Self Portrait in Acrylic

By Paula Briggs

This post shares the process of 11 year old girl as she paints an acrylic self-portrait for a school project inspired by Renaissance art.

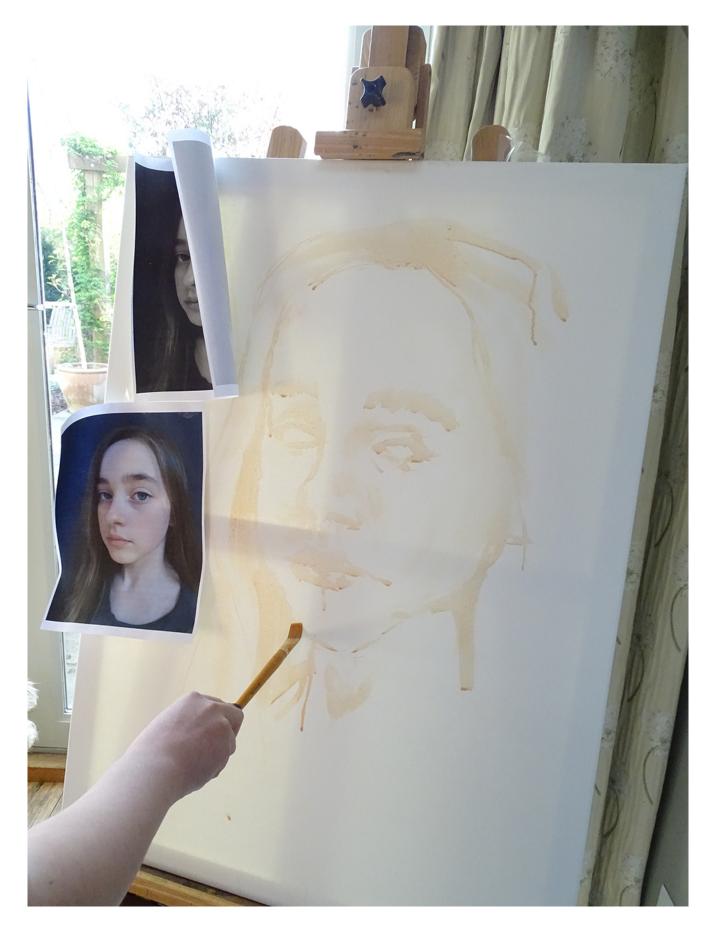


Stage 1: Reference material

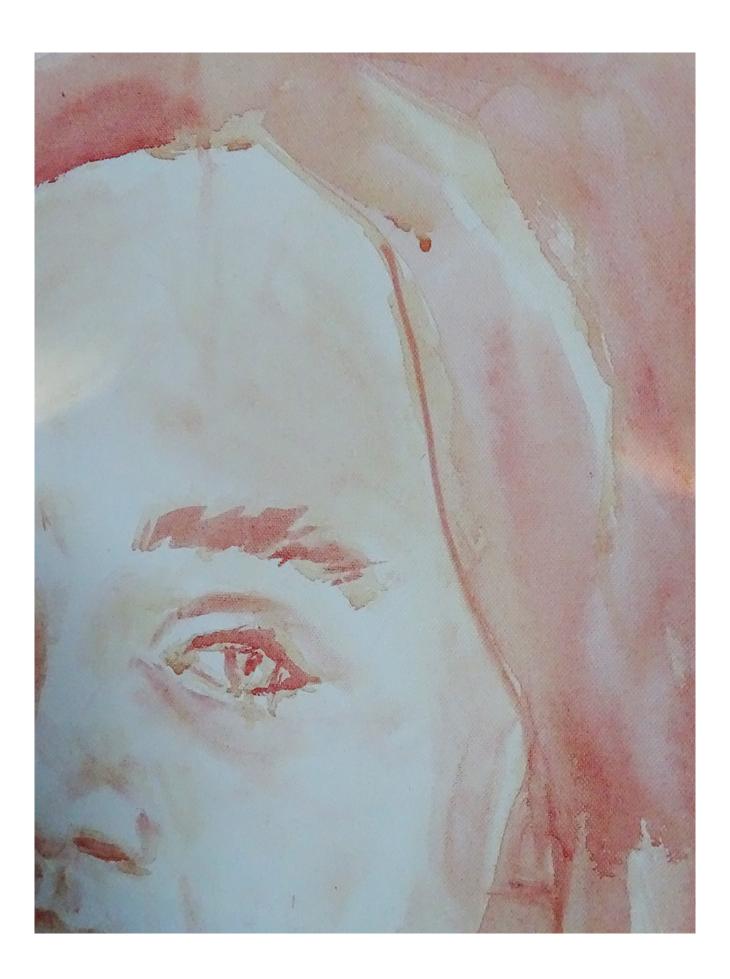
Inspired by the chiaroscuro in many Renaissance paintings, Rowan directed a photogragh of herself against a dark background and wearing simple clothes. In particular she wanted the image to seem timeless, and not to feature elements which would reference a particular age or location.

