

Key Sketchbook Concepts

AccessArt advocates the following key sketchbook concepts:

Sketchbooks are an opportunity to put the pupil at the centre of their own learning. Each child should view their sketchbook as a safe place to take creative risks without fear of judgement.

Sketchbooks are an opportunity to “think around”. Sketchbooks should be a place of exploration and discovery, used to gather, experiment, reflect and understand. They are not just a place of open-ended journeying; they also encourage open, inquisitive thinking in other areas of learning.

Teachers should not be afraid if sketchbooks [seem chaotic](#). Artist's sketchbooks are full of personality - some sketchbooks are neat and tidy, others are not. All are valid. Sketchbooks are a place to put unresolved ideas into the world, which can be assimilated later. Sketchbooks are rarely linear and a good sketchbook will raise more questions than answers.

Sketchbook skills can be taught and practised like any other skill.

Sketchbook content should be treated with respect. Creativity is a delicate process. Teachers should not mark directly in the book. Teachers should use one-to-one or small group

discussion to help articulate and understand sketchbook content.

Sketchbooks should equate to momentum. Sketchbook use will drive projects forwards and help all children understand their own learning. Pupils (and teachers) should therefore be discouraged from working in a single sketchbook which lasts a year or even longer. Instead sketchbooks should be filled with energy, enthusiasm and momentum.

Two main things can hold sketchbook success back:

Resistance (in the form of control or fear)

Aiming for Preconceived Ideas and Perfection

Look out for the saboteur!

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.

What Are Sketchbooks & What Can They Offer Us?

Making Spaces & Places in a Sketchbook

Making a Simple Folded Sketchbook

Making a Hole Punch

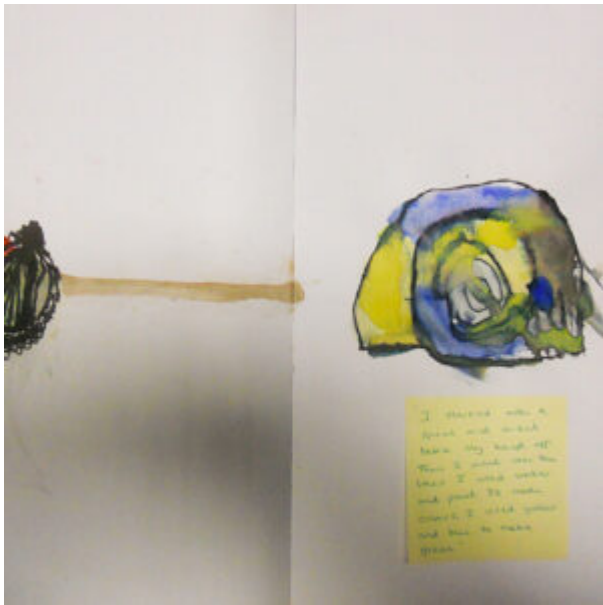
Sketchbook

Making a Backwards Sketchbook

Making Time for Sketchbooks in Schools

Water Soluble Felt-Tips With Complementary Colours

See How This Resource Is Used in Schools...





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[This resource is in the 'Spirals' pathway.](#)

