

Tiny Art Schools: Art School Ilkley Part One

By [Sarah and John Gamble](#)

AccessArt is creating a body of work to explore, celebrate and promote the notion of “[Tiny Art Schools](#)” across the UK. [In this series](#) of case studies, we’ll be sharing how artist educators work with their audiences, using community centres, village halls, and private studio spaces as art education labs, to build creative and economic communities of all sizes. We’ll explore how the tiny art school concept can be both a viable business model for the artist educator and help inform a ground-up, inclusive and diverse re-thinking of the purpose and value of art education for all today.

In this first post within a [series of three](#), we interview Sarah and John Gamble, who run [Art School Ilkley](#), an independent art school based in Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Starting in 2016, John and Sarah now run ten classes a week, teaching across ages, from young artists to adults. With a focus on inclusivity and experimentation, they provide a space where people can meet and be led on a personal artistic journey.

In this series, John and Sarah discuss how the school came about, their journey as artist educators, and a unique approach that makes Art School Ilkley a cherished part of the community.

In this first post, John and Sarah discuss why they wanted to start their own Tiny Art School and how they began in 2016.

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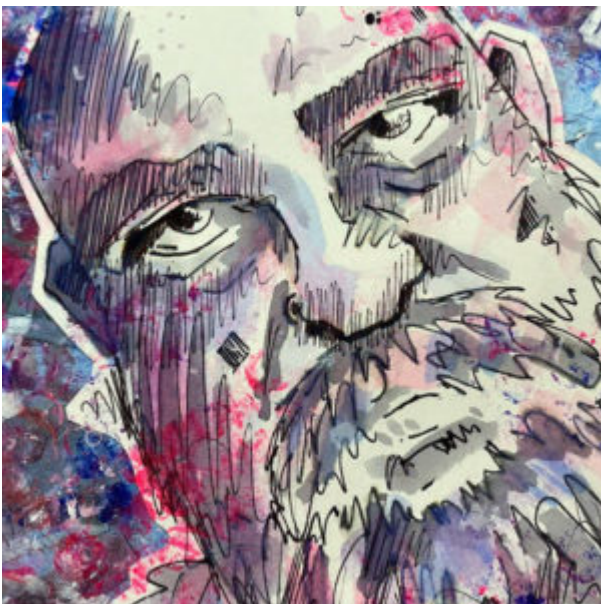
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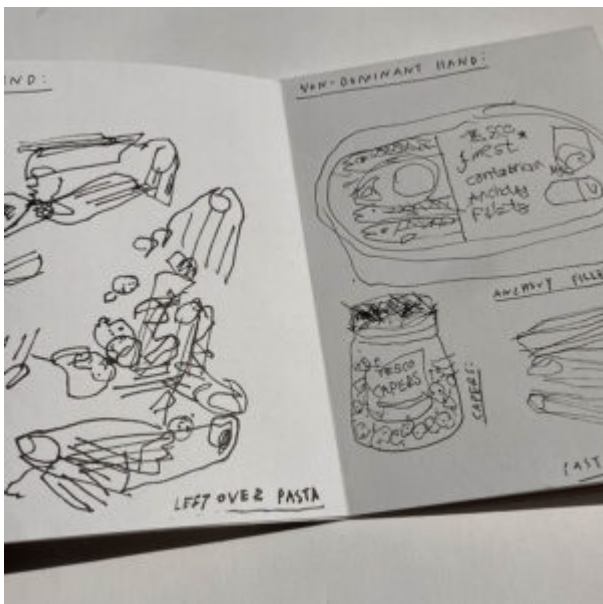
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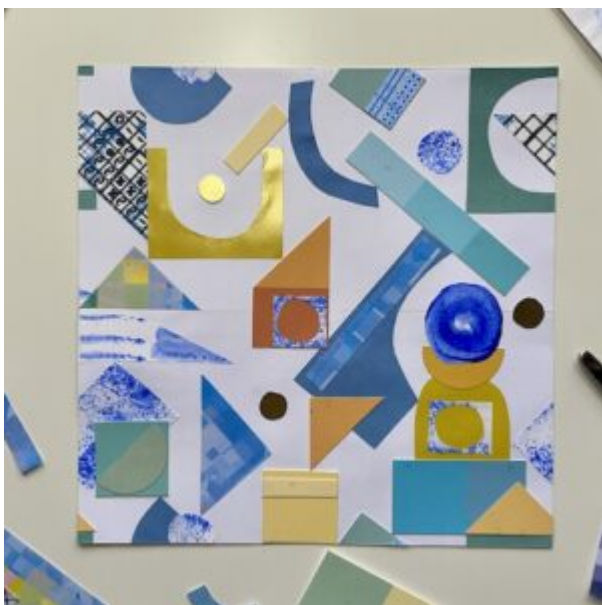
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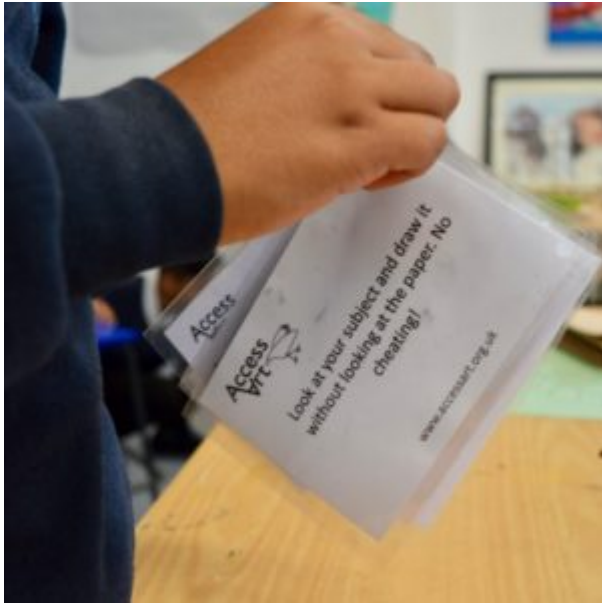
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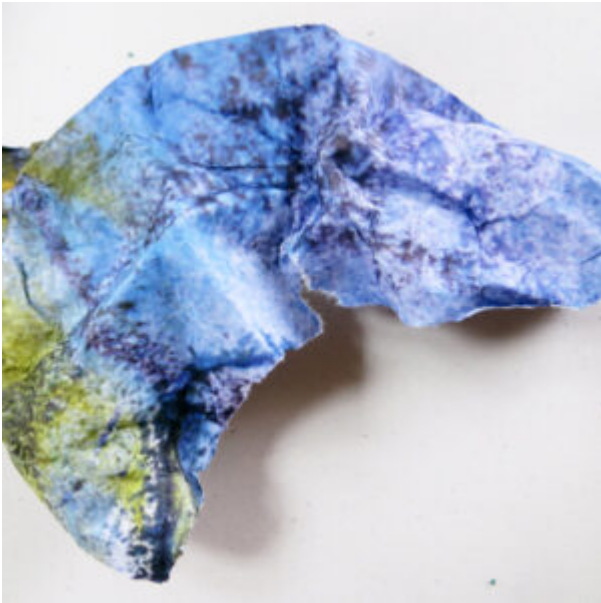
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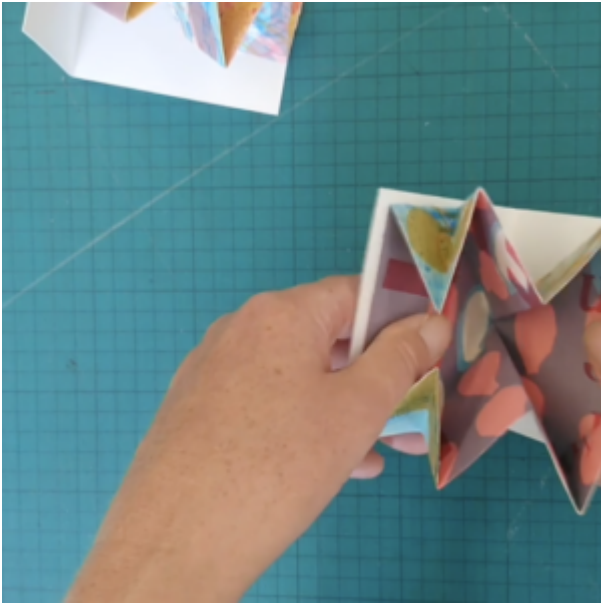
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"I really like how Yu-Ching's process combines hand-drawing and painting, before moving across to digital. Combining those processes ensures that the illustrations retain a very warm, tactile look to them, but the digital element refines the imagery. We really like what Yu-Ching says about the benefits of silent books being universally understood and feel that the benefits and challenges of not using words means that the imagery has to be really clear, which encourages lots of exciting creative problem-solving." – Tobi, AccessArt

