

Rainbows and Waves for Grey Days

By [Rachel Thompson](#)



In this table top post, AccessArt team member Rachel Thompson creates two simple rainbow themed art paintings that are designed to say a warm "Hello!" to our friends and neighbours

that we are not currently socialising with but want to stay connected to.

When I read that children and communities in Italy were painting rainbows to stick on their windows as a way to send a positive message to neighbours and loved ones, I wanted to do the same in our community! We live in a small network of streets, where there are lots of families with children all part of the same school and creating something collaborative, yet remote, seemed like an appropriate idea for these strange times.

This activity was run for my reception aged daughter and is more aimed at the EYFS group - but there's no reason older children couldn't enjoy it, and certainly appreciate the concept!

You will need:

- Paper and/or card
- Pencil
- Paints (rainbow colours) and brushes
- Scissors
- Glue

Step one:

Talk about rainbows and how they are formed. Show some pictures of them online and ask the children to observe the colours and formation. Then, ask them to draw a rainbow outline in pencil. Younger children will produce something a little wobbly- but that's fine! Just mention they will need enough space in between the lines to fill it with colour!



Next, choose the colours. This is a good opportunity to talk a bit about colour mixing which is introduced to most reception aged children at school. We mixed red and white to create pink - and red and yellow to create orange.





Once you have all your colours in front of you, it's time to paint the rainbow!



This part is quite good opportunity to simply explain how different strokes can be made with a paintbrush. Young children sometimes have a tenancy to 'scrub' back and forth with a brush, but with a reminder to take their time, to hold the brush firmly nearer its lower end and align brushstrokes in the same direction, they can really begin to learn about brush control and dexterity.



Another useful thing to talk about to extend their learning is how colours look side by side and how complimentary colours work. For example, I encouraged my daughter to not bunch red, orange and pink together and intersperse them with more blue tones.

Once the colours have been added you could offer a choice as to what to fill the background with, such as clouds, sky, patterns, collage. We simply painted ours blue!

Waving rainbow hands

To continue the theme of staying connected with our neighbours

we next moved on to creating a card for a friend featuring waving rainbow hands. This is a great opportunity to encourage some more messy work and the feeling of paint on our hands!

Using the same paints mixed up for the rainbow, begin painting rainbow stripes across your hand.





Place the hand onto a fresh piece of thick paper or card.



Make one, or a patter of hand prints.



You can invite children to paint your hand too!



When the hand prints are dry, draw around the outline in pencil before cutting them out. Young children may need support with this but good to give them a go!







Next, talk a bit about composition and where the hands could be placed on the backing card to look like they are waving. Then add glue.







We posted our card as a way to say hello to a good school friend and neighbour and we pinned the rainbow painting up in our front window to spread a bit of colour and hope to our neighbours as they pass by. Several other families are doing the same in the area and so we can all feel a sense of connection despite not able to spent time together!





This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

Printed Houses

Inspired! Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights

Year Five teacher, Kirsty Webb, shares her pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and the benefits of having a full immersion into materials and working together as a class on a shared project.

Inspire 2020: Introducing Colour and Egg Tempera on a Gesso Panel

This post shares how egg tempera was used as a medium in the Italian Renaissance and how teachers interpreted the processes involved in the teaching studio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Education Team, as part of the CPD programme for Inspire 2020

Inspired! 'The Tree' by Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School

In this post, Pamela Stewart shares the submission by Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire for Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche by Year One and Two pupils in 'Owl Class'.

It shares the pupils' Inspire journey and all that they learned in response to looking at the Renaissance painting at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Unesco: Celebrating the Power of Making!

Inspired by Paula's recent rousing film, 'It's in Our Hands', artist Jan Miller pulled images together from her own teaching to illustrate the things the children in her classroom do with their hands

Children's Community Project

Flying Minpin Birds

Roald Dahl's The Minpin Birds inspired Arbury school pupils to design and make their own birds for a tiny Minpin to ride upon. Alongside this project, the class drew their own maps of imaginary worlds and imagining themselves as Minpins.

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.

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.

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.