

What Is Drawing?

Drawing is both an activity and an outcome. The act of drawing is more than a vehicle for relaxation, and more than a technical skill...

The first thing we need to do as a teacher or facilitator might not be to “teach” skills, but instead to expand what drawing is and can be. Drawing is an exciting, dynamic subject, and it embraces lots of different skills, activities, intentions and outcomes.

So, your first task as an educator, is to open your OWN mind as to what drawing might be, and in doing so develop your own relationship to drawing. Visit, research, read, watch, and take part – what is drawing to you?

And then remember; every pupil will have their own experience of drawing, their own preferences, their own likes, dislikes. All valid. And your job is to feed that experience.

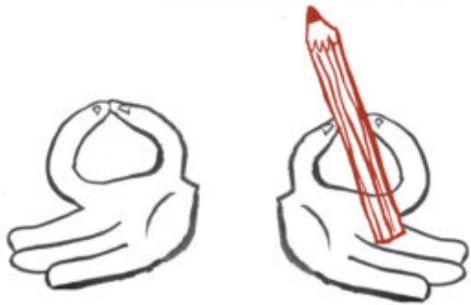
Then, when you begin to plan WHAT to teach and HOW to teach it, keep that “openness of experience” in mind. Make sure you don’t inadvertently close down what drawing is, and in doing so exclude or alienate some pupils. Just concentrating on technical skills like shading is an example of closing down the pupil’s experience of drawing,

and in doing so you will lose some children along the way.

So, the answer to “What is Drawing?”

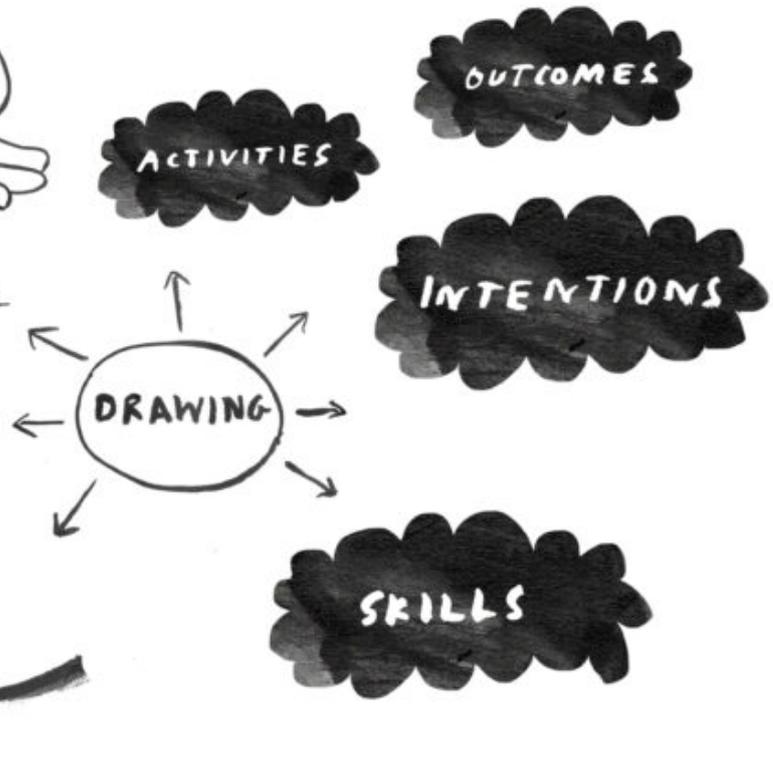
Drawing is an exploration of marks on a surface, made by a person, with different intentions. Don't be fearful of drawing – instead enjoy and embrace drawing in all its creative glory.

WHAT IS DRAWING?



MORE THAN FOR RELAXING
MORE THAN A TECHNICAL SKILL

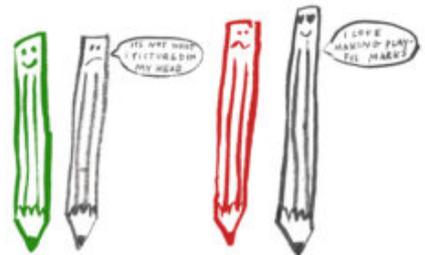
~~① TEACH~~



DEVELOP YOUR RELATIONSHIP
TO DRAWING



OPENNESS OF EXPERIENCE



DRAWING IS AN EXPLORATION
OF MARKS ON A SURFACE.

