

Green Thumbs

By [Mostyn de Beer](#)

Mostyn de Beer is an experienced artist educator based in Sweden. Mostyn is especially interested in environmental art; his practise investigates links between creating art and environmental education. In this post Mostyn shares a recent project he facilitated with the aim of connecting children to gardening through art.

If you missed other posts in the series, you can find them [here](#).



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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.

Which Artists: Andrew Amondson

Which Artists: Tatyana Antoun

What We Like About This Resource...

“The research phase of a creative project can be presented in many different ways, and can even be an art form in itself. Here, Tatyana demonstrates how her sketchbooks became a medium through which she expressed her thoughts, refined her ideas and explored materials. We believe sketchbooks to be a powerful tool for children to take ownership of their ideas and travel on their own creative journey, without necessarily knowing the destination. Take a look at our [sketchbook journey](#) for more sketchbook inspiration” – Rachel, AccessArt.

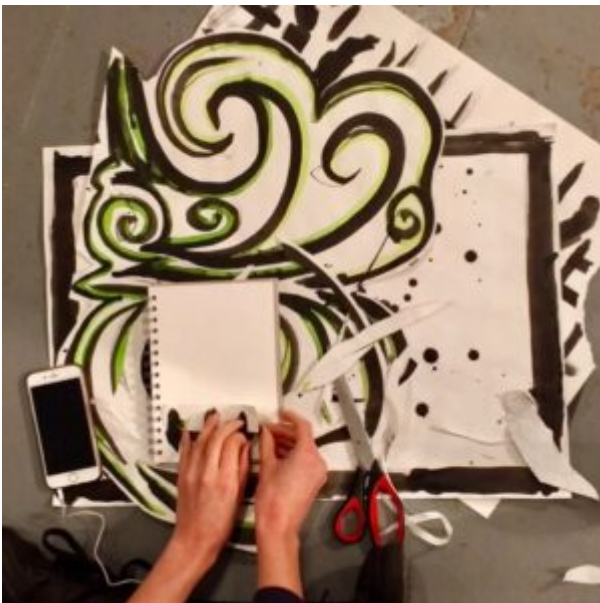
You Might Also Like...



Sketchbooks and Thinking Skills



Sketchbooks for Designers – an Introduction for Children



Using Sketchbooks to Take Ownership of Ideas

Which Artists: Merlin Evans

What We Love About This Resource...

So often, we hear talk of the distinction between science and art, and no more so when teenagers proceed through their education and they are encouraged to choose one route or another. In reality, creative thinking helps scientific understanding and a scientific approach can inform and inspire art.

It's so refreshing to read and see Merlin's experience and understand how she works between these two areas – in her words *“mixing subjects, and seeing how they work and intersect is where inventions take place!”*

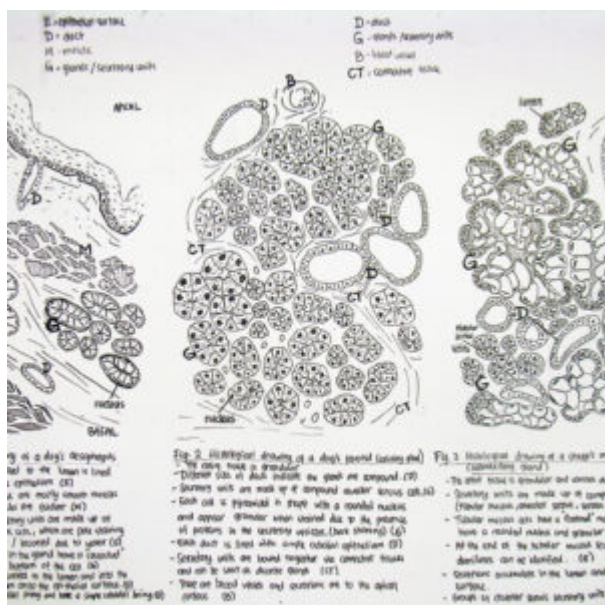
We also love the way her work embraces the *felt* world of being human, as well as the *known* world. We're sure many young people will find Merlin's work of interest and reassuring when they are pressured to choose *“art or science”*.

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See This Resource Used In Schools...

