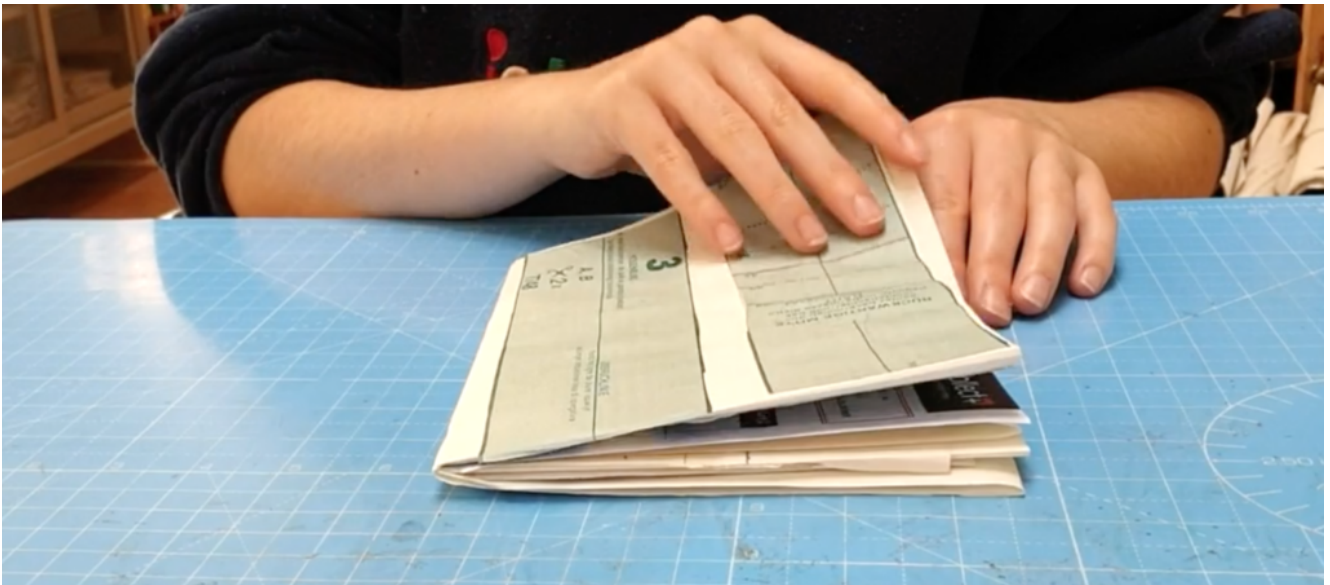


# What Are Sketchbooks & What Can They Offer Us?

Sketchbooks offer learners of all ages a wide range of opportunities!



## Opportunity No. 1 Be Journeyful!

When we move too quickly towards a preconceived outcome (a painting, sculpture, drawing etc) we deprive ourselves of an exciting journey. Sketchbooks provide us with the opportunity to develop our journeying skills (exploration, testing, reflecting, understanding), which in turn offers us the potential of arriving at an exciting end result, alongside greater understanding and development of skills.

Sketchbooks provide the space for children to

play, explore, try, and wonder. They also provide a safe space in which to fail, struggle and get lost, all of which bring growth in vital skills. When used well, sketchbooks allow children to go on their own journeys, and make their own choices about what and how they explore, and so build confidence.

## Opportunity No. 2 Own Your Own Experience

Sketchbooks are holders for our own experience. More importantly, they hold our experience at a time when we don't yet know where we are going, making them a very powerful tool for our wellbeing and growth.

The world filters down through each of us, through our senses. Sometimes this is pleasurable, sometimes this is overwhelming. Sometimes boring, sometimes exciting. The sketchbook provides an opportunity for us to hold our experience, whatever that experience is.

As we start to externalise our experience through our sketchbooks, in all its disconnected glory, we begin to centre ourselves and tune in. As we tune in, we begin to see potential and look for opportunities. So a sketchbook becomes a place full of tiny seeds, some of which get revisited and nurtured into larger ideas.

Sketchbooks provide an opportunity for learners to experience what it feels like to take control of our own learning; to feel a sense of ownership,

pride and motivation.

### **Opportunity No. 3 Take Risks In A Safe Space**

A sketchbook should be a safe place in which to take creative risks, without fear of judgement. Sketchbooks are places where it is ok not to know the answer. Nothing has to be resolved in a sketchbook, and so conversely, things can be resolved. Sketchbooks should be places in which mistakes can occur, and revelations made. Breakthroughs can be made through repetitive practice, or spontaneous leaps. Sketchbooks are safe spaces in which you can make connections between disparate elements, by daring to put them together.

---

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.