ENJOY AND EMBRACE DRAWING
IN ALL ITS CREATIVE GLORY.



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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.

Creating Patterns With Rachel Parker Repeat Rachel

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

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring pattern



This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway

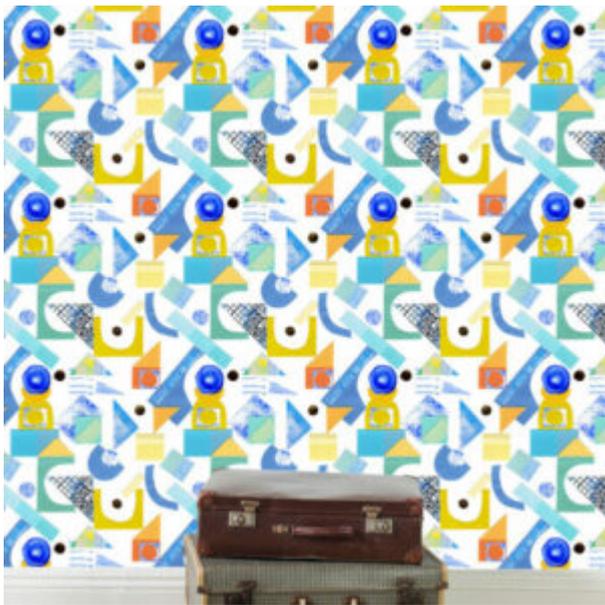
Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



Inspired by Rachel Parker



**Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape
and Texture**



Block Printing Repeat Patterns



AccessArt's

Prompt

Cards for Making

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art



[This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway](#)

Pathway: Playful Making



[This resource is features in the 'Playful Making' pathway](#)

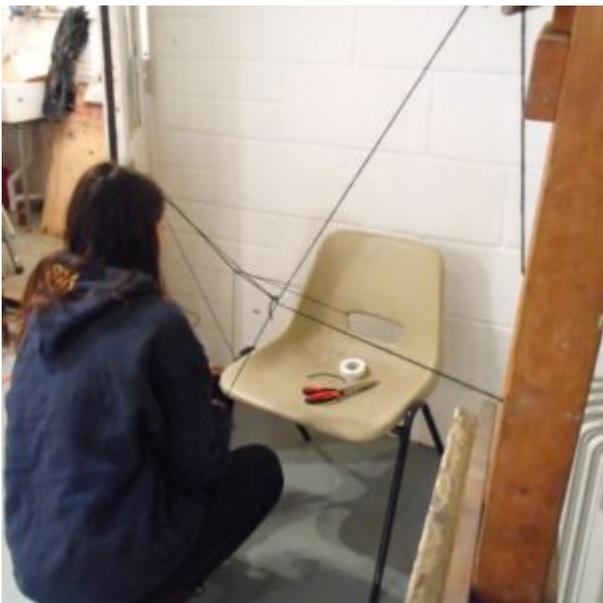
Manipulating Paper



Cardboard Sculptures



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

You Might Also Like...

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

See This Resource Used In Schools...



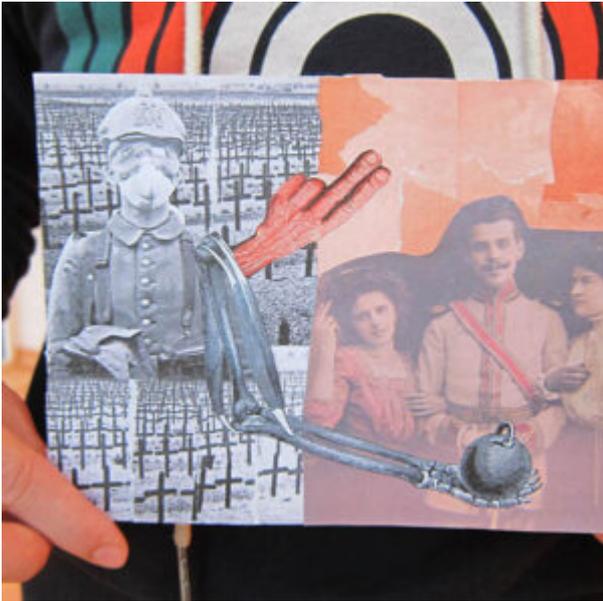
You Might Also Like...



