Rainbows and Waves for Grey Days

By **Rachel Thompson**



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In this table top post, AccessArt team member Rachel Thompson creates two simple rainbow themed art paintings that are designed to say a warm "Hello!" to our friends and neighbours

that we are not currently socialising with but want to stay connected to.

When I read that children and communities in Italy were painting rainbows to stick on their windows as a way to send a positive message to neighbours and loved ones, I wanted to do the same in our community! We live in a small network of streets, where there are lots of families with children all part of the same school and creating something collaborative, yet remote, seemed like an appropriate idea for these strange times.

This activity was run for my reception aged daughter and is more aimed at the EYFS group - but there's no reason older children couldn't enjoy it, and certainly appreciate the concept!

You will need:

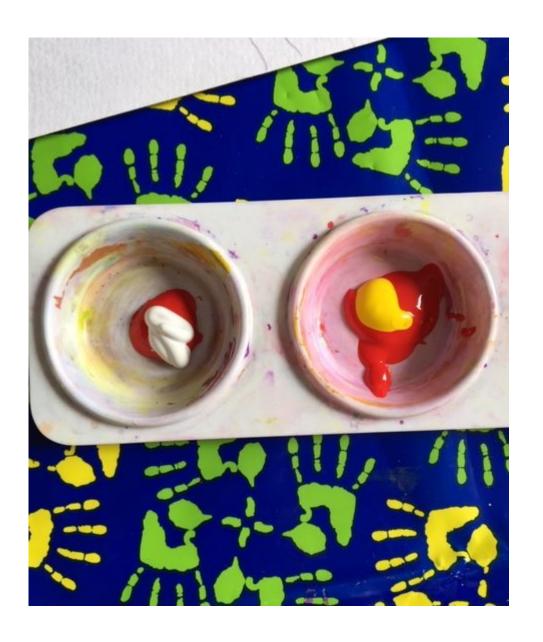
- Paper and/or card
- Pencil
- Paints (rainbow colours) and brushes
- Scissors
- Glue

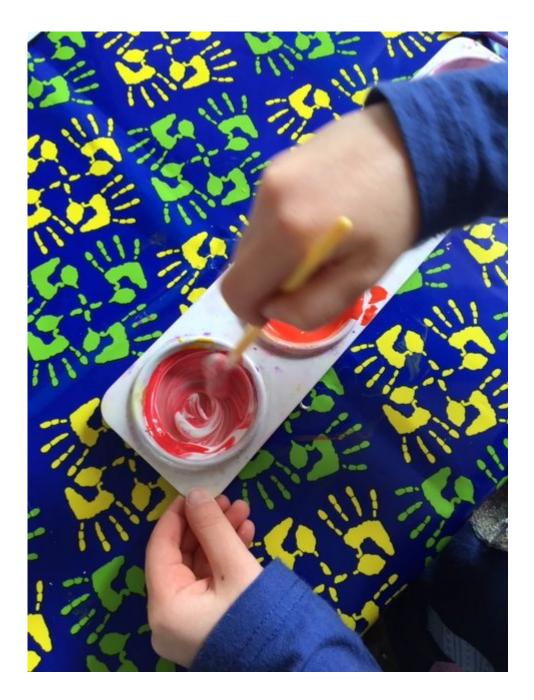
Step one:

Talk about rainbows and how they are formed. Show some pictures of them online and ask the children to observe the colours and formation. Then, ask them to draw a rainbow outline in pencil. Younger children will produce something a little wobbly- but that's fine! Just mention they will need enough space in between the lines to fill it with colour!



Next, choose the colours. This is a good opportunity to talk a bit about colour mixing which is introduced to most reception aged children at school. We mixed red and white to create pink - and red and yellow to create orange.





Once you have all your colours in front of you, it's time to paint the rainbow!



This part is quite good opportunity to simply explain how different strokes can be made with a paintbrush. Young children sometimes have a tenancy to 'scrub' back and forth with a brush, but with a reminder to take their time, to hold the brush firmly nearer its lower end and align brushstrokes in the same direction, they can really begin to learn about brush control and dexterity.



