

# Aspire to Create: Inspired by Nature & Empowered by Creativity – Red to Green

By Sheila Ceccarelli for Students and Staff at Red2Green

In autumn 2015, AccessArt was invited to lead a series of practical workshops as part of an [Arts Council, Grants for the Arts](#) project, *Aspire to Create* which was managed and delivered by [Red2Green](#).

Red2Green is a 'Cambridgeshire charity providing services including learning, leisure and work opportunities for adults with a wide range of disabilities.'

*Aspire to Create* aimed to 'broaden its students' access to creative opportunities.'

During a two week residency, [Sheila Ceccarelli](#), from AccessArt, worked with *Aspirations*, a group of adult learners with [Autistic Spectrum Disorders](#) and staff at Red2Green, on a series of practical workshop sessions, exploring creative processes from drawing and printmaking to sculpture & casting, inspired by nature and culminating in an exhibition.

The *Aspire to Create* project was underpinned by the students' research into a local 19thC amateur naturalist [Leonard Jenyns](#) and his connection to [Charles Darwin](#). Prior to Sheila's visits, learners visited the local church in Swaffham Bulbeck, where Jenyns was the vicar.



Window dedicated to naturalist Leonard Jenyns at St. Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck - photo by Aspirations learner

Learners had also visited the [Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge](#), exploring both 20th century and classical art works inspired by nature and the [Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences](#). A box of skulls was also borrowed from the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology [Loans Boxes](#) service.

Sheila continued themes inspired by nature and natural form and offered students a bespoke opportunity to build up a repertoire of techniques and a portfolio of creative experiences.

The weeks were action packed and sessions were energetic and sometimes chaotic, but one of the most wonderful outcomes, beyond even that of the beautiful and thoughtful work created, was the transformation of the classroom into a studio and the commentary and conversations that happened there.

Sessions were documented and the series of AccessArt posts, below, created to offer a lasting archive to demonstrate how learners accessed the processes and highlight the extraordinary work produced.

Please note that not all was documented to protect the privacy of some of the learners who preferred to remain anonymous.

*Many thanks to Sharon, Sally, Vicky, Jeanette, Alice and Elizabeth for their help during the workshops and inviting me to be part of such an inspiring and supportive learning environment - Sheila*

## One: Casting



[Exploring mark making into wet clay,](#)

## mould making, mixing and pouring plaster

### Two: Patterns in Nature, Line and Wire



## Using drawing to look at designs and patterns in nature to inspire the creation of wire sculpture

### Three: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions



## Recording the surrounding world by taking rubbings

### Four: Block Printing



Learners are introduced to block printing

**Five: Monoprinting**



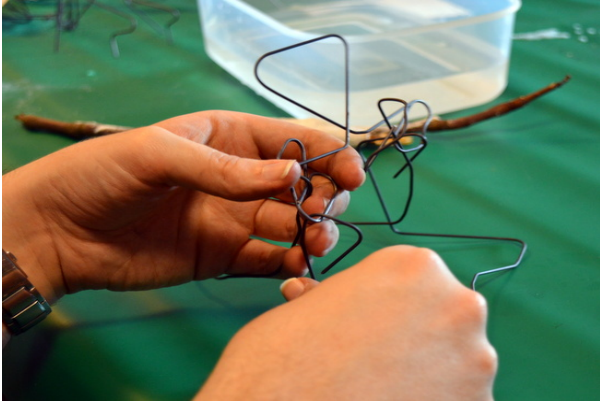
Exploring texture, pattern and mark making through monoprinting

**Six: Steps to Observational Drawing**



## Four steps to enabling observational drawing

### Seven: Making Sculpture



Learners explore sculptural principles of form, space and balance

### Eight: Wax Resist and Scraffito



Introducing colour with wax resist and scraffito techniques

---

## **Red to Green: Casting**

day one of AccessArt's six day residency at Red2Green mark making into clay, mould making and casting

---

## **Windy Day Drawing: What was it really all about?**

---

## **3D Drawing with Paper: Texture – Surface – Structure**

Artist Andrea Butler sets teenagers the challenge to create 3D forms from sheets of paper experimenting with structure and texture using manipulation techniques.

---

## **Bold Autumn Still Life**

Teenagers engaged in creating bold still life drawings

---

# **Introduction to Life Drawing with Hester Berry**

---

## **Years 3 and 4 D&T and Making Club**

A collection of resources by Sheila Ceccarelli based on her Brilliant Makers Club for year three and four pupils at Milton Road Primary School, Cambridge. Children were encouraged to experiment, think and engineer creative solutions by working on simple projects, with individual and independently generated outcomes.

---

## **40 Minute Cardboard and Double-Sided Sticky Tape Engineering Challenge**

This workshop was all about getting year three and four Brilliant Makers at Milton Road Primary School to think about the biggest challenge for any maker: how to make something stand up.

