

# Opening Out: Shells and Sketchbooks

By [Tobi Meuwissen](#)

*In this activity, learners experiment with a range of drawing tools and materials to create both observational and experimental mixed-media drawings.*

*In the session, they begin by making a concertina sketchbook using tracing paper, before experimenting with ink and a range of drawing materials, moving onto close observational drawing of shells, to fill their concertinas with drawings in inventive and creative ways.*

*The three drawing exercises, along with the warm-up activity, are carefully scaffolded to help children develop their skills step-by-step. Each activity builds on prior learning, reinforcing understanding of both the subject matter and the materials, while encouraging children to make connections and informed choices about their next steps.*

*This activity was facilitated with Year 4 learners at [Beaver Road Junior School](#) over a 1.5-hour session, but it can easily be extended or adapted, with opportunities to use the exercises as warm-ups across different sessions. It also comes with plenty of scope to adapt the exercises to the*

***needs or aims of your learners.***

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## **Experimental mark-making tools**



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## **Insect Cubes**

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cut paper still life collage



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# **Finding Kindness in Marks Made by Artists**

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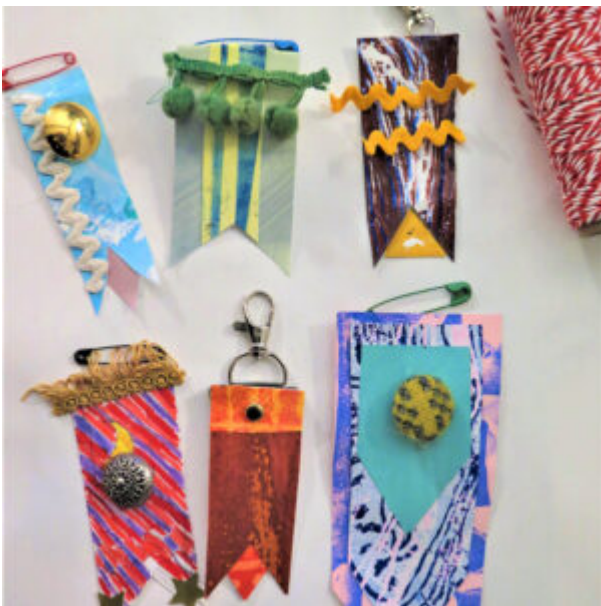
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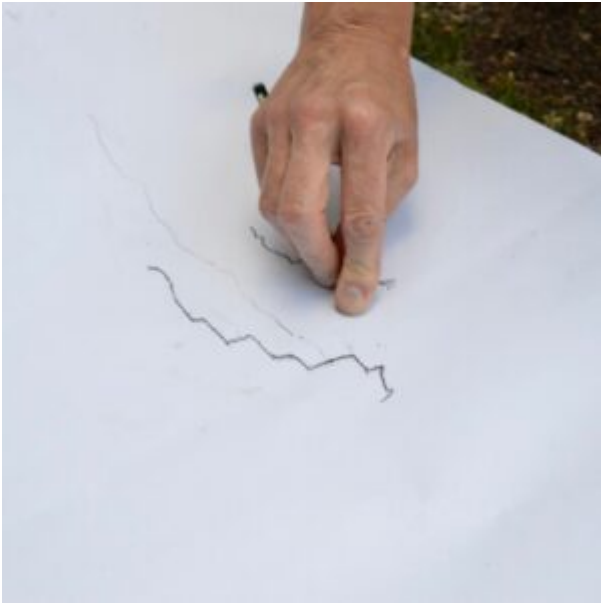
explore other art week themes



## Experimental mark-making tools



## the anatomy of a pencil



## **Finding Marks Through Drawings Made by Artists**



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**Splendour and Opulence**

# Inspired by Klimt

## What We Like About This Resource...

*"We really love how Nichola devised and facilitated this activity, giving learners complete freedom whilst limiting certain elements such as colour palette. This activity incorporates a journeyful approach, in which the experiments all come together to form a shared outcome, and celebrate every learners exploration, which we love!" – Tobi, AccessArt*