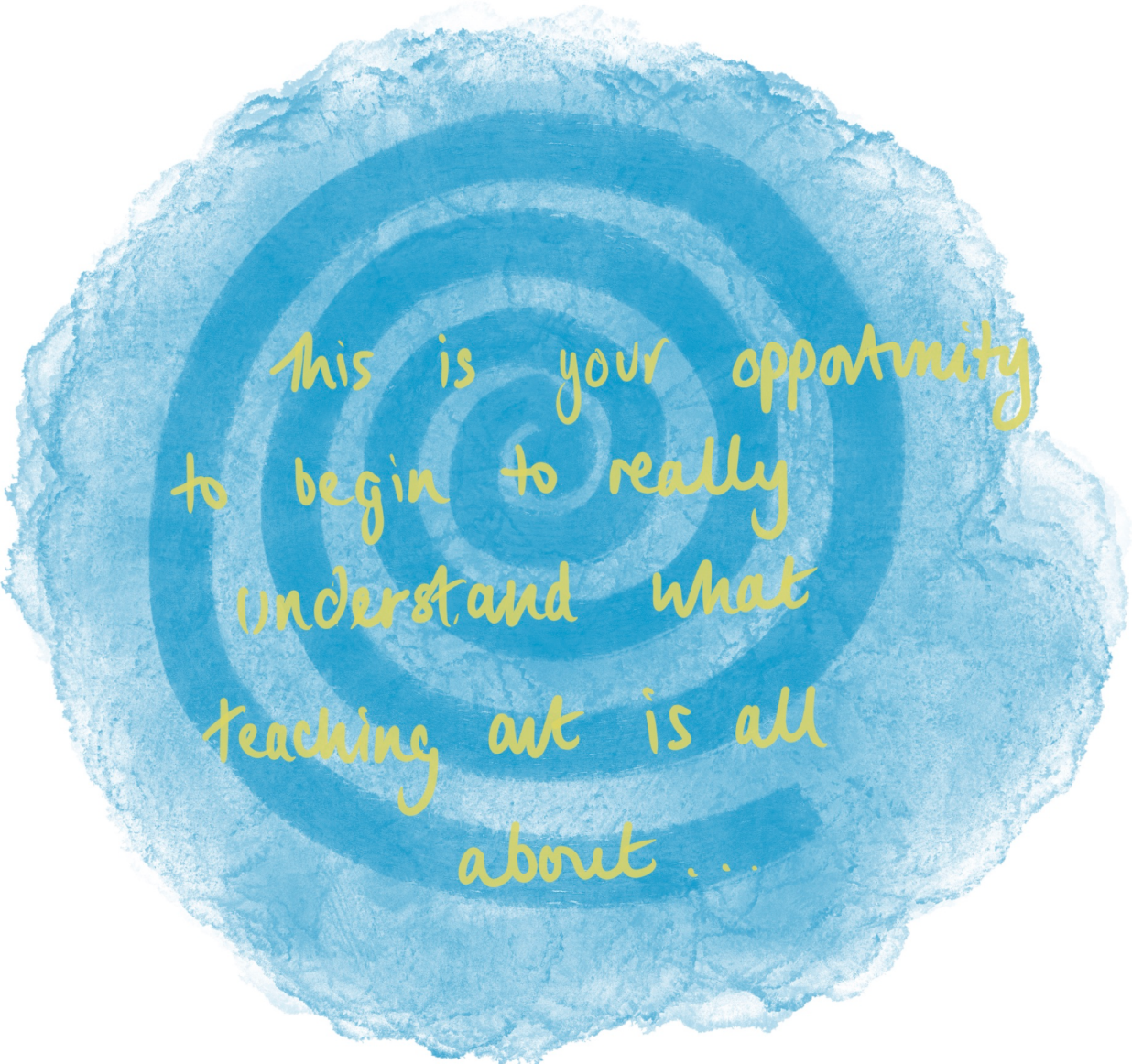






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this is your opportunity
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understand what
teaching art is all
about ...

Rethinking our Approach to Assessment & Progression in Primary School

The words “assessment” and “progression” have become very loaded in recent times, and there is increasing pressure on

teachers to treat art like other curriculum areas. The reality is art is a unique subject and if we are to truly enable creativity in schools then we need to rethink our approach to assessment and progression. [Read More](#)

**How Do We Look At
Contemporary Sculpture:
Meg Klosterman**

**Creating Repeat
Patterns With Rachel**

Parker

What We Like About This Resource...