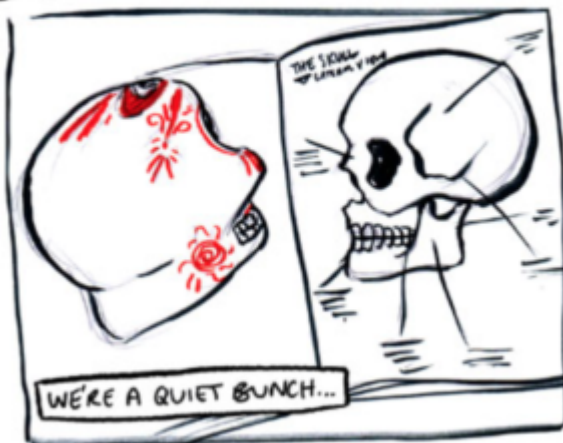
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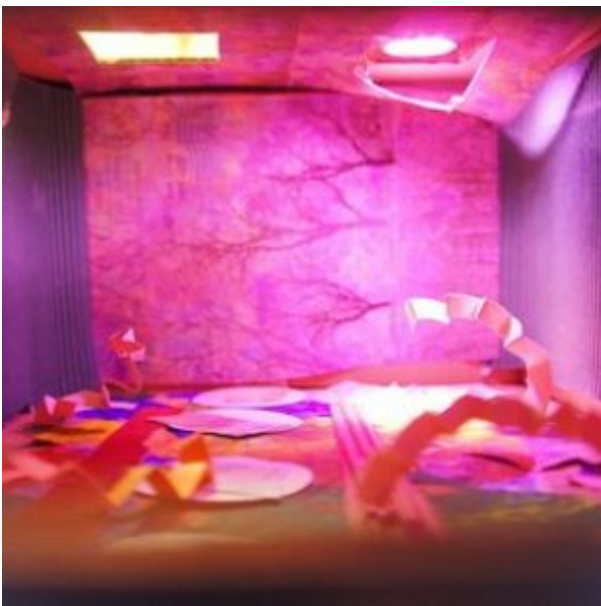
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