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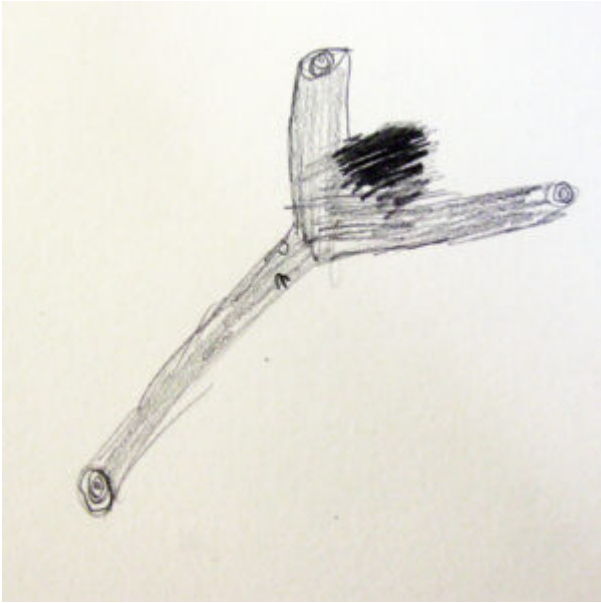
## Drawing With Two Hands

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## Feely Drawings



**Ten minutes, five times a week**



**CPD recording: drawing with two hands**



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## Talking Heads

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me for art  
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getting stuff done.  
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/ without Hmunk  
fun - freedom  
of everyone / don't judge  
before you know  
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## Portrait Club



## Adapting AccessArt: Faces and Stories



## **Exploring Macbeth Through Art: Macbeth Portraits**



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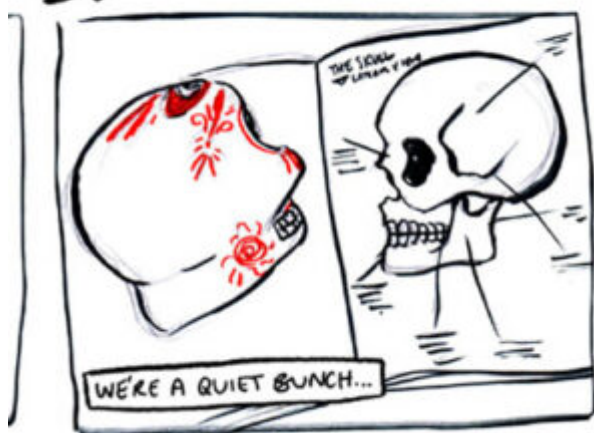
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# and Story Building

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### 3-panel drawing challenge

3.



## Drawing Stories



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# Iridescent Insects

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### Minibeast Mural



## Flora and Fauna Pathway



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**Sensory Sculpture inspired by  
Barbara Hepworth**

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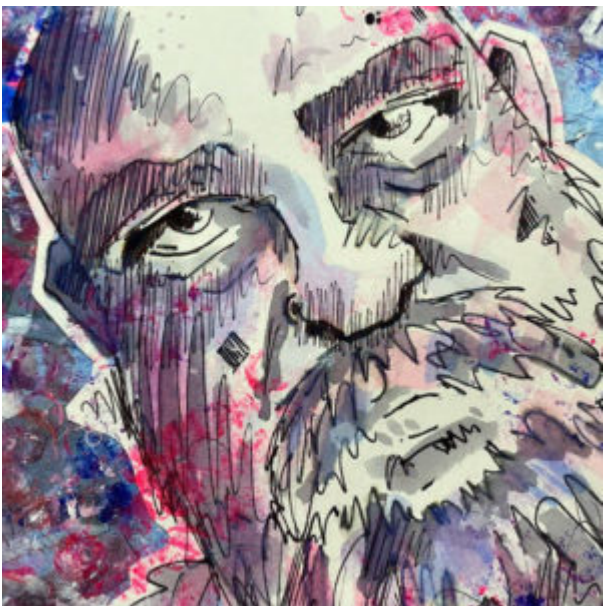
**Making a Ruler Drawing (of a  
Bag)**

