

# The Anatomy of a Pencil

By [Sheila Ceccarelli](#) photographs by Miluka (Aged 14 and student at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class)

This is an AccessArt exercise designed to make you think about the potential of the pencil as a tool to create a whole repertoire of marks and lines with different weights, frequencies, depths and lengths.

Try this exercise with a variety pencils from soft (5B-9B) to hard (in the F and H range).

## **Top tips for making beautiful lines:**

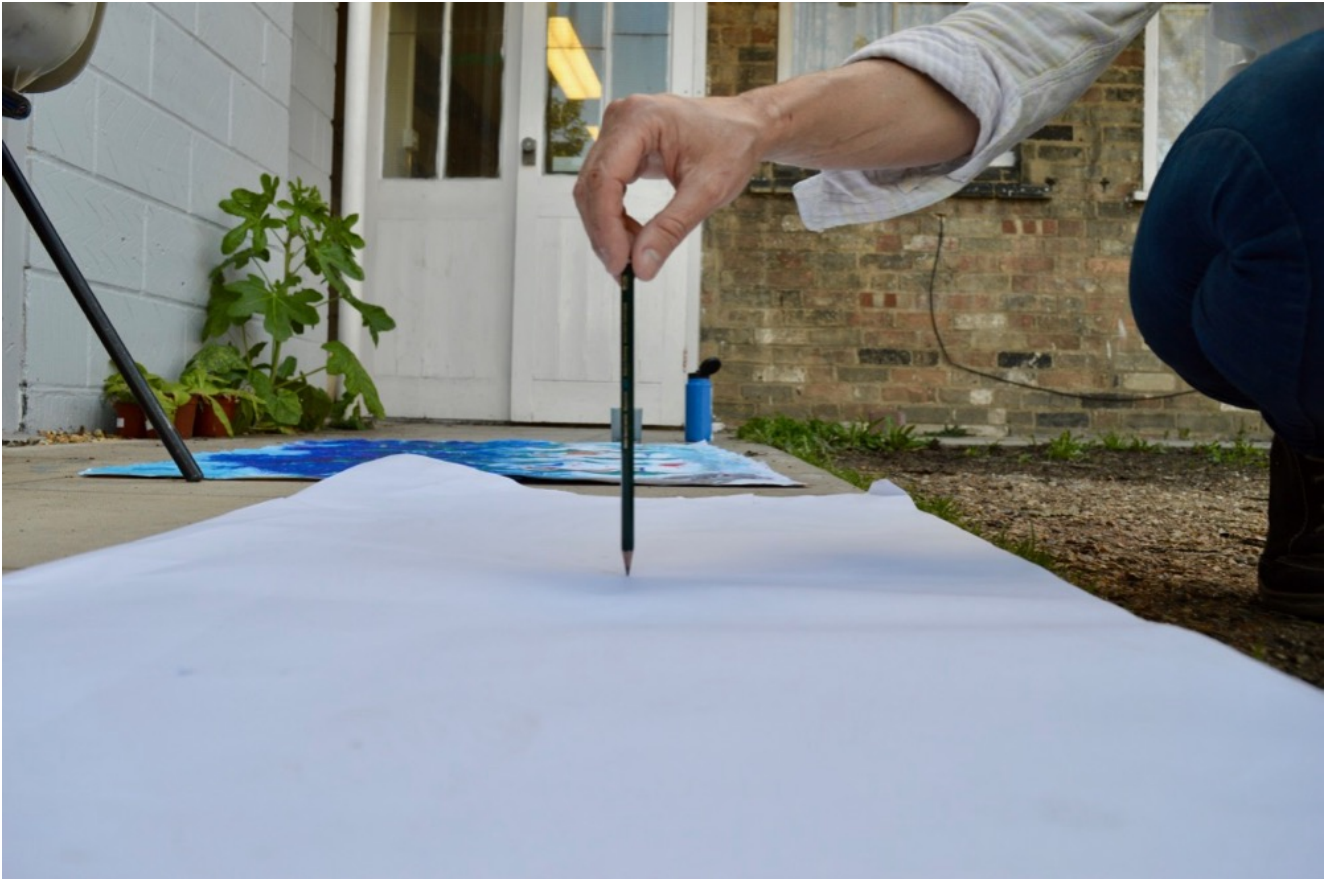
*Think about the lines you are making and be 'mindful,' or in the 'here and now'.*

*Think about the paper as a 'place' that your pencil is exploring. You are taking the pencil on a journey on and through that space.*

*Enjoy exploring 'frequency' and 'tempo' of making pencil marks by changing the speed, pressure and energy with which you work.*

*See what happens if you apply and release pressure through the pencil and try to unlearn how to hold a pencil.*

