

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

By [Eilis Hanson](#).

Eilis Hanson is a primary school teacher who loves to get art into the curriculum, wherever and whenever she can! She has a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Newcastle University and studied at Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna during her third year there. More recently, she has studied watercolour painting in Verona. Eilis has taught children in Indonesia, Japan and Italy and now lives and works in Cambridge. She has exhibited sculptures, prints and installations in Newcastle, Vienna and Istanbul.



In response to the National Gallery's *Take One Picture* initiative, our school chose to spend a week focusing on Joseph Wright 'of Derby's dramatic painting [*An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump* \(1768\)](#). After discussing and exploring

the painting in assemblies, each class was set the challenge of responding through art and literacy. The Year Two children were particularly interested in the cockatiel in the painting. Having learnt about the artist's dramatic use of chiaroscuro, the use of strong contrasts between light and dark, they had a go themselves using black pastels and rubbers to create their own tactile drawings of cockatiels.

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Thinking Silhouettes

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.

Anthropomorphic Paintings

Animal

This painting activity looks at giving human characteristics to animals. Anthropomorphism is making something which is not human, more human like for e.g Miss Piggy, Mickey Mouse and the characters created by Beatrix Potter. This activity was inspired by the paintings of two contemporary artists who use anthropomorphism in their work, Ken Hoffman and Svjetlan Junakovic.

Decorative Clay Coil Pots

Artist educator Sharon Gale working with KS1 & KS2 students at the Weston Park Art Club shares a clay pot making resource: "This 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".

‘Painting’ with Plasticine

In this resource, students create an A4 plasticine painting on mountboard, in a theme of their choice. The artwork is completed with a painted border using water based paints. This project took six, one hour sessions to complete but if you can't allocate that amount of time, reduce the size of the mountboard to A5 or smaller.

Clay Art Medals

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.

Burton Hathow Ducklings

Newly hatched ducklings are the inspiration for a collection of paintings by Years 2 and 3 at Burton Hathow Preparatory School. Head of Art, Rachel Burch shares the activity.

The Wildflower Meadow

Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils explore simple drawing, collaging and painting techniques to create beautiful artworks inspired by a summer meadow.

Clay 'Portrait' Miniatures

This two stage clay and painting resource by artist/educator Sharon Gale is very versatile because essentially the miniatures are blank canvasses. In this particular workshop, the subject matter had to link with KS2 Geography and the topic of rivers. Students were asked to research their favourite creature or plant, that made the British riverside its home. They made their miniatures from clay and painted their chosen wildlife onto them.

David Parr House – “What’s Your Space?”

In celebration of the opening of David Parr House in Cambridge, this resource aims to inspire children aged 8 to 12 to explore design.

Painting A Rainbow Forest

Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils paint their own large scale, colourful forest inspired by AccessArt's resource 'Painting A Bluebell Forest'. Rachel shares her process in this resource.

Inspire: Teachers

This post is based on CPD (Continued Professional Development) sessions in February and March 2019, hosted and delivered by the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge in collaboration with AccessArt, for Cambridgeshire teachers participating in Inspire 2020 Project.

Graffiti With Teens

In this class teenagers work with Melissa Pierce Murray and take inspiration from the motivations and methods of Graffiti artists.

Tall Skinny

Teenagers working with Melissa Pierce Murray used thin wire to make works with a strong presence. They began by looking at

examples of works by two contemporary women artists including Phyllida Barlow and Rebecca Warren.

Layers

Teenagers draw on layers of acetate to make a palimpsest with Melissa Pierce Murray.