An Exploration of Paul Nash



For Remembrance Day



World War 1 Mail Art

Make First

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...



Outdoor Art In Urban Gardens

Which Artists: The Life & Works of Madge Gill

What We Like About This Resource...

“The life of Madge Gill that Sophie Dutton recounts here gives us real insight into the challenges that Madge Gill experienced, and how these challenges would have been common among women at the time. When we study the

work of Artists, it adds a rich context to our experience of their work to consider their personal history, and helps us ask questions like ‘why do you think the Artist painted in this way or was inspired by this subject matter?’ If you introduce your class to Madge Gill, begin with looking back over her younger life to try and better understand her motivations as an Artist” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You May Also Like...



[I am AccessArt: Ann Ripplin](#)



Making Batik Textiles in the Classroom



How I Use Drawing and Sketchbooks

Transformation of Materials Inspired by El Anatsui

See This Resource Used in a Pathway...



Transforming Materials into Sculpture

This pathway shares how teachers might take inspiration from El Anatsui and encourage pupils to think how they might disassemble objects around them to transform them into sculptural pieces.

[Read More.](#)

The Transformation Project

You May Also Like...

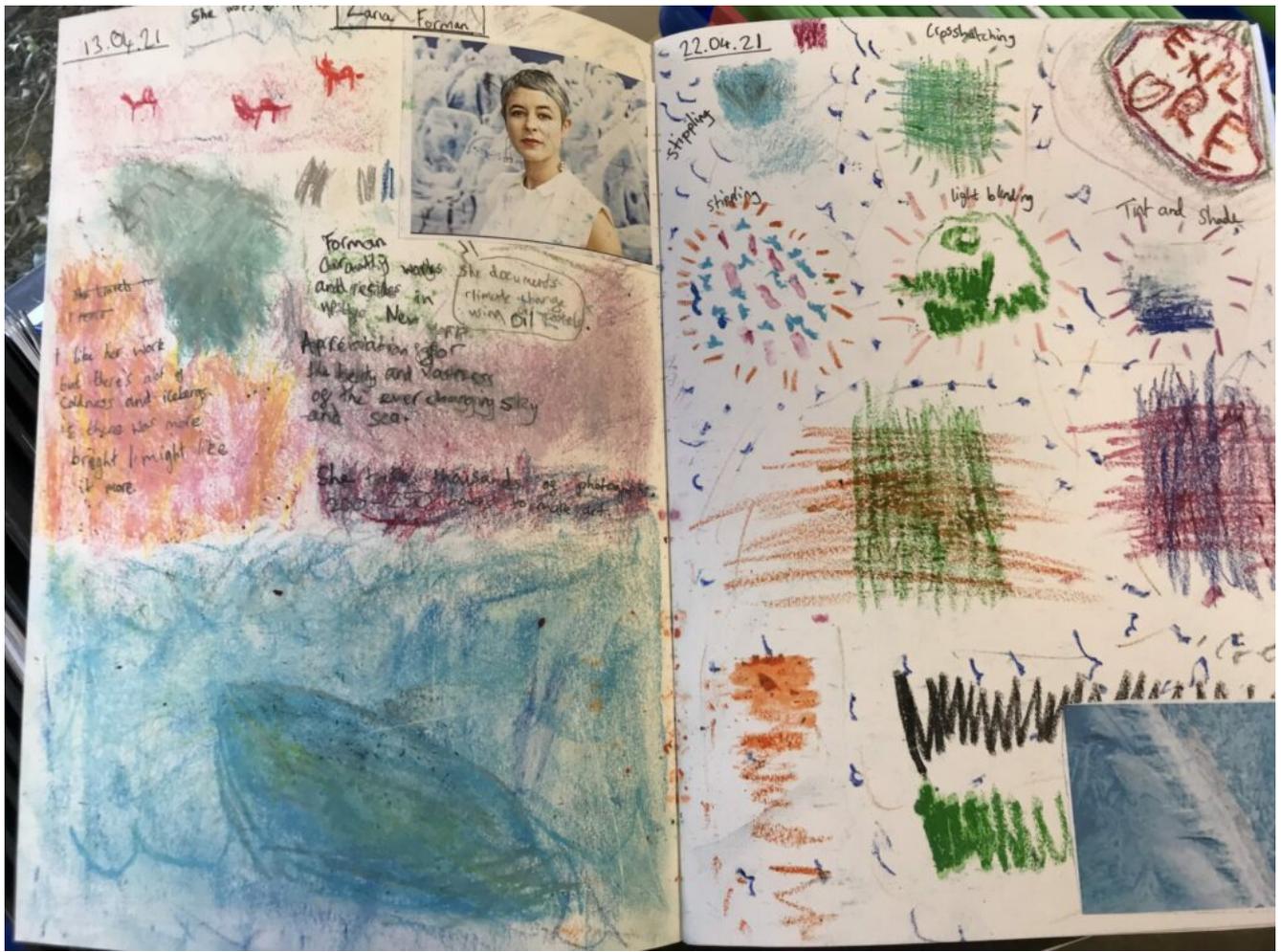


Transforming Cardboard with Andrea Butler

Artist Andrea Butler shows how to explore simple design and construction using cardboard and jewellery. [Read More](#)

Sketchbooks Should Be...

You Might Also Like...



The Sketchbook Journey

Explore the [AccessArt Sketchbook Journey](#) to grow your understanding about what sketchbooks are and how they might be used.



The AccessArt Network

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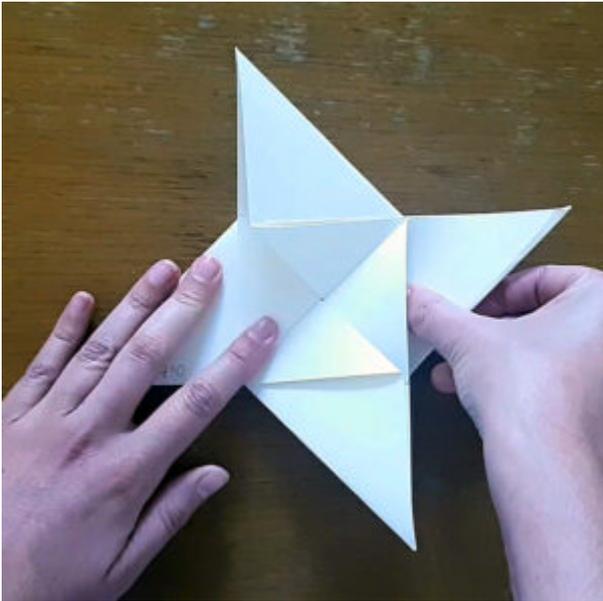
Turkish Map Fold

What We Like About This Resource...

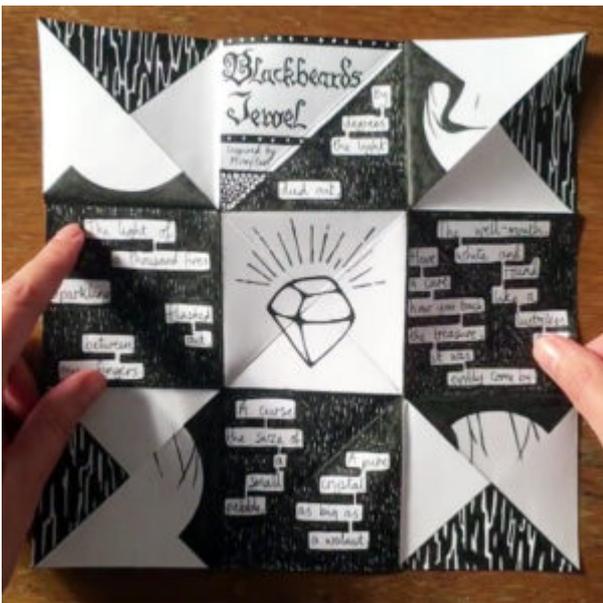
“This activity is a great example of how we can use paper as the focus of creativity. Often we use paper purely for drawing or painting on, but here, it is central to the activity itself. While these particular folded sculptures have their roots in Turkish culture, you could still deliver the activity if looking at things like Origami too, thus linking it across different cultures” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...

