

Making the “AccessArt For All” Banner

By [Paula Briggs](#)

Sewn banners sit within a long and powerful tradition of creativity and activism, where textiles, stitch, colour and symbol are used to make visible what communities care about. From [suffrage banners](#) to [trade union, peace and protest banners](#), making by hand has enabled people to gather, speak collectively and claim space. In this post, we document how AccessArt made a sewn banner to help create a strong visual presence at advocacy events.



As a [Subject Association for art, representing over 24,000 members, and as a visual arts educational charity](#), we always try to balance our practical work creating [resources for teachers and learners](#) with our advocacy work, raising awareness of the importance of arts education for all. With the Curriculum and Assessment Review, the government's response to that review, and a whole raft of proposals aimed at providing a world-class curriculum for all, the wider arts education community has, in many ways, never felt more united in its message. It felt like an appropriate time to make a banner that AccessArt could use at events to help create greater visibility. Inspired by the beautiful banners created by trade unions

and the Suffragette movement, we decided our banner needed to be carefully crafted and beautiful to look at.



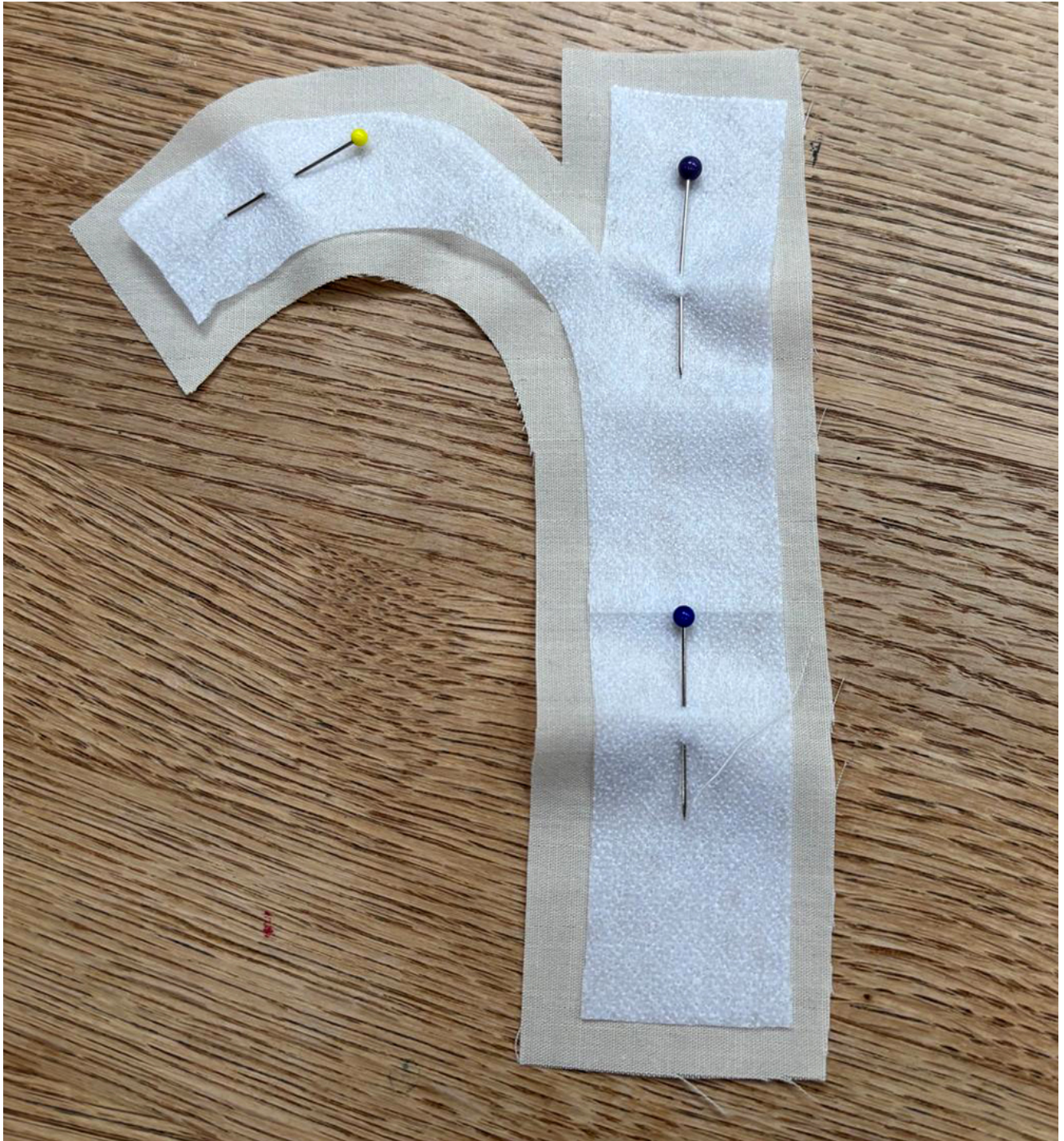
To Begin

Letters were drawn on paper to act as templates. We sketched these freehand, working between measured lines, but you might decide to enlarge

letters downloaded from the internet.



We then used the paper letters to cut out a fabric letter that was 1cm larger in every dimension than the paper template, and then a letter cut from iron-on interfacing. The shape cut from interfacing needed to fit the *reverse* of the letter, as it was to be ironed onto the back of the fabric letter.



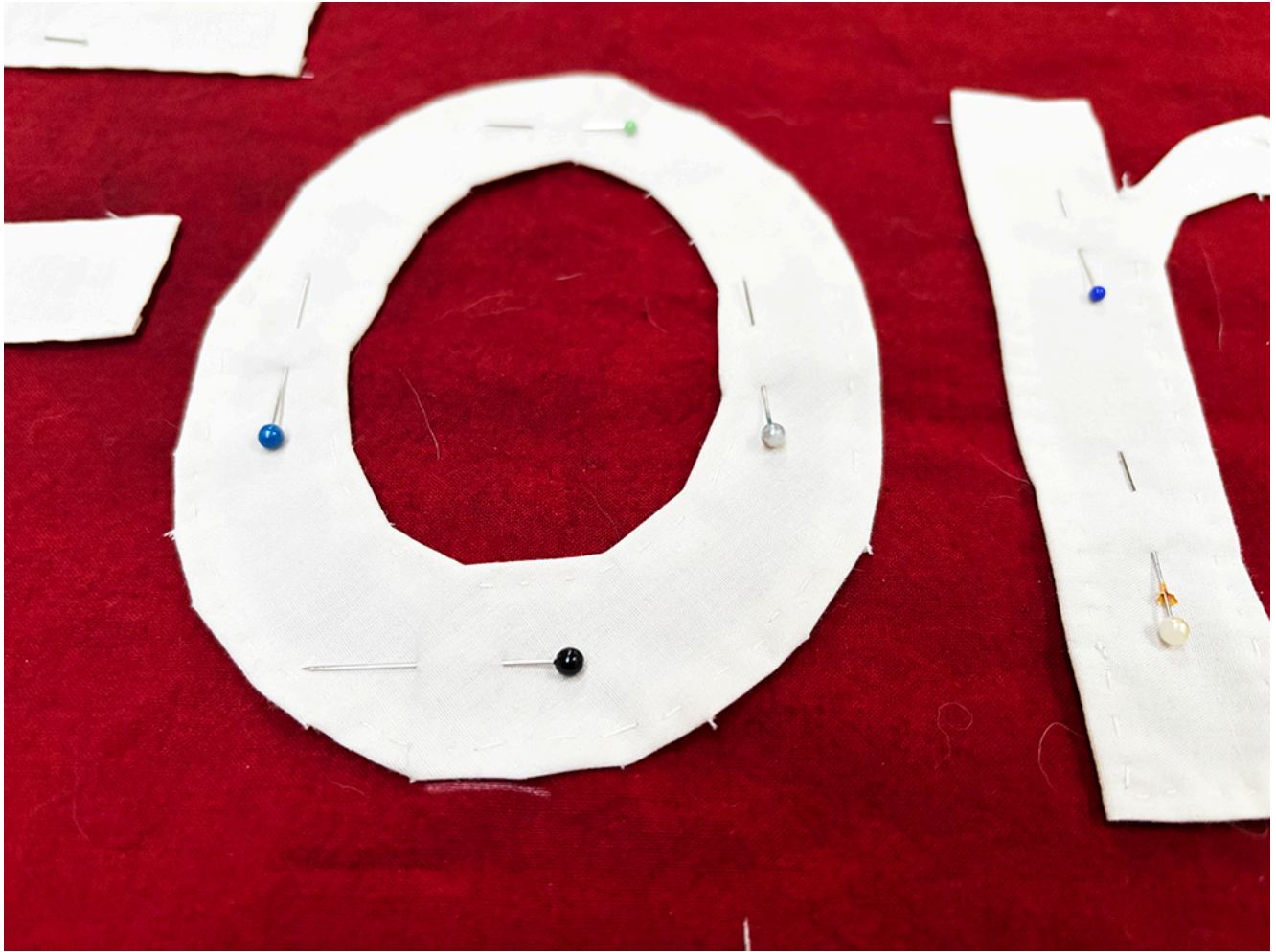
Using a running stitch, we hemmed each letter around the interfacing.



