

# 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 6 children.



Detail.

The children had been studying Ancient Egypt as their class topic, and I had taken in a number of objects which somehow captured a sense of Egyptian colour and texture. It was important for me that the children did not create pastiches of Egyptian art, instead I wanted them to work from a subject matter which was relevant to them too, whilst gaining an

understanding of how Egyptians used relief on many external walls.

My aim was to enable the children to explore the casting process (rather than carve as the Egyptians did) to create a simple relief, inspired by a richness of forms and colour. The Egyptians used sunken-relief (the image is made by cutting the relief sculpture itself into a flat surface) and the bright sunlight would further enhance the illusion of depth created. As the children made their reliefs, I wanted to give them an opportunity to experience negative and positive, to enjoy the process of creating an object from a space (making a mould, taking a cast), explore the different but complementary qualities of clay and plaster, and finally explore colour by painting the finished relief.

### To Begin:

---

	<b>Please log in here to access full content.</b>
Username	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
	<input type="button" value="Login"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remember me
	<a href="#">Forgot Password</a>

**To access all content, I would like to join as...**

**An Individual**



Creative practitioners, educators, teachers, parents, learners...

[From £3.50](#)

**An Organisation...**



Schools, Colleges, Arts Organisations: Single and Multi-Users  
From £42

*AccessArt is a UK Charity and we believe everyone has the right to be creative. AccessArt provides inspiration to help us all reach our creative potential.*

---

---

# **Drawing as Support Activity**

---

**Detached and Timeless  
Painting Workshop by Sara  
Dudman**

---

**Making an Urban Landscape  
Painting by James Nairne**

---

**Making Drawings using a  
Lightbox**

---

**Literacy Boost Project: James  
& the Giant Peach Garden by  
Cordelia Spalding**

# You Might Also like...

**Pathway: Telling Stories through drawing and making**



[This is featured in the 'Drawing Stories Through Drawing and Making' pathway](#)

---

## **Design Lab: Phoebe Cummings at the V&A**

Students, from the DesignLab at the V&A, London, worked with artist Phoebe Cummings over a three month period to create a site-specific, group piece, from unfired clay which was inspired by the historical 2D designs found on 19th century British tableware in the collection.

---

## **5 Exercises by Henry Ward**

---

**Using Sketchbooks to Inform  
Larger Work**

---

**Building Stories by June  
Nelson**

---

**Painting on Glass**

---

**Shoe La-la Project by Lala  
Thorpe**

---

# **Sketching from a Source and Using Photocopies to Develop a Sketchbook Approach**

---

## **Shrinkle Spaces**

---

## **Making Sensory Drawings by Gillian Adair McFarland**

### **You May Also Like...**

**Pathway: Exploring pattern**



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

**Talking points: Shaheen Ahmed**



**talking points: Louise Despont**



---

## **The Cardboard Project by Andee Collard**

### **You May Also Like....**

**Visual Arts Planning Collections:  
Cardboard and paper**



## **CARDBOARD ENGINEERING CHALLENGE**



---

**Page to Panel – How to Make  
Manga by Irina Richards**

---

# Creating Decorative Designs From Birds: Mark Making, Texture and Pattern by Andrea Butler

## You May Also Like...

Pathway: Making Birds



[Featured in the 'Making Birds Pathway'](#)

Talking Points: Inspired by Birds



---

**Quick Clay Figurative  
Sketches**

**See This Resource Used In  
Schools...**





## You May Also Like...

Pathway: The Art of Display



[This is featured in the 'The Art of Display' pathway](#)

talking points: What is a plinth



**talking points: Thomas J Price**



---

**Making Big Monotypes with  
Sheila Ceccarelli**