The chosen photograph was then printed out to use as reference, once in colour and once in black and white which helped see tonal values.

Stage 2: Making a rough sketch in paint



Using watered down acrylic paint in a neutral tone and a long handle brush, Rowan sketched out her main features.





Stage 3: Darkest darks

Rowan knew instinctively she wanted the background to be dark, together with the fabric of her top, and that she would use these two elements to frame her hair and her face. Using Scolaquip acrylic paint (see review below), Rowan mixed a variety of browns and blues to get the background blocked out.

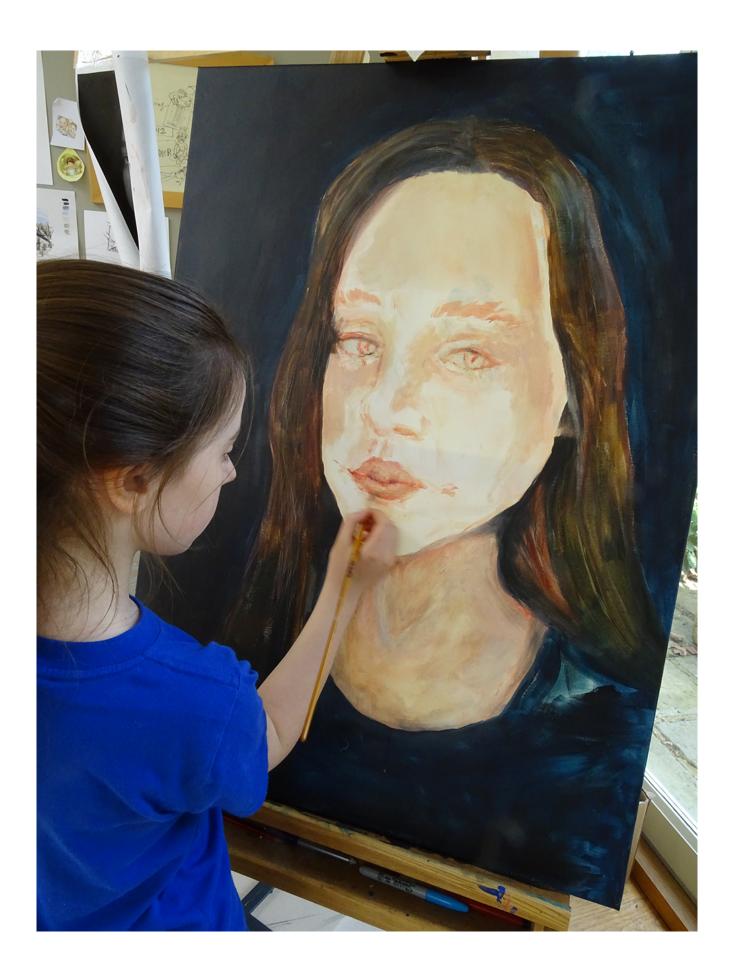


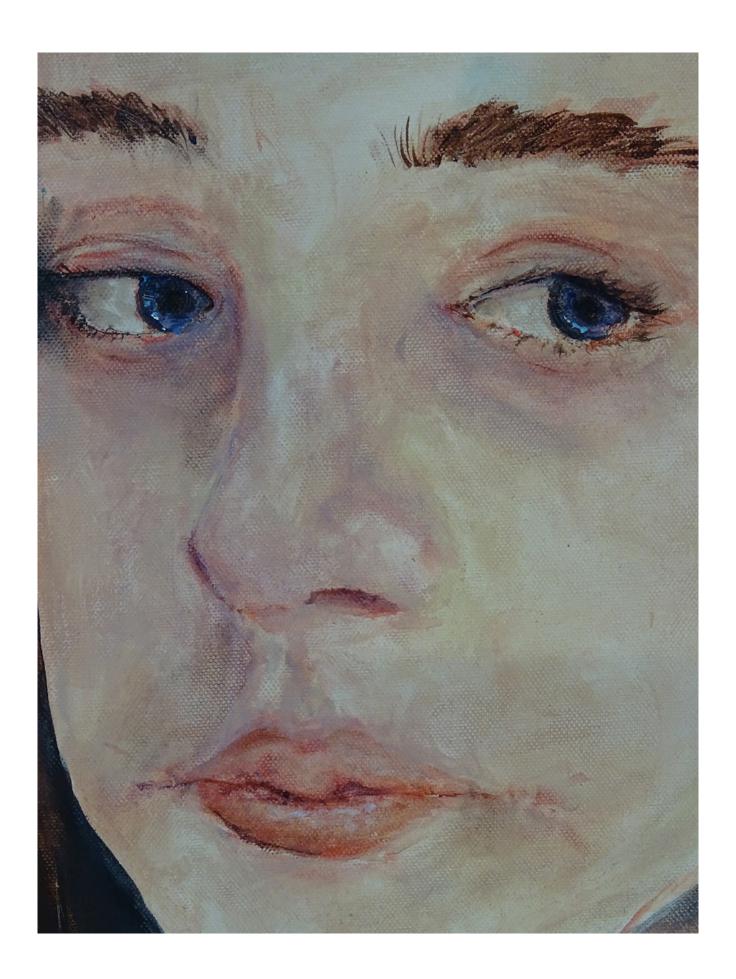


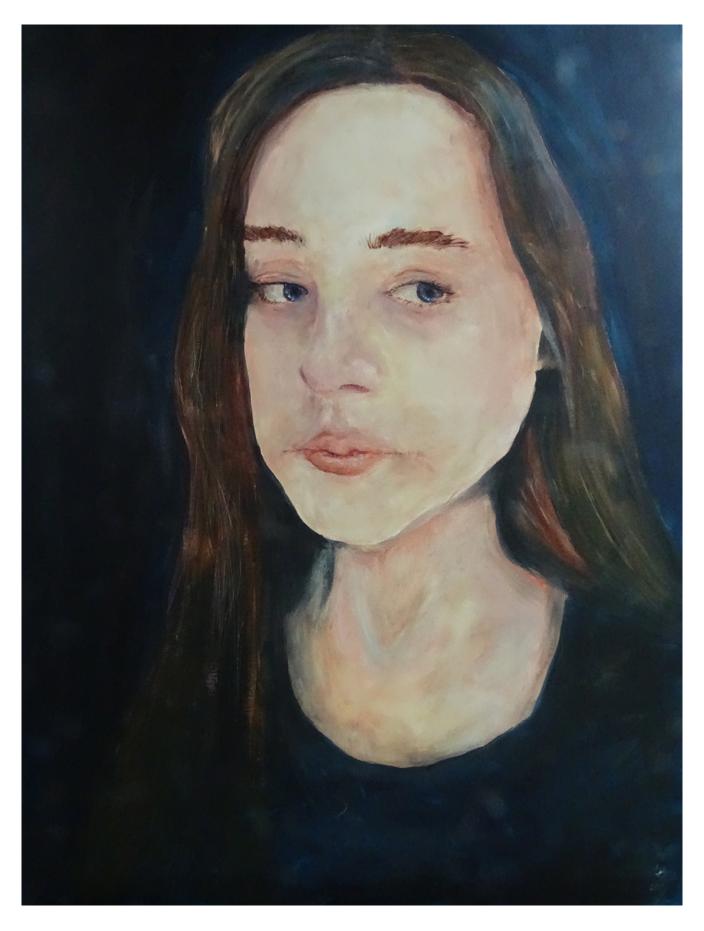


Stage 4: The face

Lastly Rowan returned to the face itself, trying to capture the light which would help describe form, and checking the dark tonal values of the face were in balance to the darkness of the background.







Review of Scolaquip Acrylic Paint

This paint offers incredible value for money BUT the quality

is excellent. Unlike many school-grade acrylic paints, which contain no acrylic or cheap polymers, Scolaquip Acrylic Paint is made using only pure acrylic resin. It provided an excellent opportunity to work on a large scale without being worried about using too much paint.

The paint mixes easily, both with water or with itself. It's got great body which means that if you want to you can apply it really thickly and it will hold it's shape (for impasto work). The paint did not dry out too quickly whilst in use, but once dry had a lovely matt sheen. It is of course non-toxic. All in all AccessArt would consider it a great enabler to encourage an exploration of acrylic paint amongst all ages.

