

# Expressive Charcoal Collage: Coal Mines

By [Laura McKendry](#)

In this resource, artist Laura McKendry demonstrates different ways to make expressive marks using charcoal, in order to create a collage of a coal mine scene. This resource has been made in response to the exhibition [Drawing in The Dark](#), a curation of [Henry Moore's coal mining drawings](#), inspired by the release of a [new book](#) written by art historian (and AccessArt Trustee), Chris Owen. Henry Moore is best known for his modernist sculptures but in 1942 he spent a week drawing in a Yorkshire coal mine, creating charcoal sketches of miners by the light of his headlamp. It was an experience he described as *"a dense darkness you could touch, the whirring din of the coal-cutting machine, throwing into the air black dust ... all in stifling heat. I have never had a tougher day in my life"*.

By the end of this workshop, students will have explored ways of working expressively and abstractly using charcoal, explored different mark-making processes and have considered contrast in tone, structure, texture and line weight in building an abstract composition portraying the enclosed space of a coal mine.



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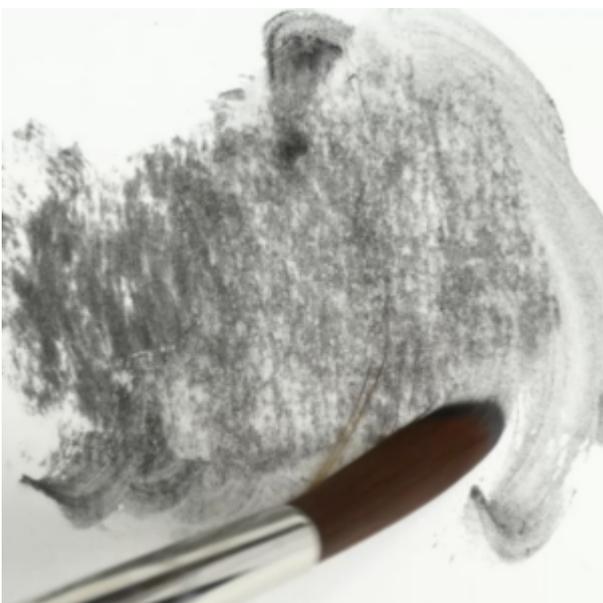


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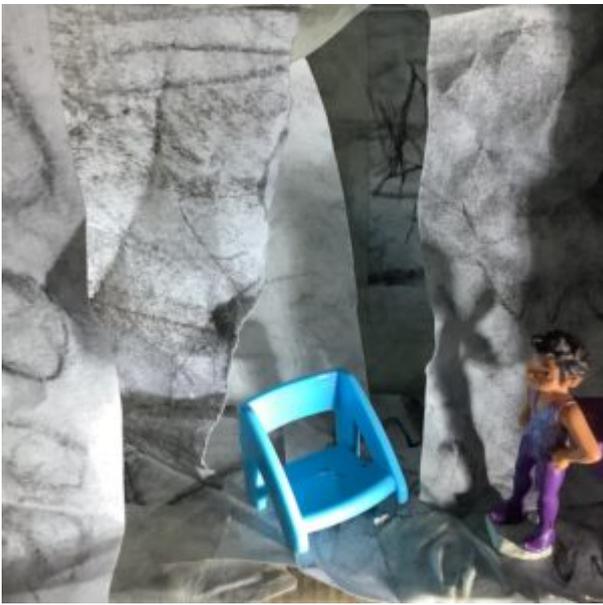
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