

Working on Black Paper

By [Jan Miller](#)

In this post, Jan talks through a range of painting projects using black paper as a starting point. Beginning with still life plates of fish, the ideas move across age groups and subject matter, providing lots of inspiration for having fun and moving away from white paper.



Introduction

There is a tendency to work on white paper in the classroom. We use white paper sketchbooks for much of our lesson starters and observation drawing so recently, we have been trying final pieces on coloured paper. We have used subtle coloured sugar papers and rich tones of mineral paper, but I've found the darker colours, particularly black, have been most popular. The effect of this black paper is that the colours appear bright and bold. The gaps are not a problem and they do not

have to be filled. Adding texture such as sgraffito is very effective as the black shows well from underneath. Printing with textures creates a bold effect and colourful collage paper works well also.

We have painted on black with several classes recently and all have been successful. This project used Picasso's ceramics of his fish on a plate as our inspiration. The approach to learning and painting was joyful and playful.

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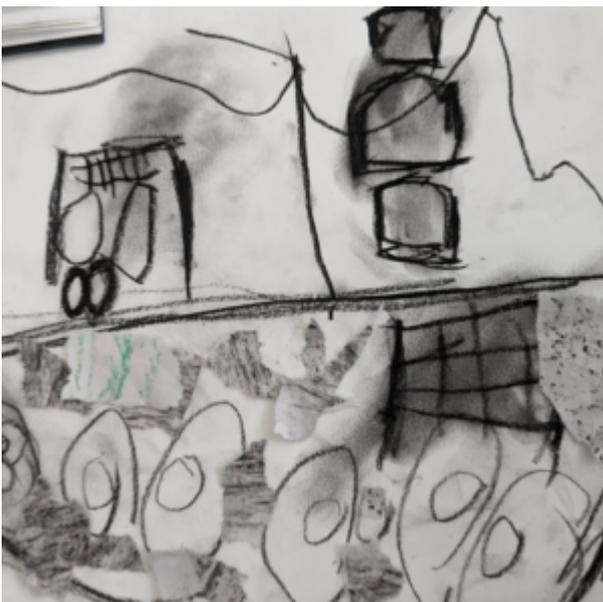


