

Teaching Children to See Shapes Objectively by Hester Berry

[By Hester Berry](#)

This resource is one of [four resources](#) created by painter Hester Berry which aim to introduce some basic drawing and painting concepts to primary-aged children and their teachers. [See all the resources in this series here.](#)

In this resource, painter Hester Berry shares how to teach children to look objectively at the world and to break down familiar objects into shapes which they can then use in their drawing and painting. It also shares measuring techniques which children can use to help themselves see relationships and ratios.

1. Shapes

When you're learning to draw or paint, getting an accurate representation can be tricky. The best way to do this, I have found, is to try to disconnect yourself from the familiar objects in front of you, and to see the world as a series of shapes.

So for example, if you are painting a banana, you wouldn't make any assumptions about what's inside it, or what it looks like on the other side, or why it's yellow. You would just see a crescent in front of you, yellowy coloured, darker on one side perhaps, maybe with flat ends, rather than pointy. Maybe one end is higher up, maybe there's a dark patch on the table underneath the crescent shaped thing.

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Year three children make marionette puppets to tell the story illustrated in of "Penelope with the Suitors" by Pintoricchio in 1509 with their teacher Jan Miller.

Pop-Up Puppets Inspired by a Historical Painting

Year three children design and make pop-up puppets inspired by the story in the painting “Penelope with the Suitors,” by Pintoricchio (1509), working with their teacher Jan Miller.

Drawing with Scissors: Screen Printing Workshop in 3 Stages, Inspired by Matisse

Painting a Bluebell Forest in Cyan, Magenta and Process Yellow on a Large Scale

In this project young teenagers were given the opportunity to paint on a larger scale; to explore

working big whilst immersing themselves in colour.
We were all inspired by the spring!
Students transformed the room into a bluebell
forest in cyan, magenta and process yellow
Scolaquip acrylic paint. By Sheila Ceccarelli

Withy Butterflies

Art educator Anne-Louise Quinton shares a workshop
for making a flock of large, withy butterflies,
creating a colourful and dramatic artwork.

**Inspired by Edgar
Degas: Printmaking,
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the Fitzwilliam Museum**

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Making Sculpture Inspired by Degas

This resource explores sculpture by French artist Edgar Degas (1834-1917) and shows how hands-on sculptural processes can be facilitated in a classroom. This resource was created in collaboration with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

How to Make Beautiful, Liquid Drawings

Inspired by Degas

This resource looks at drawings by the French artist, Edgar Degas (1834-1917), and how to enable the production of beautiful, 'inky drawings' in the classroom. This resource was created in collaboration with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Midi Art

AccessArt Young Artist Alex Tunstall shares how he explored midi art as part of a more open-ended exploration of developing his skills in Logic Pro X to compose music for animations for the #BeACreativeProducer Project.

Making

Monotypes

Inspired by Degas

This resource shares how Edgar Degas made his 'inky drawings,' or monotypes, and how the process of mono-printing can be further explored in the classroom – In collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Colour Wheel for Infants and Juniors

In this post, artist educator Rosie James, shows her open-ended and experiential approach to introducing the colour wheel to primary aged children throughout the key stages.

Primal Painting

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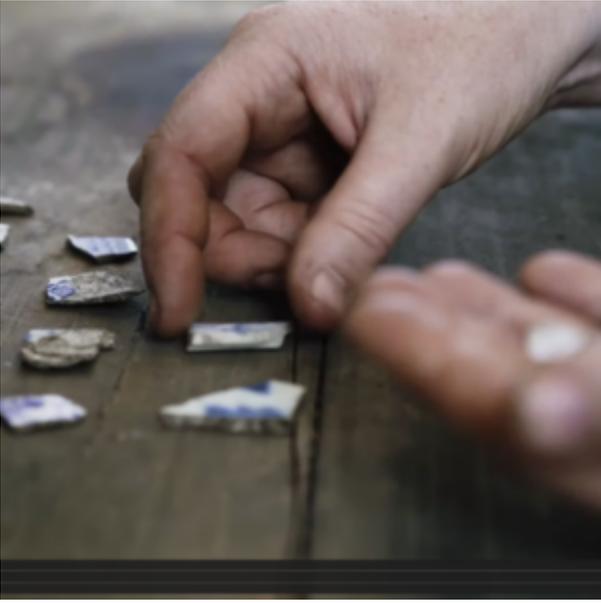


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Inspired by sculptures by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Jacob Epstein and looking at 'inside' and 'outside' shapes, students created their own constructions with help of artist Anne-

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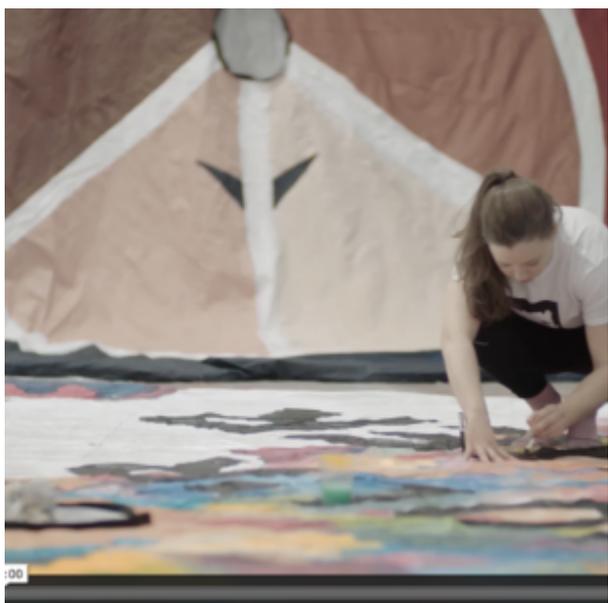
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