the drawing journey



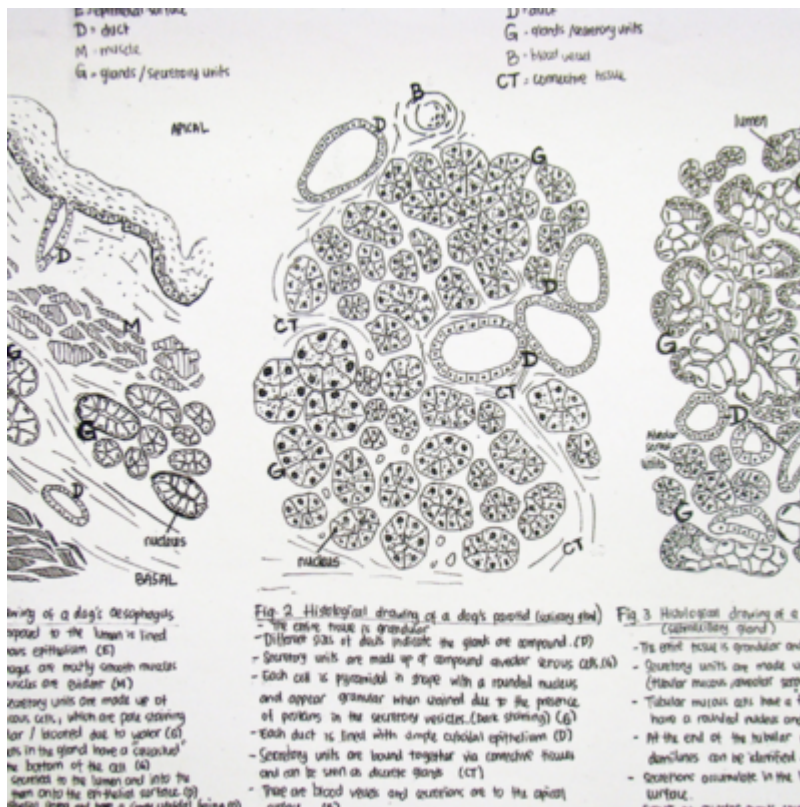
Layered Colour Gestural Drawing



Drawing for Learning in Anatomy, by Dr Fay Penrose

You might also like...

**University of Liverpool Veterinary
Science Schematic Drawing Task**



Fay shares her working process in using drawings as a means of building understanding

Drawing for Science, Invention and Discovery



A collection of resources which explore methodical and chance drawing processes, together with visualisation, adaptation and memory drawing activities.

Animal Habitats: An Ecological Mural of Planet Earth

Vicki Ostensen visits her local Primary School to create a beautiful large scale mural of animals in their natural habitats.

Raising Aspirations

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Assessment & Progression



Art Club Cafe

Use a range of making and modelling techniques to create a cafe, including modroc doughnuts and fabric pizzas!

Shadow Puppet Making and Performance

How Middle Eastern architecture was the inspiration behind a shadow puppet show for a year 4 class. A great opportunity for children to learn the technical aspects of making puppets, but also using narrative and story to create a performance.

Back – Painted Portraits

How to create portraits using an effective back painted technique. A great activity to explore less traditional portraiture methods that is suitable for a wide range of primary age groups.

Mark Making & Sound: Part Three

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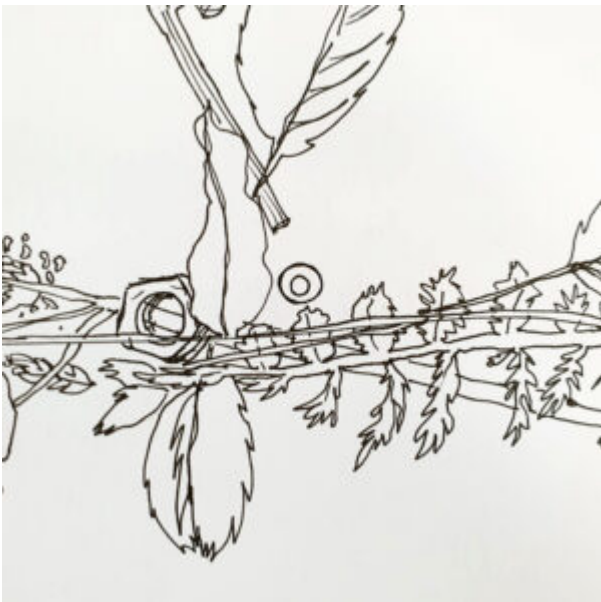
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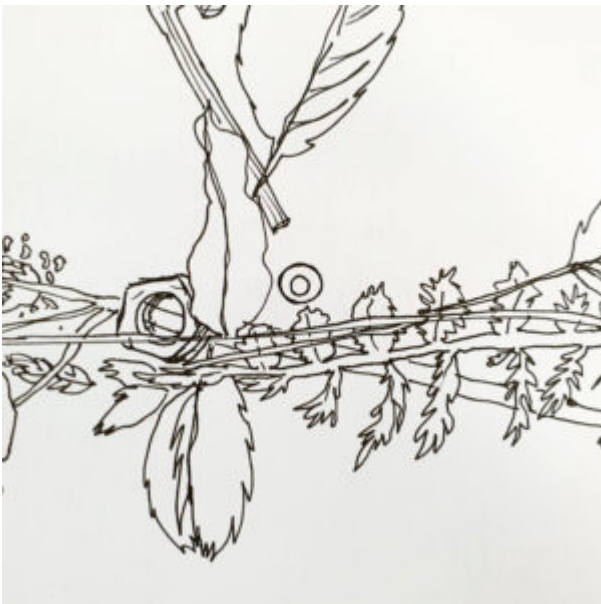
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Drawing to a Slow Rhythm



Inspired by Miro



Drawing to Music



Ink Collage Inspired by The Wolf Wilder

Using a well loved children's book as a starter for creating a beautiful and varied collage using different inking

techniques.

AccessArt Drawing Prompt Cards

Introduction To Forest Of Imagination