Another useful thing to talk about to extend their learning is how colours look side by side and how complimentary colours work. For example, I encouraged my daughter to not bunch red, orange and pink together and intersperse them with more blue tones.

Once the colours have been added you could offer a choice as to what to fill the background with, such as clouds, sky, patterns, collage. We simply painted ours blue!

Waving rainbow hands

To continue the theme of staying connected with our neighbours

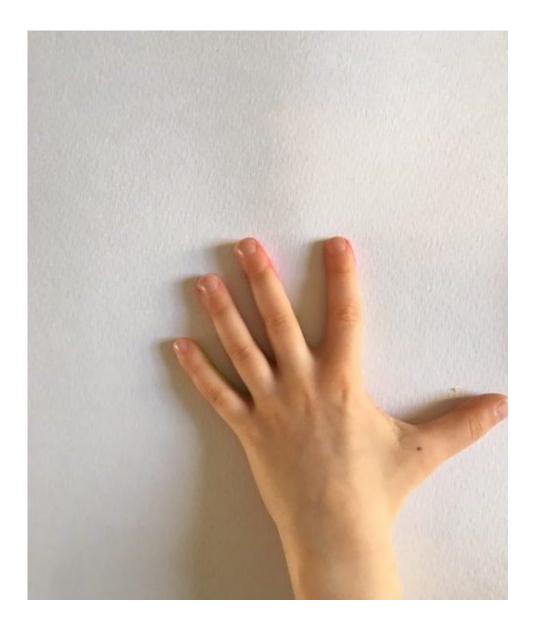
we next moved on to creating a card for a friend featuring waving rainbow hands. This is a great opportunity to encourage some more messy work and the feeling of paint on our hands!

Using the same paints mixed up for the rainbow, begin painting rainbow stripes across your hand.





Place the hand onto a fresh piece of thick paper or card.



Make one, or a patter of hand prints.



You can invite children to paint your hand too!



When the hand prints are dry, draw around the outline in pencil before cutting them out. Young children may need support with this but good to give them a go!







Next, talk a bit about composition and where the hands could be placed on the backing card to look like they are waving. Then add glue.







We posted our card as a way to say hello to a good school friend and neighbour and we pinned the rainbow painting up in our front window to spread a bit of colour and hope to our neighbours as they pass by. Several other families are doing the same in the area and so we can all feel a sense of connection despite not able to spent time together!





This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

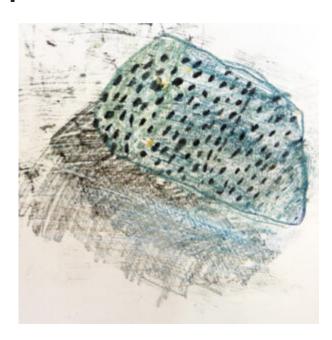
AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

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.

Drawing Small

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring the world though mono print



This is featured in the 'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway

Drawing Large



Printed Houses

Inspired! Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights

Year Five teacher, Kirsty Webb, shares her pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and the benefits of having a full immersion into materials and working together as a class on a shared project.

Inspire 2020: Introducing Colour and Egg Tempera on a Gesso Panel

This post shares how egg tempera was used as a medium in the Italian Renaissance and how teachers interpreted the processes involved in the teaching studio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Education Team, as part of the CPD programme for Inspire 2020

A Progression Pathway in Clay Work

From Early Years

Woodland Exploration by Caroline Wendling & Deborah Wilenski

__Artists Caroline Wendling and Deborah Wilenski encourage young children in a woodland exploration using art and imagination as their discovery tools.

Nest By Paula Briggs

__Paula gives children the tools to both draw and make. Children worked with hard and soft pencils, graphite, wax resist, watercolour, clay and sticks.

From Key Stage One How to Clay Play



__This resource, commissioned by Cambridge City Council, encourages being together through

making and introduces the basics of working with Scolaquip air-hardening clay.

Ofsted are Coming Tomorrow!