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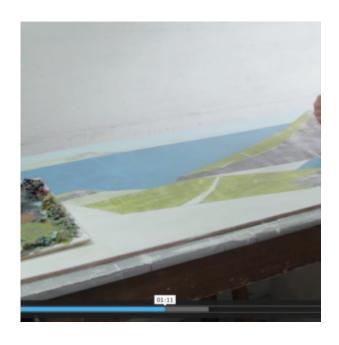
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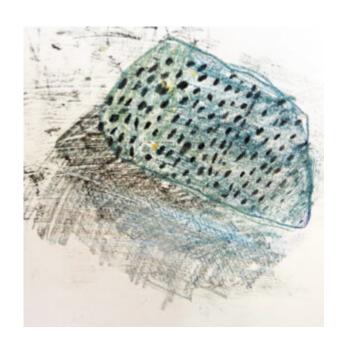


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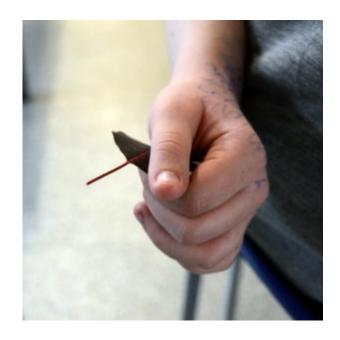
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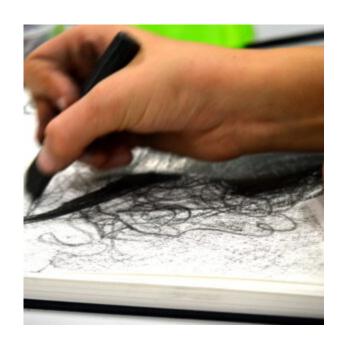
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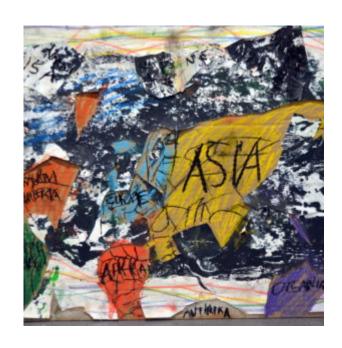
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Drawing Into Space with Melissa Pierce Murray

In this session, artist Melissa Pierce Murray invited students to create three-dimensional drawings from tape, string and paper, using the entire room as our canvas.

Inky Objects with Melissa Pierce Murray

In this workshop I introduced the idea of thinking of the piece of paper as an object to shape, rather than a picture plane to fill.

Animating with Charcoal

Drawing with Objects by Melissa Pierce Murray

Teenagers explore ideas of placement with artist Melissa P Murray by arranging or assembling objects to make compositions or maquettes.

Teenagers Paint a Canvas with Scolaquip

Teenagers Experiment with Glow in the Dark Paint and Rice with Artist Melissa

Pierce Murray

teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class, I brought in UV reactive paint and markers, and surprised students by turning off the lights and shining a UV torch on the palates.

AccessArt helps teachers at Belvue School to get ready for a Drawing Week

Back to InSET & CPD

Teachers Battle it Out in Conversation with Marks on Paper



Teachers embarked on an exercise whereby they made marks on paper to have a conversation with a partner. This was a

playful and fun exercise and teachers very much enjoyed both the process and outcomes.

Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape & Texture with Charcoal, Graphite, Masking Tape and Pastels



This was the second session in the series and an introduction to pattern, shape and texture with charcoal and graphite, and an opportunity for teachers to break down any preconceived ideas about what drawing is and who drawing processes is for.

Play and Placement: Teachers Explore Approaches to Drawing



This was the third and final session in the series, and an opportunity to play with creative mark-making and explore context and placement as an introduction to larger scale drawing and concepts around installation art.

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Teachers Battle it Out in Conversation with Marks on

Paper

After a series of warm up exercises which introduced drawing through feel, teachers embarked on an exercise whereby they made marks on paper to have a conversation with a partner.

"Heart-Work" — A series of 'Arts on Prescription' style workshops for young people at Cambourne Village College with Arts and Minds; Led by Sheila Ceccarelli (Artist) and Yael Pilowsky Bankirer (Psychotherapist)

This series of workshops with students at Cambourne Village College was part of the 'Young People's Pilot', coordinated and managed Arts and Minds, a leading arts and mental health charity in Cambridgeshire. The sessions were led by Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt (artist) and Yael Pilowsky Bankirer (Psychotherapist)