“This is a great activity for really tuning into colour and shape. The process is ultimately quite a refined one (ie making a pattern balanced and repeated ‘correctly’) – but there’s plenty of scope for exploring pattern in a more experiential way prior to the refinement page. Try one of the recommended resources below to introduce pattern and begin with some open ended activities to build skill and confidence.” – Andrea, AccessArt

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Pathway: Exploring pattern



This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway

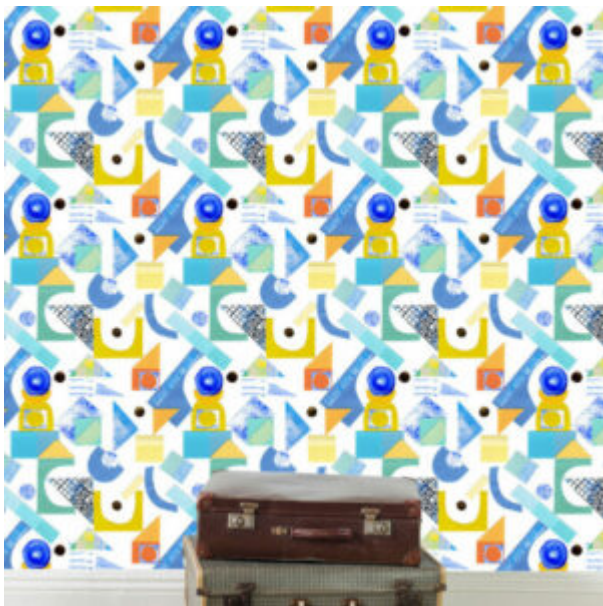
Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



Inspired by Rachel Parker



**Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape
and Texture**



Block Printing Repeat Patterns



AccessArt's

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Cards for Making

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Pathway: Music and art



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Pathway: Playful Making



[This resource is features in the 'Playful Making' pathway](#)

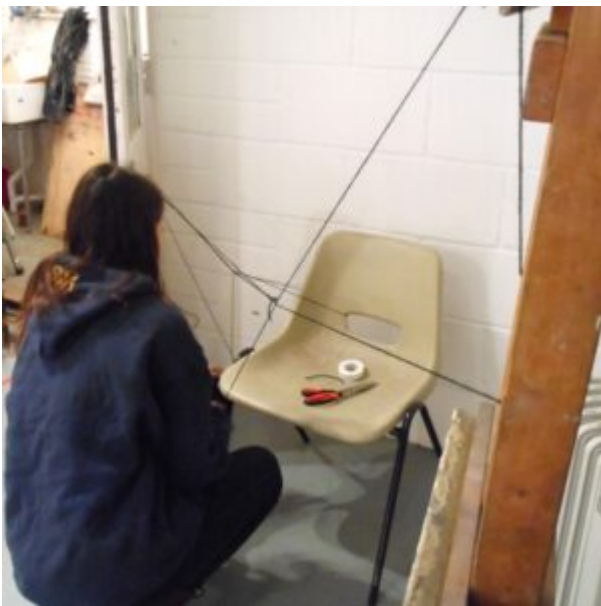
Manipulating Paper



Cardboard Sculptures



The Chair and Me



Still

Life

Compositions: Inspired by Cezanne

What We Like About This Resource...

“This activity walks through a number of different processes and taps into multiple skills. This provides a rich exploratory project for children to fully immerse themselves in. Cezanne was the focus artist for this project, but other contemporary still life painters could be used as starter inspiration. We actually advocate showing the work of more than one artist as this builds knowledge of how approaches to painting, drawing etc differ. This also helps children move towards a personal response rather than creating a ‘copy’ of one particular artist’s work” – Rachel, AccessArt

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Pathway: Exploring Still Life



[This is featured in the 'Explore Still Life' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Paul Cezanne



talking points: Contemporary still life



talking points: Flemish and Dutch Still Life Painters



Remembrance Day Peg Soldiers

What We Like About This Resource....

“It’s great to see a different approach to thinking about remembrance day. These peg soldiers are a refreshing alternative to artwork inspired by poppies. The processes involved encourage children to focus on fine motor skills: wrapping embroidery thread around the peg and creating small detailed clothes and helmets. These dolls look particularly effective when standing as a collection and would make a poignant alternative to a standard display board” – Rachel, AccessArt

See This Resource Used In Schools...



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An Exploration of Paul Nash



For Remembrance Day



World War 1 Mail Art

Make First

Making A Banner At Woking College

What We Like About This Resource...

Working collaboratively towards a shared aim provides an alternative experience to working on individual projects. Creating together encourages listening, peer feedback and creative problem solving – all of which are hugely valuable in all areas of education” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

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Outdoor Art In Urban Gardens

Wish List