## **Vertical pencil movements and positions:**



Vertical: Try holding your pencil lightly from its top and dangling it over the paper and create gentle marks across the page

Words to help you make marks: *flick, stroke, float, crawl, flutter, tap, dart, pirouette, pivot, touch, comb, drip, drop*



Vertical: Grip the pencil from the top of the pencil and start to apply a little more pressure across the paper

Words to help you make marks: ***bore, stop, skid, flip, drill, collide, wedge, pause, twist, stir, poke, rotate, skip, dive***



Vertical: Now grab the pencil and enjoy dragging it across the paper applying variant pressures to create different thickness of line

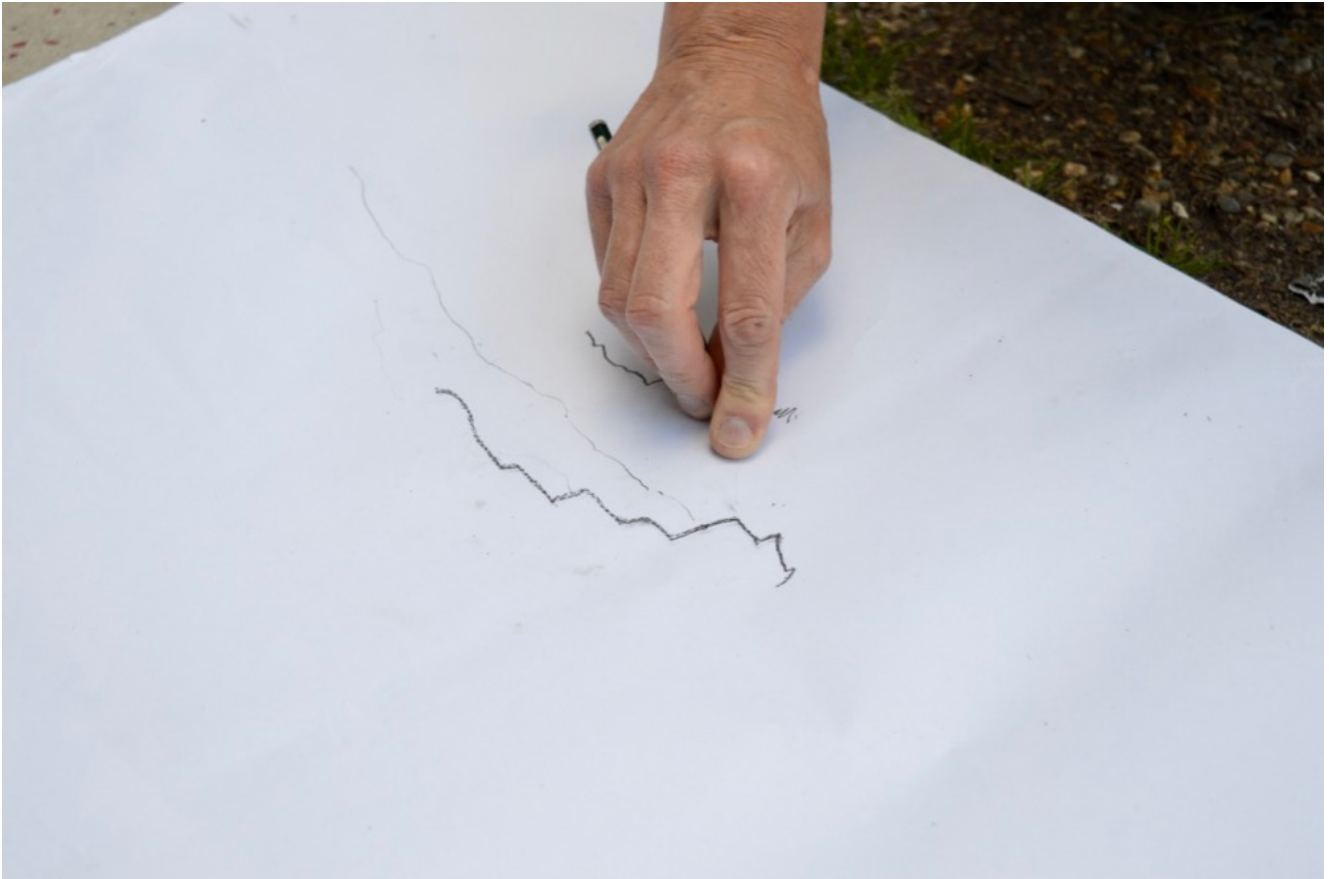
Words to help you make marks: *drag, release, stop, start, apply, pause, collect, hesitate, proceed, staccato, strike, pulse, jig*

**Horizontal pencil movements and positions:**



Horizontal: Now drop the pencil so it's lying horizontally across the paper

Words to help you make marks: *relax, gentle, release, flow, push, bare, ponder, forget, zig-zag, melt*



Horizontal: And use the tip of the pencil as though it is an extension of your own finger. Try digging it into the paper to punctuate a stop and then ease the pressure and drag it again across the paper

Words to help you make marks: ***guide, stop, press, stop, meander, stop, ebb, stop, move, consider, journey, stop, vibrato, consider, oscillate, stop, forge, press, step, stop, consider, slip, stop.***

Many thanks to Miluka from AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class, for spontaneously taking photographs for me to do this demonstration.

