

Charcoal Cave

By [Rachel Thompson](#)



In this post, AccessArt team member and Artist Rachel Thompson shows how to manipulate charcoal-marked paper to create a cave-like space in a box. The aim of the activity is to explore light, dark and shadows through 3D work. It can also be followed by observing and drawing the light and dark areas created, encouraging children to think about mood and atmosphere when drawing.

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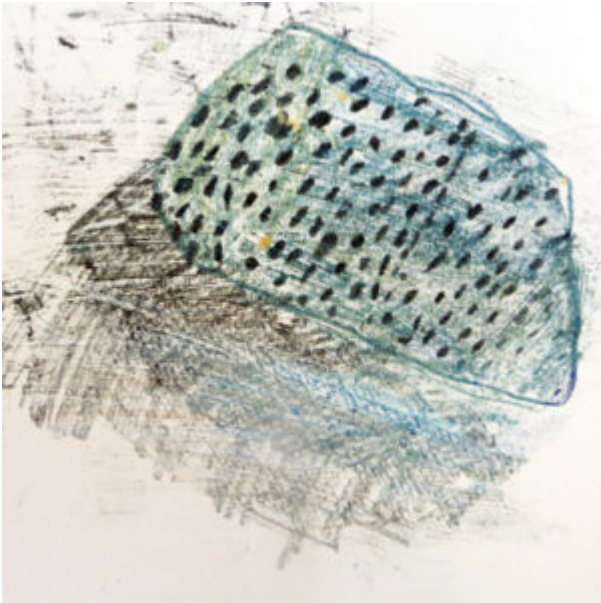
Session Recording: exploring Charcoal



Trace Monotype

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Light-field Monotype

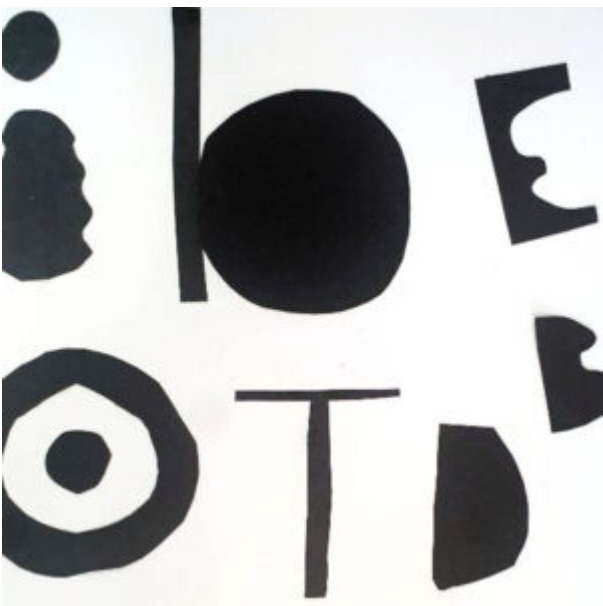
Light-field Monotype with Acrylic Paint

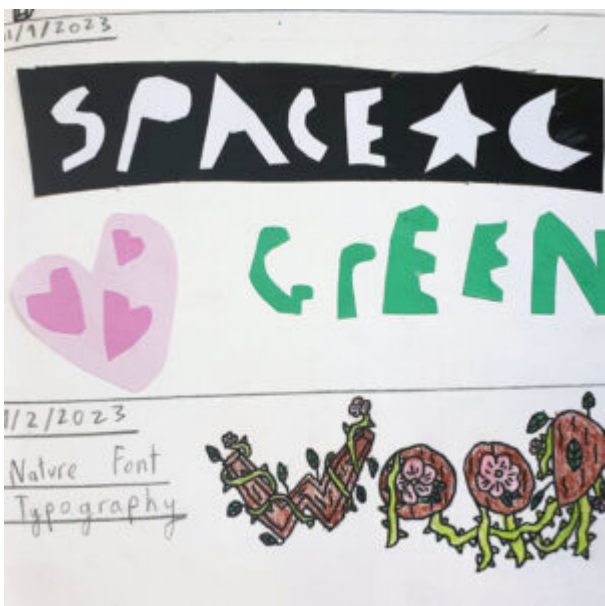
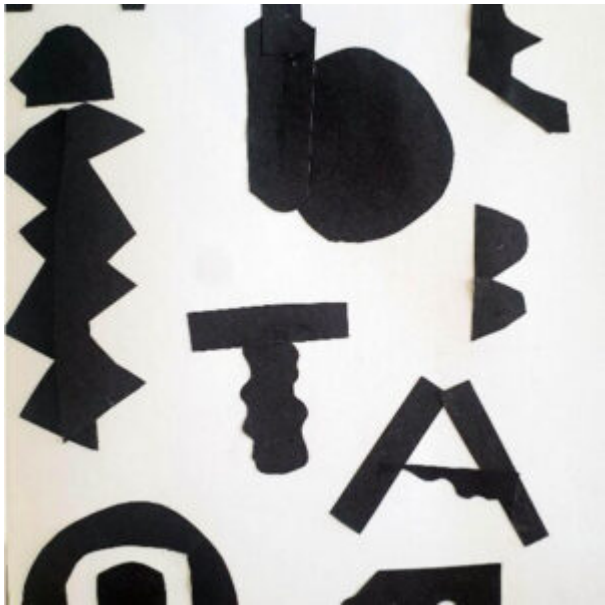
**Dark-Field Monotype:
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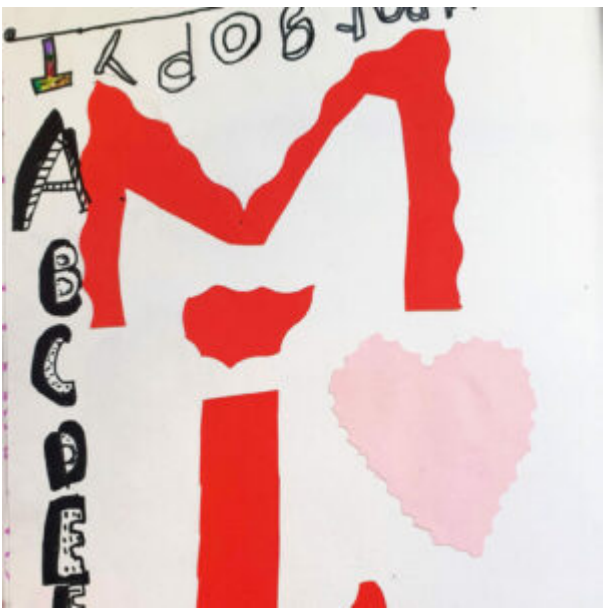
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Introduction to Charcoal