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# Adapting AccessArt: Stories and Faces

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elastic band sketchbook



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# Adapting AccessArt: Colour and Composition



## Thoughtful Mark making



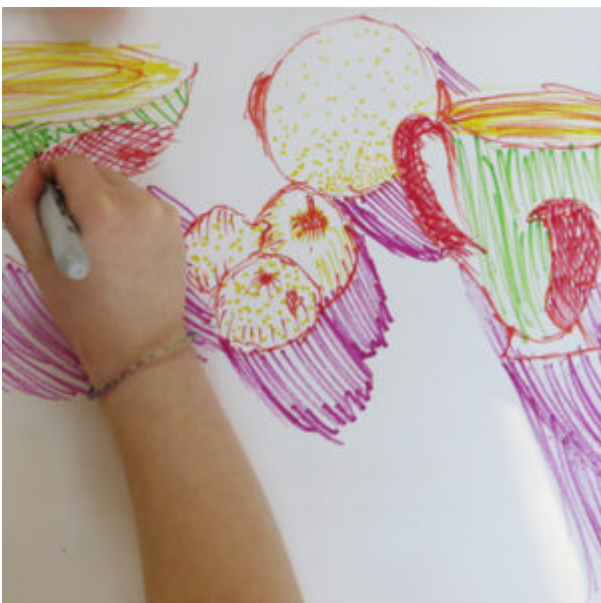
# Adapting AccessArt: Colour and Composition

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## Cut Paper Collage Still Life

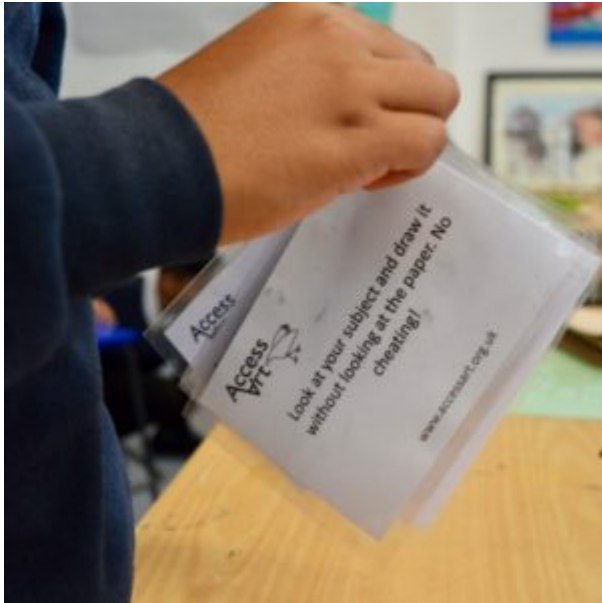


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## What I Ate in a Day

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## Watercolour Washes Inspired by the Tapestries of Henry Moore



Paint Your corner Shop

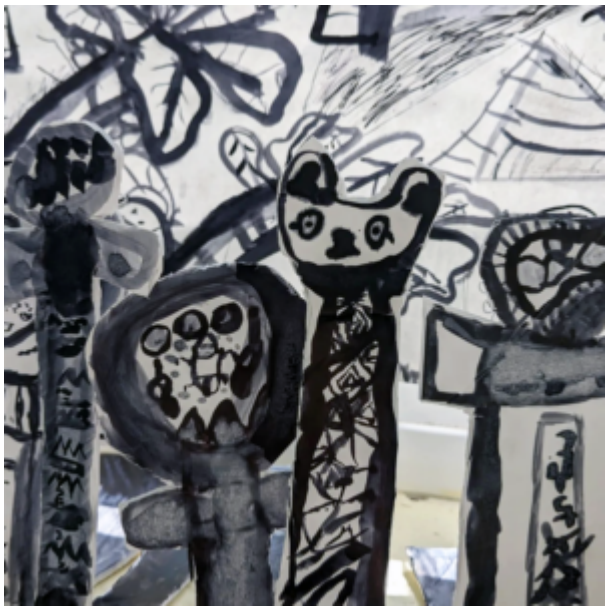


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## ink



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