

Transformation of Materials Inspired by El Anatsui

[El Anatsui](#) is a sculptor who lives and works in Nigeria. He makes large sculptures out of small, element pieces, transforming the world around him into new forms.

We have selected 3 videos below to share with pupils. They are most suitable for year 6 in KS 2 and KS 3 and 4.

Video 1 - Studio Process

The first video shows El Anatsui's studio. He has a team of workers helping him construct his pieces, and the element of "playful exploration" is key.

Questions you may like to explore:

How far does El Anatsui control what is being made?
How does he leave space for chance discovery?

Video 2: "The Energy of the Community"

In this video, El talks about how it is important to him that other people are involved in the creation of his pieces, and that they are rooted in a sense of place and culture. "The energy of the community becomes a part of what you are doing."

Video 3

In this video, Nana brings us up close to one of El's pieces, showing us the elements of its construction in detail.

See This Resource Used in a Pathway...



Transforming Materials into Sculpture

This pathway shares how teachers might take inspiration from El Anatsui and encourage pupils to think how they might disassemble objects around them to transform them into sculptural pieces.

[Read More.](#)

Which Artists: Liz West

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s really interesting to hear how the interest Liz has in the quality of light comes from a personal place and is something she has responded to since childhood. Seeing how her work has developed over the years is therefore a really positive re enforcement that individual creative journeys, where nurtured, are so central to a rich arts education. We also love hearing Liz is always on the ‘quest for knowledge’ – meaning she is open to her ideas constantly evolving and the process of gathering new information and inspiration never stops!” – Rachel, AccessArt

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Brave Colour



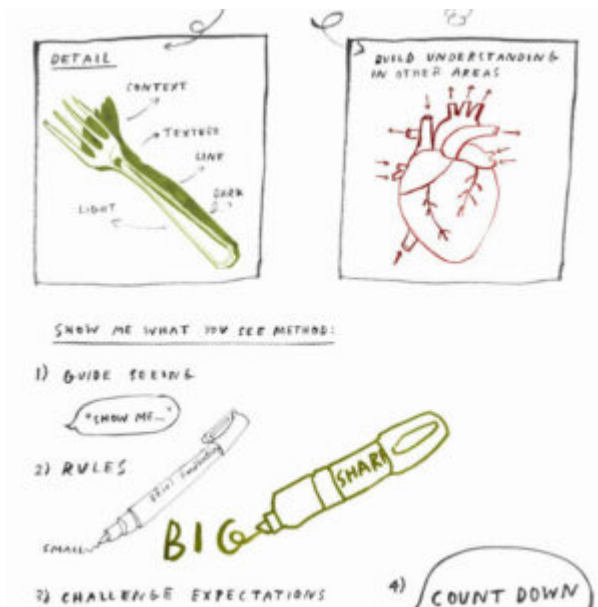
This is featured in the 'Brave colour' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise

Lightbulb Art



Mini World Light Boxes



Visual Arts Planning: Light and Dark



Which Artists: Su Blackwell

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s really interesting to hear how Su’s career path evolved organically, and how experimenting with different disciplines such as ceramics and sculpture whilst studying Textiles at the RCA began her journey towards paper craft and books. We really like how the small book sculptures inspired the larger scale set designs for The Snow Queen. They transfer so effectively to the stage and you can imagine how engaging it would be for a young audience to recognise letters and words on lampposts and other scenic elements”. – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...



[Creating a Book World](#)



Sketch Set Design Models



Set Design for Primary Aged Children

Which Artists: Cas Holmes

What We Like About This Resource...

“The sense of journey and feeling of movement is such an interesting part of Cas’ textile work here. We love how location and place is communicated through the variety of fluid and meandering textile marks used. Cas’ Romani background as well as early experience living in Japan make for a rich cultural backdrop to her work. The themes here could be explored in the classroom by asking children to use memories of places they’ve visited to produce a creative response using fabrics and mixed media” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...



[Draw Your Home](#)



Working With and In the Landscape



Landscape Sculptures

Which Artists: Nathan Ward

Collaborative Public Mural Project

“Missing You” – Pavement Art Response to #SchoolclosureUK

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

Children's Community Project

Mini World Light Boxes

Teacher Anna Campbell shares this beautiful resource which shares how children aged between 4 and 7 years old, made 'Light' boxes. This project could easily be adapted for an older class and is brilliant for SEN children/adults.

Wall Drawings with Tape

Making the Gift of Home this Winter

The AccessArt Village in the Ruskin Gallery, Cambridge and how to celebrate community, creativity and home.

For Remembrance Day

Anne-Louise Quinton creates a project for her Year 9 pupils to commemorate Remembrance Day. The teenagers worked collaboratively to create a collaged frieze of paper soldiers in response to an artwork by John Singer Sargent and a war poem by Wilfred Owen.

Withy Butterflies

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

The AccessArt Village and How a Small Idea can be Big

Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt leads year nine students from Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls on a collective drawing and collage experience exploring the #AccessArtVillage in BRG Brentwood Road Gallery. Students absorb this stunning collection of sewn houses and inspired by thread and stitches, make their own creative responses.

Draw, Paint, Build, Make: Gallery Project

Making a Pocket Gallery

This post shares an idea devised by Anne-Louise Quinton in which she enables children and teenagers to revisit the “ordinary” and resee it’s potential. The activity is a great way not only to inspire children as artists and curators, but also to introduce them to a whole range of concepts and vocabulary. It would be a great activity to use in a museum and gallery education context, as well as the classroom.

Be Inspired to Inspire

Inky Objects with Melissa Pierce Murray

In this workshop I introduced the idea of thinking of the piece of paper as an object to shape, rather than a picture plane to fill.

Drawing with Objects by

Melissa Pierce Murray

Teenagers explore ideas of placement with artist Melissa P Murray by arranging or assembling objects to make compositions or maquettes.