

An Exploration of Artwork by Shepard Fairey

By Paula Briggs

This resource explores aspects of Fairey's work, as shared with teenagers aged 12 and 13.

In particular the resource takes inspiration from Fairey's methods of production and use of imagery to make work which might be defined as propaganda art. [You can see the practical studio session which followed our exploration here](#) and [our resulting outcomes here](#).

***Frank Shepard Fairey** (born February 15, 1970) is an American contemporary street artist, graphic designer, activist, illustrator and founder of [OBEY Clothing](#) who emerged from the skateboarding scene. He first became known for his "[Andre the Giant Has a Posse](#)" (...OBEY...) sticker campaign while attending the [Rhode Island School of Design](#) (RISD).*

#MAKEAMERICASMARTAGAIN



Shephard Fairey

Fairey became widely known during the 2008 U.S. presidential election for his [Barack Obama "Hope" poster](#). The [Institute of](#)

[Contemporary Art, Boston](#) has described him as one of the best known and most influential street artists.^[4] [Wikipedia](#)

Videos Sharing Fairey's Creative Practice

Teenagers were shown the following videos in which Fairey shares aspects of his creative process.

After watching the videos, the group discussed the various stages/actions of Fairey's printmaking process:

- Making a printable surface: collaging papers with history and painting over them
- Creating stencils for use with screen printing or spray paint
- Layering of imagery
- Sanding
- Varnishing

We also discussed his use of symbols or icons and visually strong graphics.

Using the images below as starting points for further discussion, we also briefly talked about:

- What is propaganda art?
- What kinds of visual devices might it rely upon?
- How does Fairey use and limit colour?
- How does he use text within his imagery?



We The People by Shepard Fairey



We The People (detail) by Shepard Fairey



◊ WE THE PEOPLE ◊

DEFEND DIGNITY

We the People by Shepard Fairey

THE BLACK HILLS



The Black Hills by Shepard Fairey

[See how the teenagers went on to define their own "message to the world" here.](#)

<https://obeygiant.com/>

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**Screen Prints Inspired by
Shepard Fairey**

#BeACreativeProducer Workshop with Primary-Aged Children

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Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



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Making Worry Dolls

AccessArt and Mencap have created three great ways for children to make their own worry dolls. This provides children not only with a great opportunity to practice their making skills, but also to create their own very special “friend” who can listen to their fears.

Guided Sessions: Benefits and Practicalities

To Colour...

As part of Sensory Spaces: An Autism Friendly Project, artist, Sarah Evelyn Marsh ran two sessions exploring the theme of colour. What does colour smell like? What does colour feel like?

To Conceal...

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Watercolour Portrait

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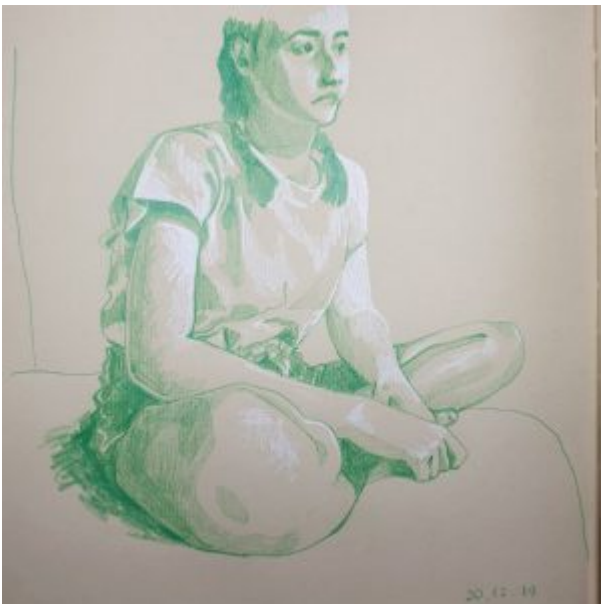
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The Anatomy of a Pencil

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Exploring Casting with Latex

Animal Moulds

Paula Briggs describes how one of her first experiences of understanding the casting process was through the use of latex moulds and fine casting plaster (plaster of Paris) and how exciting it was to reveal the plaster forms!

Animating with Charcoal

World in a Matchbox

Children love working on a miniature scale where they can create worlds which they can control and oversee. AccessArt and Mencap have devised the “World in a Box” activity to enable children plenty of creative freedom resulting in fantastic autobiographical artwork.

Making Finger Puppets

AccessArt and Mencap have got three great ways for you to make finger puppets depending on your time or level of expertise. Starting with a simple print, colour, cut and stick and moving on to a full blown sculptural version, we hope you are inspired to make some puppets and possibly put on a show!