Follow thumbnails below to see more examples of an anatomy and use of a pencil.

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This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore armour through discussion, drawing and mark making.

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## Filling a Sketchbook: Ruler Drawings

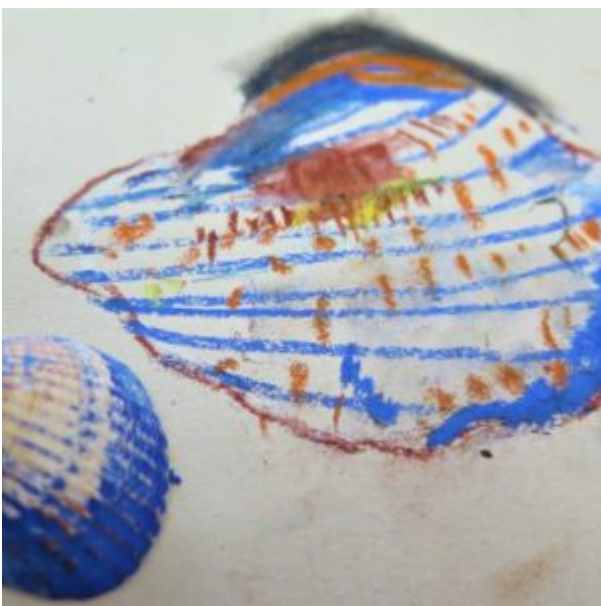
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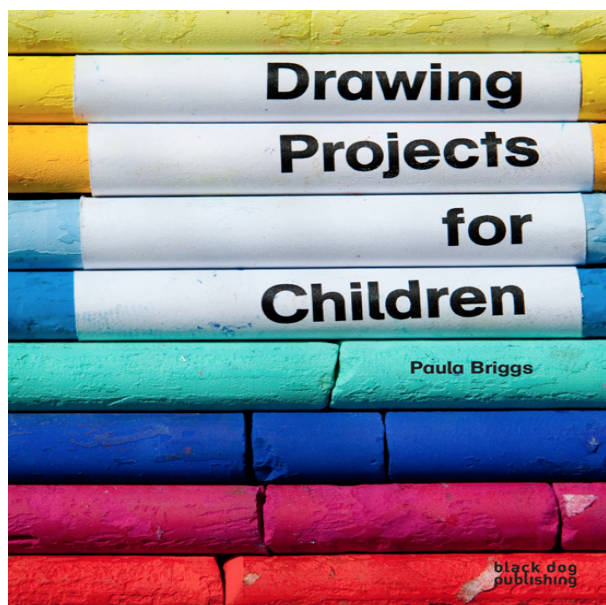


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# Introduction to Life Drawing with Hester Berry

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## Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Articulated Beasts

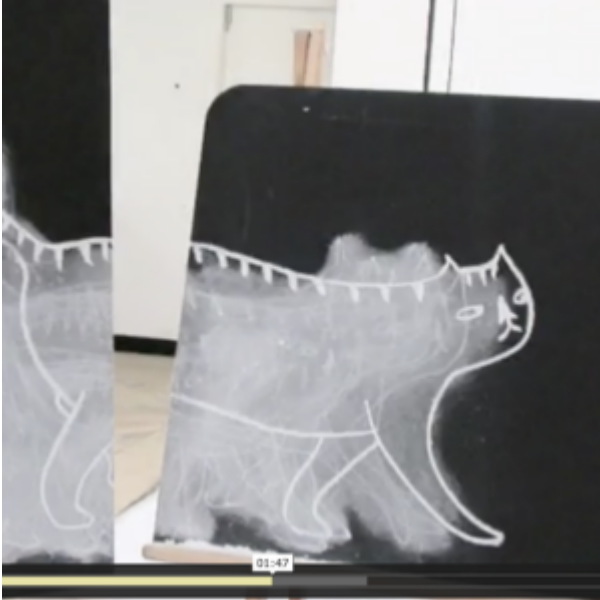
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# How does the Sculpture Balance?

Construction-based sculpture project inspired by Ben Nicholson's paintings. Encourages children to take more risks by asking them to through their sculptures "off balance".

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# Colour Composition and Ben Nicholson

One hour session in which primary age children made simple coloured elements through which to explore composition. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)