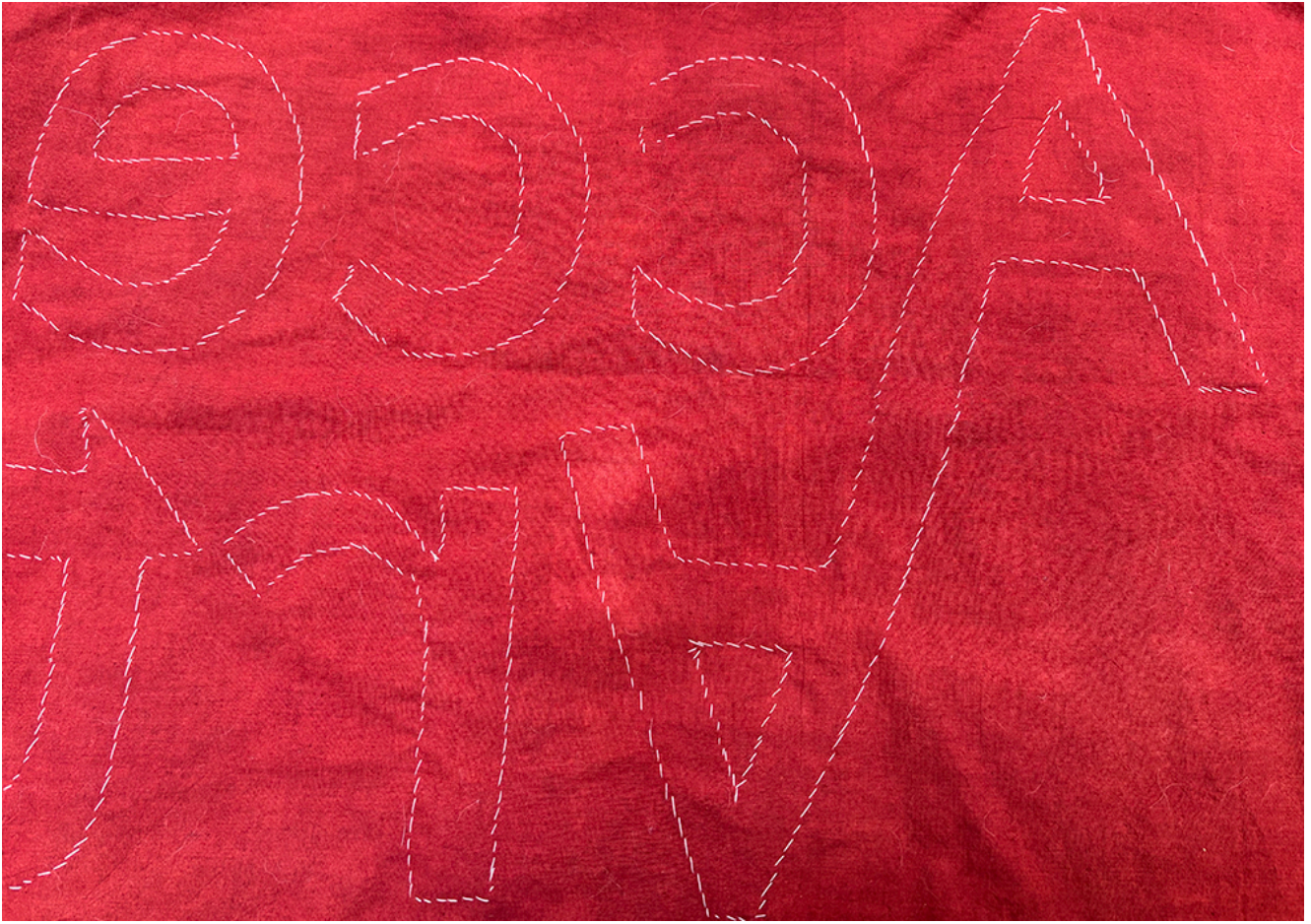
We then pinned the hemmed letters to the banner