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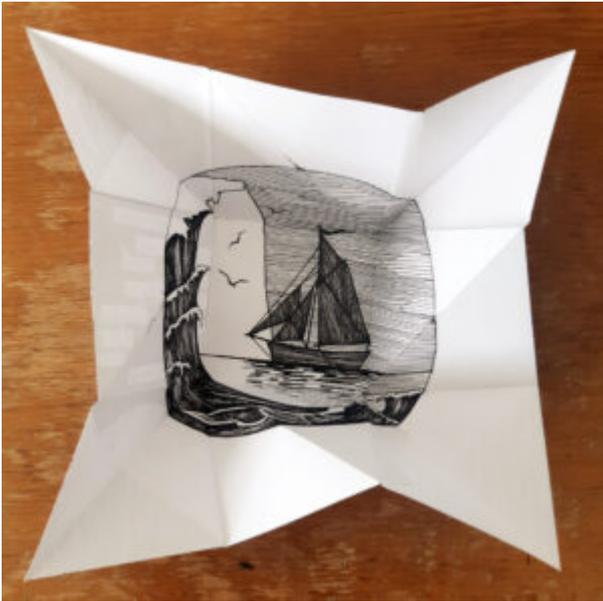
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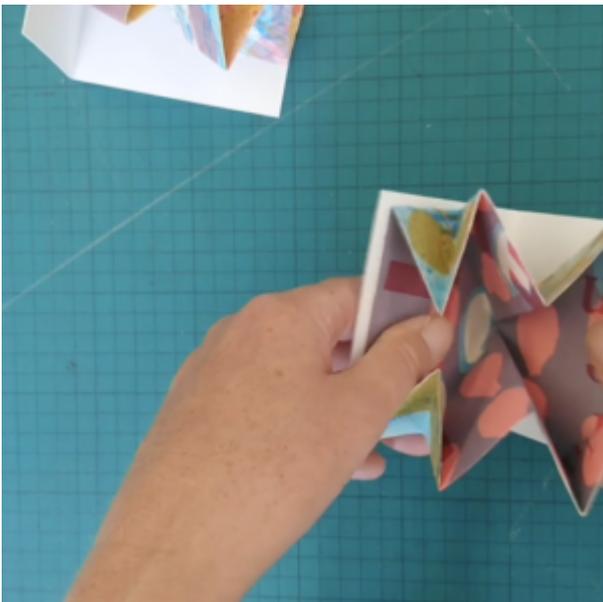
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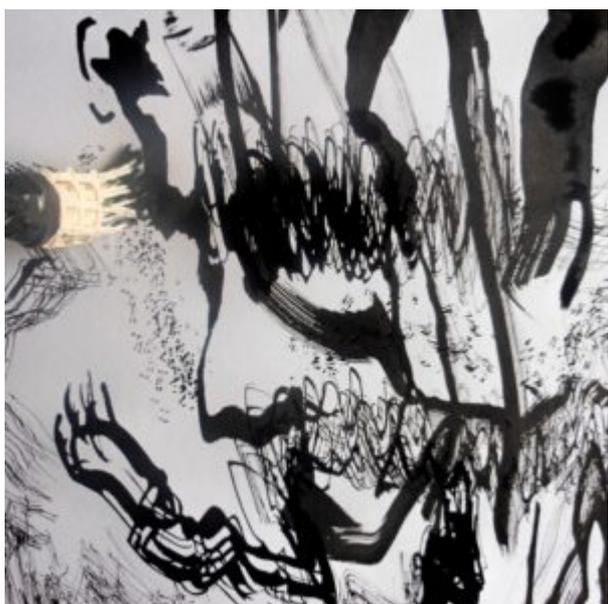
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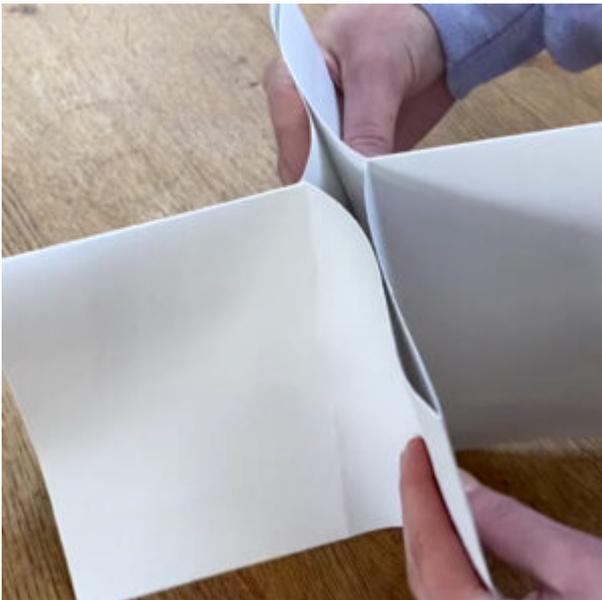
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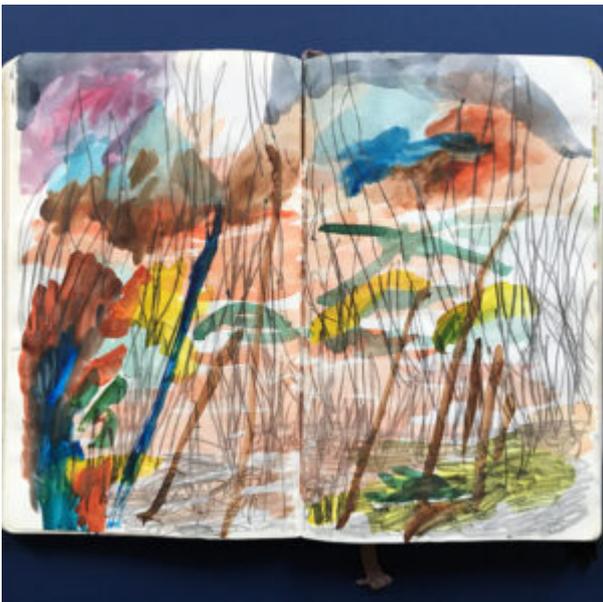
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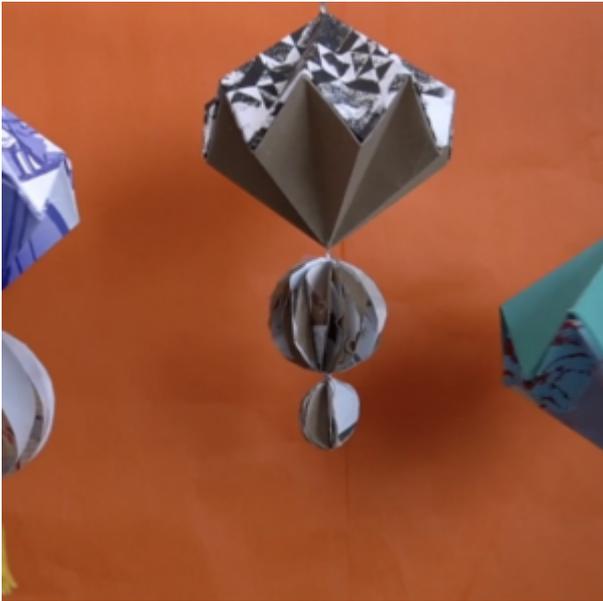
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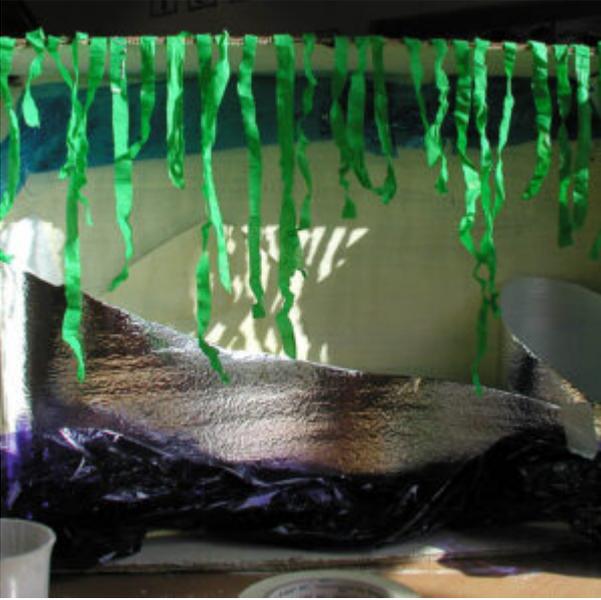
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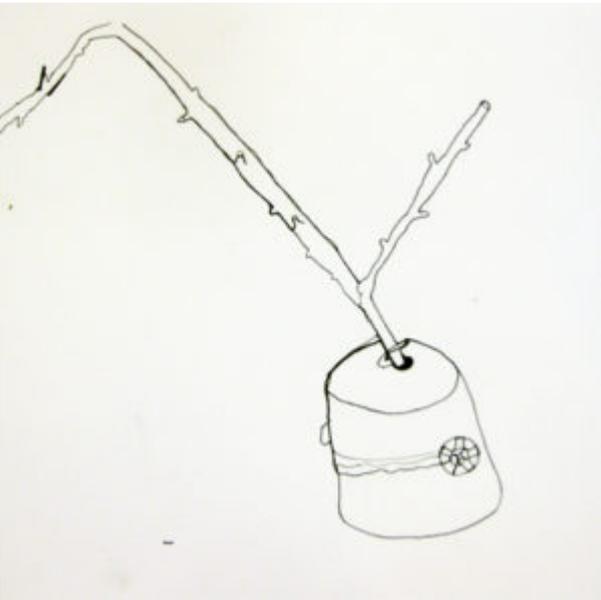
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“I really like how this resource provides lots of interesting and exciting ways for poster paint to be used. It combines observational drawing and painting with more abstract pattern providing a breadth of exploration. Giving learners the opportunity to explore the properties of poster paint as well as seeing how it responds to different materials will help to nurture imaginations as well as providing support for the development of basic skillsets.” – Rachel, AccessArt

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The Blood Bag Project

What We Like About This Resource...

This project combines art and science in innovative and creative ways. It engages children with simple and more complex sewing skills, both hand and machine. The fact that a local artist collaborated on this project, bringing her own set of skills and experience is so valuable for any extended art project, and the children were able to connect with the sensitivity of the subject matter and to empathise with it's message.

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