---

**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

---

## Raising Aspirations

## You May Also Like...

### Assessment & Progression



# How I use my Sketchbook as a Painter and Maker, by Rowan Briggs Smith: Anatomy Sketchbooks

---

## Mark Making & Sound: Part Three

### You May Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art



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

## Mark Making & Sound: Part One



## Mark Making & Sound: Part Two



# Mark Making & Sound: Part Two

## You May Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art

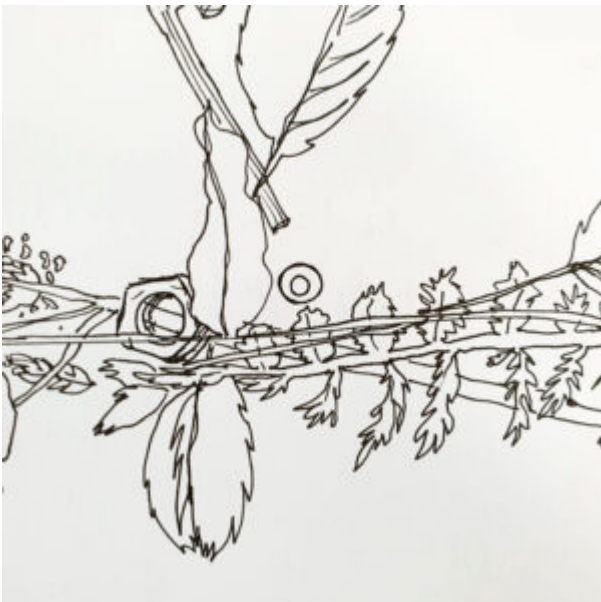


[This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway](#)

Mark Making & Sound: Part One



## Mark Making & Sound: Part Three



---

## Mark-Making & Sound: Part One

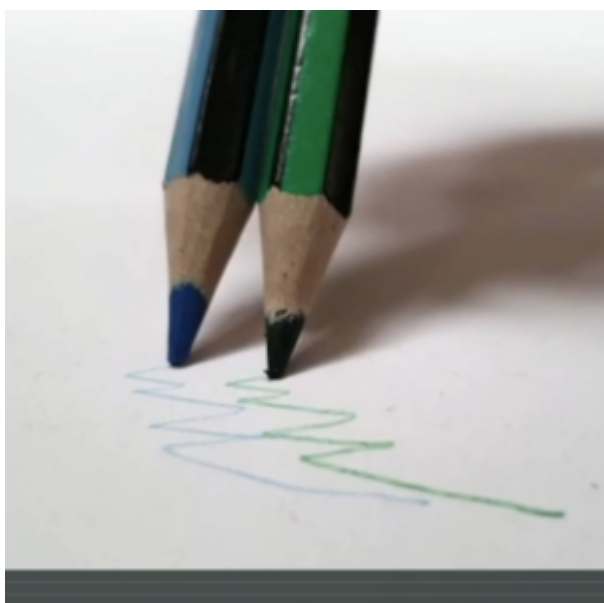
# You May Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art

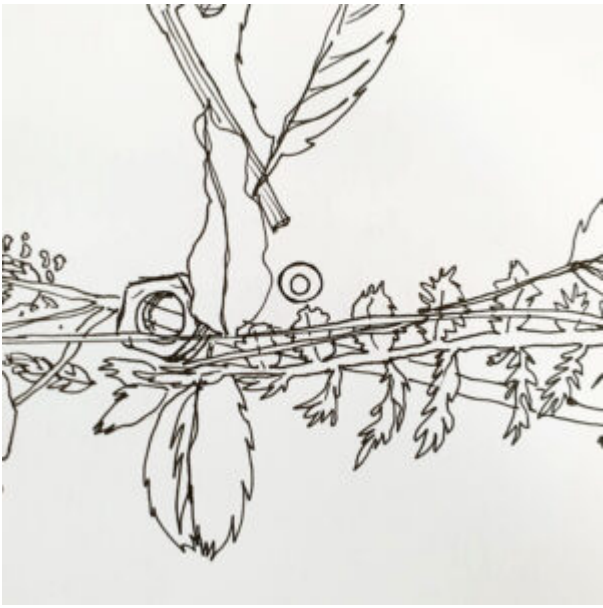


[This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway](#)

Mark Making & Sound: Part Two



# Mark Making & Sound: Part Three



## Drawing to a Slow Rhythm



## Inspired by Miro



## Drawing to Music



**Raising the Profile of  
the Art Department**

---

**Being an Artist Teacher**

---

**Shells: Observational  
and Imaginative Drawing**

**You May Also Like...**

**Still Life Compositions**



## **Drawing Spiral Snails**



## **Drawing Spirals**



---

# Inspired! Psyche's Resilience by The Fitzzy Peters

Natalie Bailey shares the pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as well as

her reflections on the transformative impact that the project had on the children and how Art can support healing and wellbeing.

---

**Walking and  
Drawing**

---

**Unesco:  
Celebrating the**

# Power of Making!

Inspired by Paula's recent rousing film, 'It's in Our Hands', artist Jan Miller pulled images together from her own teaching to illustrate the things the children in her classroom do with their hands

---

## Foreshortened Sketches

---

# **Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings**

---

## **Wall Drawings with Tape**