background, using a chalk pencil to mark out positions to ensure everything was straight.





We used a small overcast stitch to simply attach the edges of each letter to the banner. We then ironed each letter down, using the interfacing to help fix the letters in place.



We scaled up the AccessArt bird using the grid method.







As we wanted the banner to display the message "AccessArt for All" from both the front and the back, we made two versions, one mirrored, so the text could be read from either side.





We then sewed them together (hemming as we went) using a sewing machine.



Time to take the “AccessArt for All” banner out into the world!



The [Arts & Minds Coalition](#) visited Westminster to deliver an [open letter signed by 10,000 people](#) to make space for the arts in schools (2025).





Banners can communicate hope, resistance, care and solidarity in ways that words alone sometimes cannot. Making a banner is also a collective act: it brings people together to think, talk, make and stand alongside one another. Banners help us claim space and show what matters to us. We hope the AccessArt banner encourages you to think about how you might make your own banner. What will it convey? Who will you make it with? Where will you take it?



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.

Deconstructing to Help You See

You May Also Like

ten minutes, five times a week



the drawing journey



all drawing resources



Escaping Wars and Waves – Encounters with Syrian Refugees

What We Like About This Resource...

'This resource really demonstrates how art can successfully bring awareness to important humanitarian issues, promote inclusivity and can give a platform to those who otherwise wouldn't be heard. The links between text, photos and drawings are really strong and demonstrate the creative process used by Olivier from start to finish. I

really like the inclusion of suggestions for students within the post, which encourage students to learn more about their community and to understand the experience of being displaced. This in turn will hopefully inspire the next generation to be part of an inclusive and empathetic society.' – Tobi, AccessArt

Paint Your Corner Shop

See This Resource Used in Schools...





You May Also Like...

Pathway: Festival Feasts



[This is featured in the 'Festival Feasts' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Claes Oldenburg