__Primary school teacher, Sue Brown, shares her experience of an Ofsted Deep Dive in Art and gives advice to other teachers on how they might prepare themselves.

Quick Clay Figurative Sketches By Paula Briggs



_Paula provided young children with the opportunity to explore clay as a "short term" construction and modelling material. Without being fired, the dry clay has a limited lifespan, and the sculptures will crumble, but I think it's important to remind oursleves that even without access to a kiln, clay can still be regarded as a valuable sculptural material.

Decorative Clay Coil Pots by Sharon Gale

_This simple clay pot making resource is not the traditional way of making coil pots but it's lots of fun and by using different paint effects, the end results can be very interesting. We worked on this project for two, two-hour sessions.

Making Plaster Reliefs By Paula Briggs

__This resource describes how to create plaster reliefs using clay and foamboard moulds. It is based upon a session which took place at Bourn Primary Academy with a group of Year 5 children.

Clay Art Medals by Sharon Gale



_In this three stage resource,

students make a circular medal from clay depicting their own profile, look at examples of fun lettering and devise a short, fun or meaningful phrase to paint inside their portrait profile. Clay art medals are a fun way to link class topics with an art activity.

Japan: Making Sushi — Recycled Style! By Jan Miller

_Inspired by research into Japanese culture, children explored the potential and limitations of paper and recycled materials, learning through play and experimentation to make 3D forms. The outcomes of this process were used to inform work created in a second medium of clay, using kitchen equipment to shape the clay and add textures.

From Key Stage Two

Japan — Ceramics Inspire Painting and Painting Inspires Ceramics By Jan Miller



_Jan shares a Year Three class

project that uses the work of a contemporary Japanese ceramicist to inspire vibrant paintings in a variety of materials. The children then used their own art to design ceramic vessels.

Clay 'Portrait' Miniatures by Sharon Gale

__Portrait miniatures are small painted images, usually of monarchs and very wealthy, important people. Dating back to the 1520s, these tiny portraiture paintings are like medals, but with realistic colour. This two stage clay and painting resource is very versatile because essentially the miniatures are blank canvasses.

Clay Slab Work by Andy Cairns

__This resource explores how to make an armature and use clay slab to build a form. Based upon the legend of "Black Shuck", a ghostly dog that roams the coast searching for its drowned masters, this project engaged the children and resulted in charismatic sculptures, but you could equally transfer the activity to other themes.

Fruit-Inspired Clay Tiles By Rachel Dormor



__Ceramicist Rachel Dormor shares a workshop idea suitable for primary or secondary aged children. Working in clay, pupils take their inspiration from drawings of fruit to make decorative clay tiles.

Fruit Pinch Pot Project By Rachel Dormor



__Ceramicist Rachel Dormor shares a workshop idea suitable for primary or secondary aged children. Working in clay, pupils take their inspiration from drawings of fruit to make simple pinch pot mugs.

From Key Stage Three and Beyond

Chimera Drawings into Beautiful Terracotta Tiles By Eleanor Somerset



__Sgraffito, or 'scratching' is a technique which is an excellent way to reinforce mark making with all age groups.

Drawing into leather hard red clay tiles to create designs using mark-making can be even more effective when done through a white earthernware slip to reveal the red clay beneath.

Exploring Materials: Clay and Water by Sheila Ceccarelli



___Sheila asked teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class when the last time was that they had played with clay?

Arts and Minds: Manipulating Clay with Water by Sheila Ceccarelli

_This post shows how to facilitate a sensory session exploring water and clay — by Sheila Ceccarelli (artist) and Yael Pilowsky Bankirer (Psychotherapist) for Arts and Minds.

Painted Clay by Melissa Pierce Murray

__This post was inspired by the Japanese art of dorondongo, where mud and dirt are shaped and buffed into highly polished spheres. We made clay spheres and other simple forms in clay, and once dry, painted them with ink and acrylic.

Exploring Portraits with Eleanor Somerset



_In this resource artist, Eleanor

Somerset shows how she led students in The Little Art Studio, Sheffield, to explore and discover portraiture through various media.

