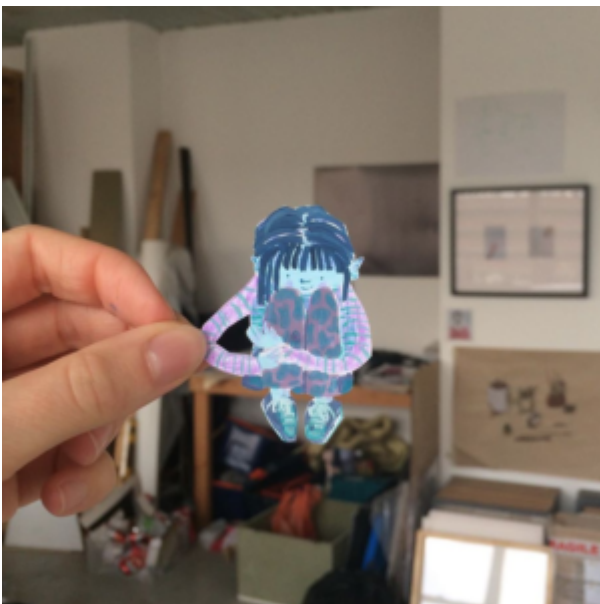
What We Like About This Resource...

“This resource shows pupils how the experience, background and passions of an illustrator all feed into his or her work.

We like the way Natsko shares how her experience over time informs her work. For example, her background as a “visitor” or person living in cultures which she isn’t initially familiar with, enable her to see that culture through fresh eyes.

She takes these observations in through her sketchbooks, and then these inform her work at various points going forward. This is an important concept when facilitating art and developing pupils' own creativity – and [sketchbooks](#) provide the perfect tool for building this experience.”
Paula, AccessArt

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[Creating a Book World with Rose Feather](#)



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Illustrating the Jaberwocky

Connecting With Nature Through Art

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Pathway: using natural materials to make
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Talking Points: What is a cyanotype



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