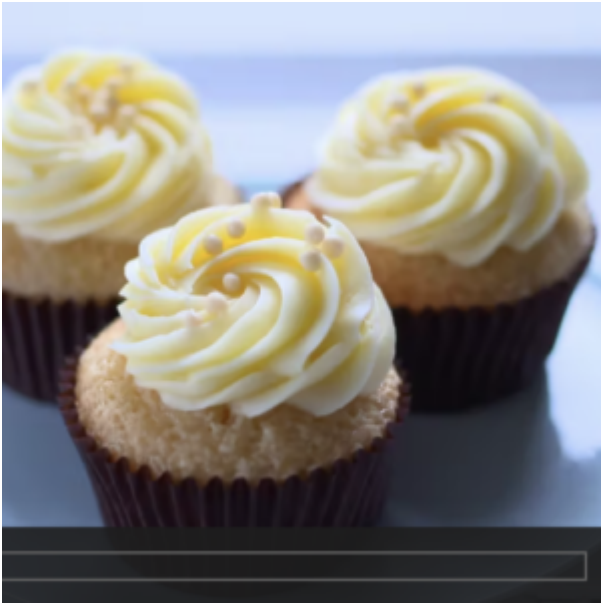
Talking Points: Nicole Dyer



Talking Points: Lucia Hierro



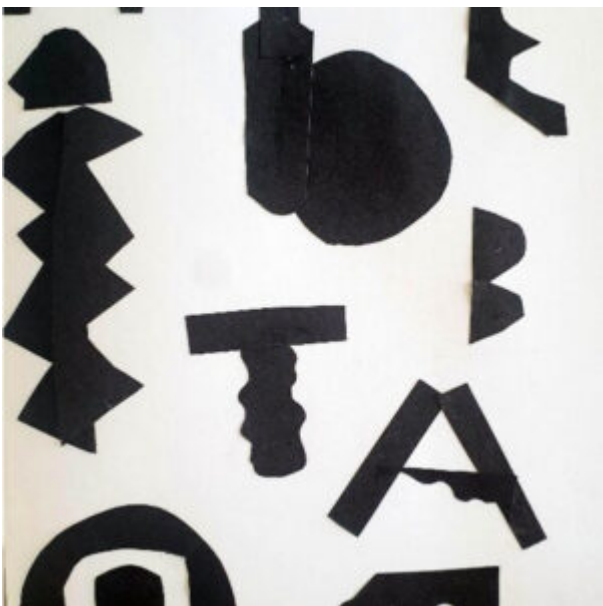
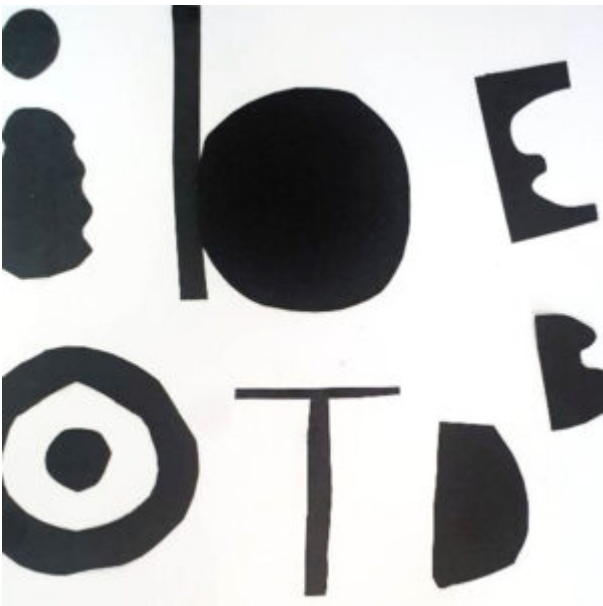
Drawing source material: Food



Cut Out Typography

**See This Resource Used In
Schools...**











You May Also Like...

Pathway: Typography and Maps



[This is featured in the 'Typography and Maps' pathway](#)

Talking Points: What is typography?



Talking Points: Louise Fili



Screen Printing In The Classroom

See the Pathway Used in Schools...



You May Also Like...

Pathway: working with shape and colour



[This is featured in the 'Working with Shape and Colour' pathway](#)

Pathway: Print & Activism



[This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway](#)

Talking Points: What is a Screenprint?



Exploring, Associating & Connecting – a Sketchbook Exercise

Making A Banner At Woking College

What We Like About This Resource...

Working collaboratively towards a shared aim provides an alternative experience to working on individual projects. Creating together encourages listening, peer feedback and creative problem solving – all of which are hugely valuable in all areas of education” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You May Also Like...



[Animal Habitat Mural](#)



Collaborative Public Mural



Mural and Workshop Project

World War I Mail Art

What We Like About This Resource...

“This project links poignant subject matter with meaningful art processes and local history. What we learn about the re purposing of materials, (in this case spent ammunition) re affirms how we can use what is around us as a starting point to making and creating. You could extend or adapt this project by looking at broken pottery, re purposing that into new sculptures that link with Roman or other local historical cultures” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You May Also Like...



[Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings](#)



Remembrance Day Soldiers



For Remembrance Day

Which Artists: We are out of

office

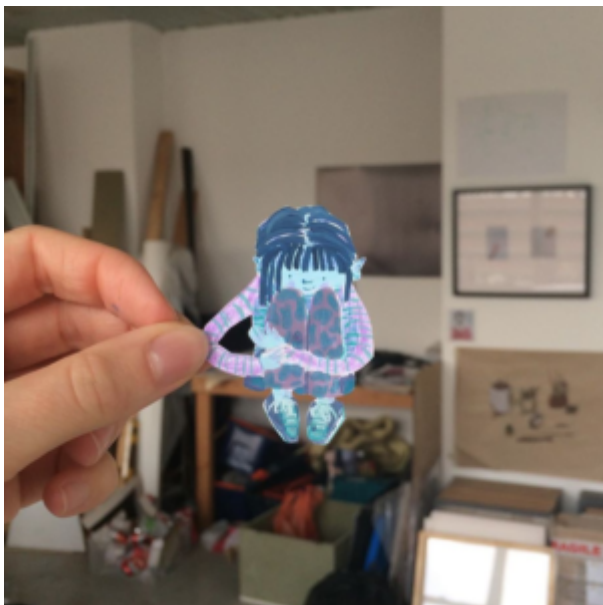
Natsko Seki: Making Broadway Market

What We Like About This Resource...

“This resource shows pupils how the experience, background and passions of an illustrator all feed into his or her work.

We like the way Natsko shares how her experience over time informs her work. For example, her background as a “visitor” or person living in cultures which she isn’t initially familiar with, enable her to see that culture through fresh eyes. She takes these observations in through her sketchbooks, and then these inform her work at various points going forward. This is an important concept when facilitating art and developing pupils’ own creativity – and [sketchbooks](#) provide the perfect tool for building this experience.”
Paula, AccessArt

You Might Also Like...



[Creating a Book World with Rose Feather](#)



[Illustrating Stories: Creating a Storyboard and First Dummy Book](#)



[Illustrating the Jaberwocky](#)

The Art Of Zines

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Print & Activism

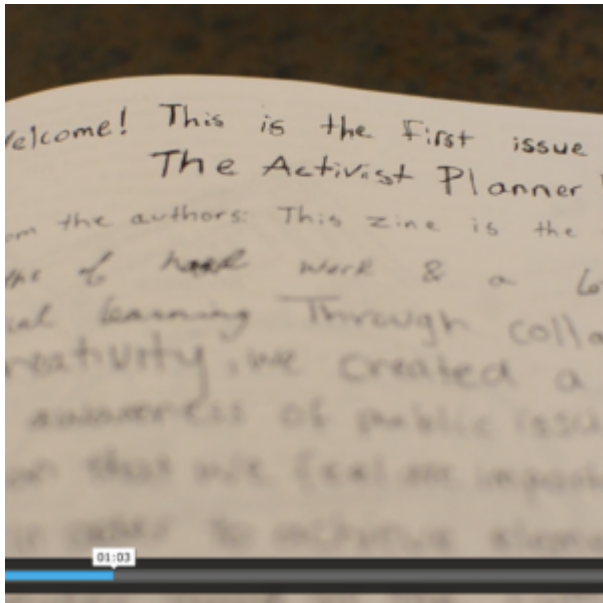


[This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Luba Lukova



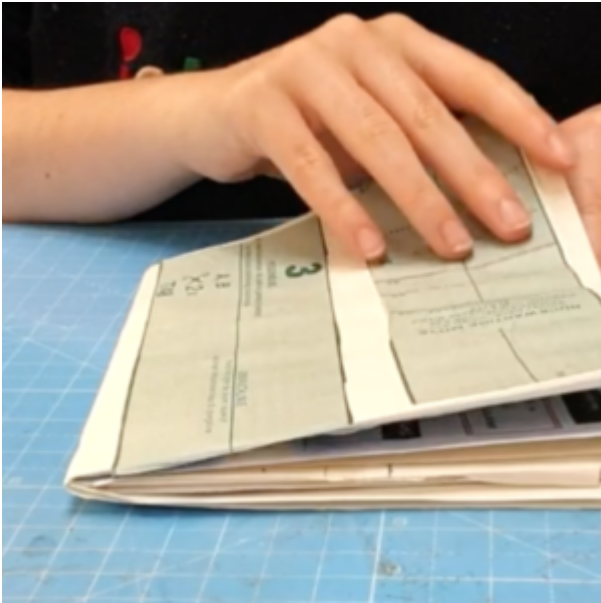
Talking Points: What is a Zine?