Puzzle Purses Part 1



Puzzle Purses Part 2



Paperback Figures



Scaffolding Projects

Which Artists: Liz West

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s really interesting to hear how the interest Liz has in the quality of light comes from a personal place and is something she has responded to since childhood. Seeing how her work has developed over the years is therefore a really positive reinforcement that individual creative journeys, where nurtured, are so central to a rich arts education. We also love hearing Liz is always on the ‘quest for knowledge’ – meaning she is open to her ideas constantly evolving and the

process of gathering new information and inspiration never stops!" – Rachel, AccessArt

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Brave Colour



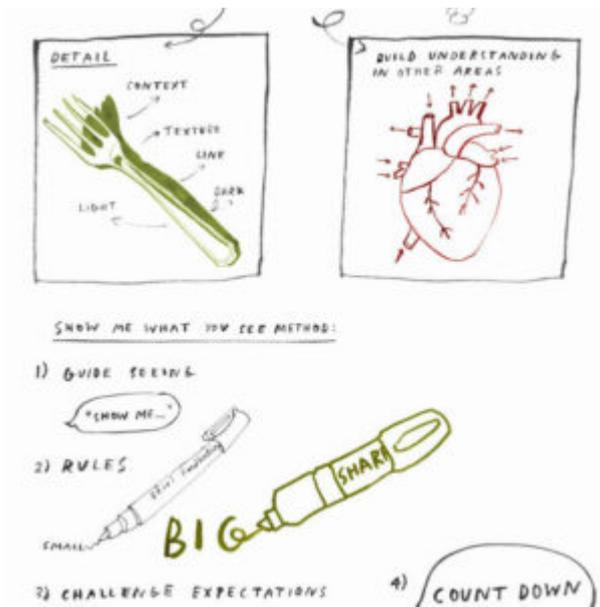
[This is featured in the 'Brave colour' pathway](#)

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise

Lightbulb Art



Mini World Light Boxes



Visual Arts Planning: Light and Dark



Collage Streets

What We Like About This Resource...

“This project provides a real opportunity for children to engage with a range of different processes to produce truly individual final results. Jan Miller is an experienced teacher and connects her projects well with learning outcomes. In this case, children are encouraged to have a loose approach and to

make their own creative decisions – which is such a valuable part of any child (or adults!) creative education”. – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...

Painted Houses



One Line Street



Responding to Place



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 repurposing 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:
Claire Harrup**

**What We Like About
This Resource...**

“We really enjoyed reading about the process of creating art work according to a design brief and how the experience of this differs to when an artist begins

with their own idea or concept. That's not to say an artist can't approach a brief with their own individual style and ideas, but what this post shows us is that there can be a balance between the two. This would be a great resource to show older KS pupils who may be beginning to consider their options beyond Primary School".
– *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: 2D Drawing to 3D Making



This is featured in the '2D Drawing to 3D Making' pathway

Talking Points: Packaging Design



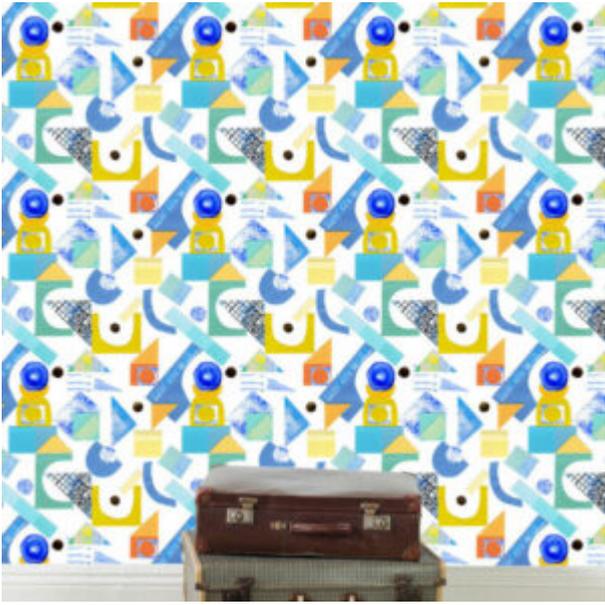
What is Typography



Which Artist: Rachel Parker



Repeating Patterns



Block Printing Repeat Patterns



Which Artists: Theresa Easton

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s interesting to hear Theresa describe Printmaking as a social activity, with the shared use of materials and equipment so central to the practice. This could be a positive way of working for lots of children in school, where

instead of just working on individual art work, they can collaborate and embrace the creative sharing experience!” – *Tobi, AccessArt.*

You Might Also Like...



[Monoprint Animals](#)



Screen printing Inspired by Matisse



An Exploration of Shepherd

Fairey

**Which Artists: Ava
Jolliffe**