**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.

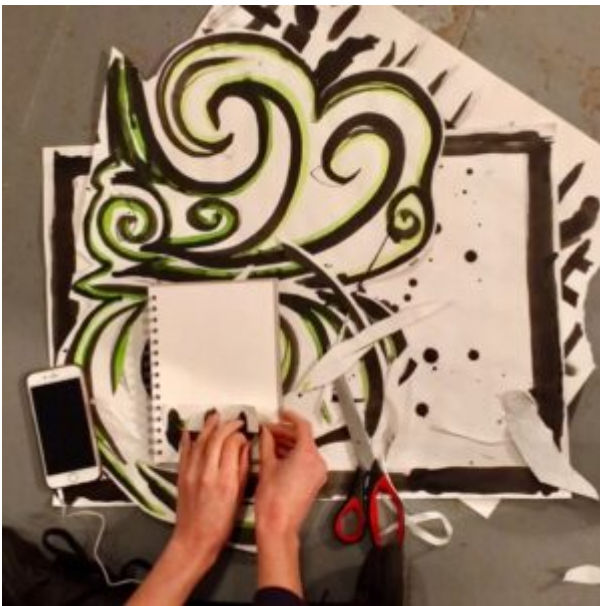
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What We Like About This Resource...

“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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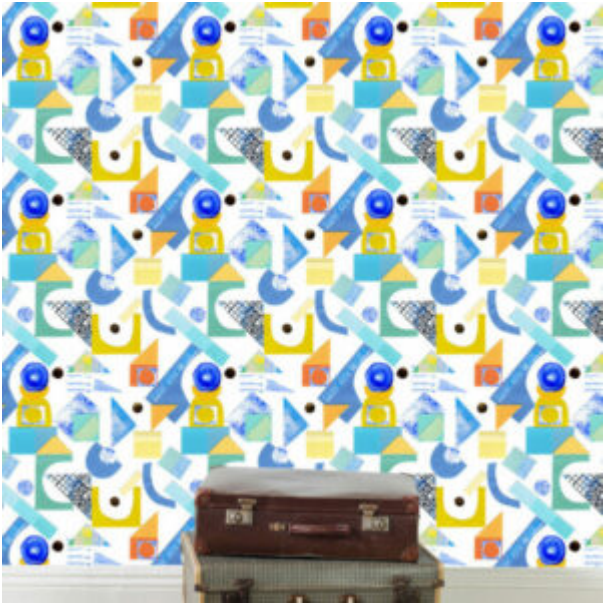
Talking points: Andy Gilmore



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Inspired by Rachel Parker



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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

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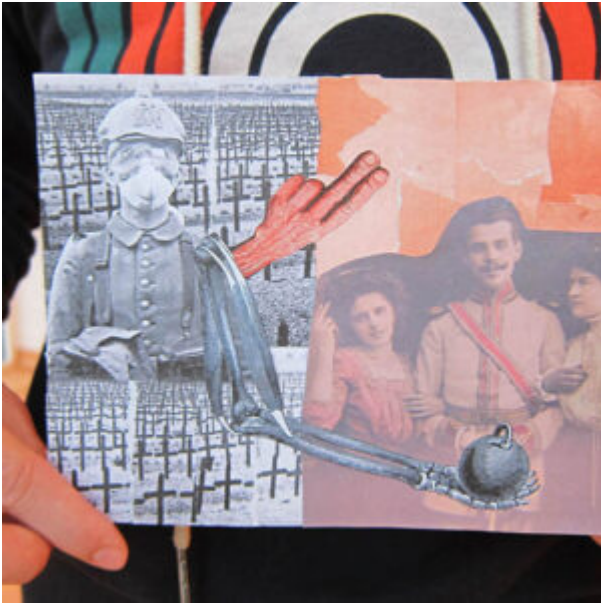
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