Making Large Scale, Screenprinted, Collaged, Co-Created Campaign Posters!



Making an Artist's Book



Book Artists



Redesigning Food Packaging

You May Also Like...

Pathway: 2D Drawing to 3D Making



[This is featured in the '2D Drawing to 3D Making' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Packaging Design



What is Typography



“Missing You” – Pavement Art Response to #SchoolclosureUK

Nib & Ink Mark Making Still Life

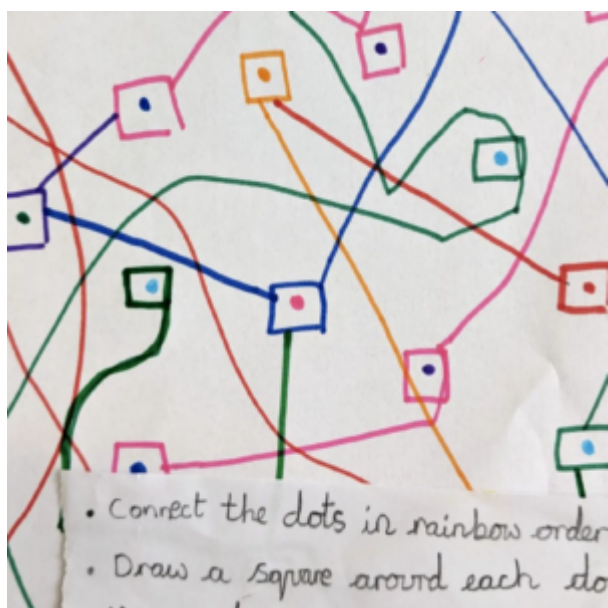
Many thanks to accessArt Young Artist
Rowan Briggs Smith

Young Artists



Rules and Resolutions

See This Resource Used In Schools...





You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring pattern



This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway

Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



Screen Printing T Shirts for the How To Be A Creative Producer Project

This post shares the process of screen printing t-shirts for the #BeACreativeProducer teenagers to wear to help them identify as a “team” for the animation project.

Pimp That Snack! Large Scale Food Sculptures

Art educator Anne-Louise Quinton shares a process for making super sized food sculptures from everyday materials, inspired by the work of Claes Oldenburg. This is a fun and challenging sculpture project for Year Nine and above.

An Exploration of Artwork by Shepard Fairey

Find Your Message (To The World)

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Print & Activism



[This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway](#)

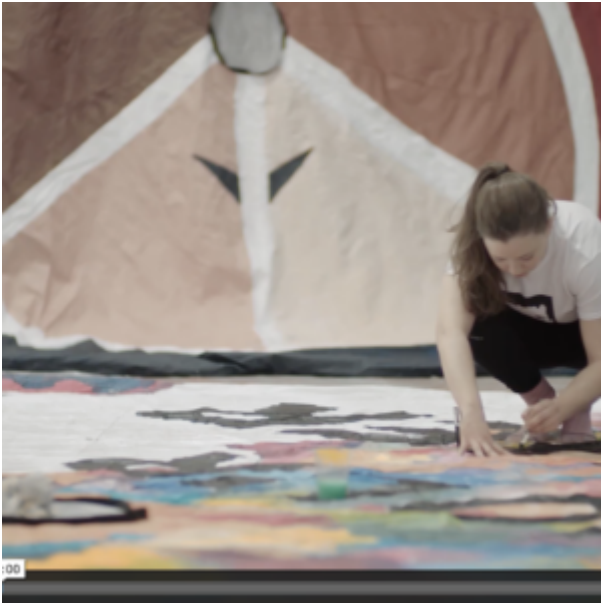
Talking Points: Luba Lukova



Talking Points: Faith Ringgold



Talking Points: Kate DeCiccio



Talking Points: Shepard Fairey