Introducing Sgraffito using a Coloured Clay Slip on a Terracotta Tile By Eleanor Somerset

__Further explore how to make beautiful sgraffito, or 'scratched drawings' with artist Eleanor Somerset.

From Bones and Body to Structure and Form By Melissa Pierce Murray



_Artist Melissa Pierce Murray worked with teenagers from AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class on a series of workshops which physically explored drawing and sculptural responses to form, forces and anatomy.

Simple Clay Moulds by Melissa Pierce Murray



_In this post, artist Melissa Pierce Murray, shows, step-by-step, how young teenagers explored plaster casting by making simple clay 'waste moulds' and then moved on to making simple 'two piece moulds'.

Casting a Negative Space in Plaster with Sculptor Rachel Wooller



_Resident artist at ArtWorks Studios, Cambridge, Rachel Wooller, introduces teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class to the process of casting and creating negative shapes in plaster from clay positives.

Rowan: Clay Coiling Techniques to Make Penguins, Tweety Pie and a Dalek too! by Abi Moore and Sarah Nibbs



_Abi, Sarah and students at Rowan Humberstone, show how they made clay birds using clay coiling techniques and with a plaster mould for the birds' bases.

Rowan: Making a Clay Bird from a Mould by Abi Moore and Sarah Nibbs



__Abi and students from Rowan Humberstone, describe how they made clay birds from a plaster mould.

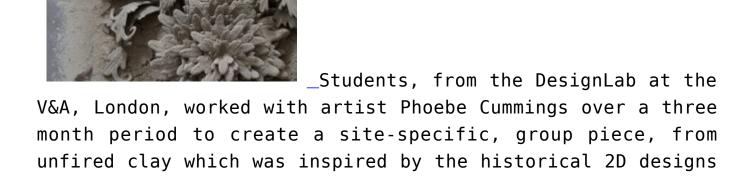
Modelling The Head in Clay by Melissa Pierce Murray



_Artist Melissa Pierce Murray led a

series of workshops for AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class in which the teenagers modelled a head in clay. There are five resources in this series, beginning with constructing an armature and making preparatory drawings, then studying the bone structure of the skull before moving on to features. The final post in this series looks at ways to increase the techniques and approaches used in drawing.

Design Lab: Phoebe Cummings at the V&A



found on 19th century British tableware in the collection.

Inspired! Psyche's Resilience by The Fitzy Peters

Natalie Bailey shares the pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as well as her reflections on the transformative impact that the project had on the children and how Art can support healing and wellbeing.

Life Drawing Class: Visual Impressions

Research: Life Drawing & Adolescents

Inspired! 'The Tree' by Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School

In this post, Pamela Stewart shares the submission by Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire for Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche by Year One and Two pupils in 'Owl Class'.

It shares the pupils' Inspire journey and all that they learned in response to looking at the Renaissance painting at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Ofsted are Coming Tomorrow!

Sue Brown shares her experience of an Ofsted inspection with an Art Deep Dive.

Walking and Drawing

Foreshortened Sketches

Cupid and Psyche: How a Fifteenth-Century Renaissance Panel Became the Most Loved Painting in Cambridgeshire

Sheila Ceccarelli tells the story of how Cupid and Psyche, painted by Jacopo Del Sellaio, an Italian Renaissance artist, came to become the most loved painting in Cambridgeshire. Inspire is an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrates the creativity of our local schools. It champions the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for children and young people. A chance also to see Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche on display next to the

The Story of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo del Sellaio (1442 — 1493)

In this post, Kate Noble, Education Officer at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge shares the story of Cupid and Psyche as depicted in the 15th Century painting by Jacopo Del Sellaio. This is one of a series of posts from Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Mini World Light Boxes

Teacher Anna Campbell shares this beautiful resource which shares how children aged between 4 and 7 years old, made 'Light' boxes. This project could easily be adapted for an older class and is brilliant for SEN children/adults.

Wall Drawings with Tape

Painted Clay

A resource inspired by the Japanese art of dorondongo, where mud and dirt are shaped and buffed into highly polished spheres.

Classical Inks

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.