---

# **Paper Pigeon Project**

---

## **Teenagers Improvise a Shadow Puppet Play**

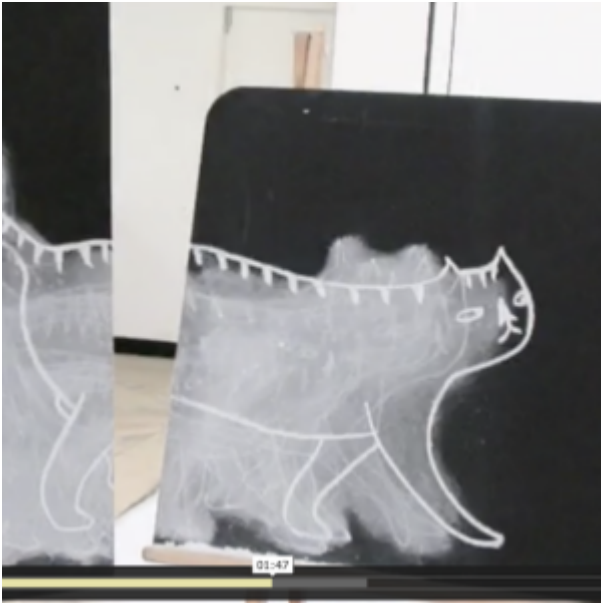
Enjoy following how the saga of a lion., a dog, a goat, a stegosaurus, and an 'animal fairy', told by Sophia and improvised by this creative 'Experimental Drawing' team

---

## **Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animating Articulated Beasts**

### **You May Also Like...**

**Talking points: Making drawings move**



**Talking Points: paper cut puppets**



**Talking Points: Lauren child**



**Talking Points: Lotte reiniger**



---

**Painting the Light and the Dark...**

---

# **Show Me The Shadows**

---

## **How to Make a Simple Origami Bird by Melanie Johns**

Melanie Johns suggests using origami to transform old artwork. It's an exciting way of using less successful drawings or paintings on paper to produce a new creative outcome, in the form of a personalised paper sculpture.

---

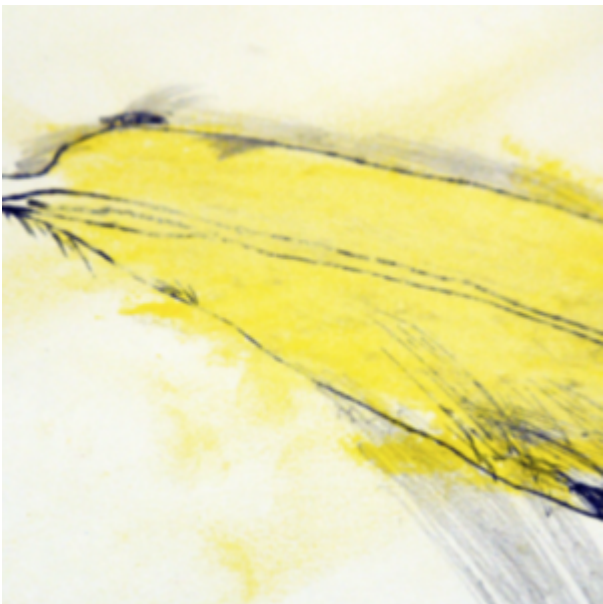
## **'Birds in the Trees' by Pupils at Battyeford Primary School**

### **You May Also Like...**

**Visual Arts Planning Collections: Birds**



## **Drawing Feathers**



**Flat yet sculptural**



---

# **Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Articulated Beasts**

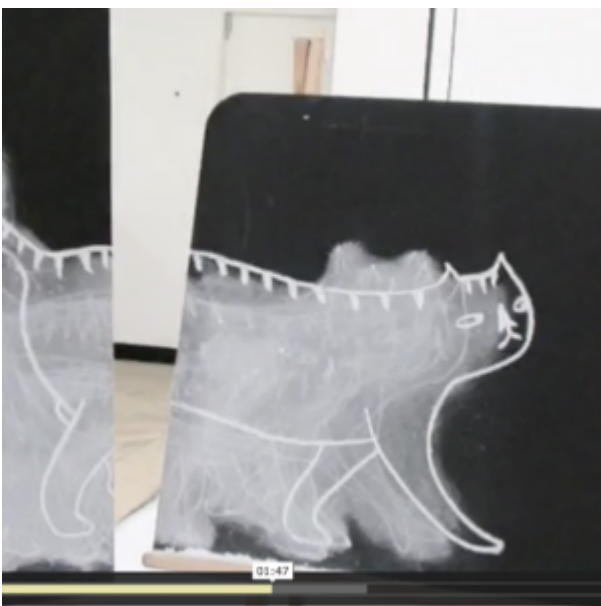
**You May Also Like...**

**Pathway: Making Animated Drawings**



[This is featured in the 'Making Animated Drawings' pathway](#)

**Talking points: Making drawings move**



**Talking Points: paper cut puppets**



**Talking Points: Lauren child**



**Talking Points: Lotte reiniger**



---

## **In the Company of Birds**

**You May Also Like...**

**Visual Arts Planning Collections: Birds**



**swoop**



**Birds in trees**



---

**Articulated and Animated**

# **Drawings by Teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class**

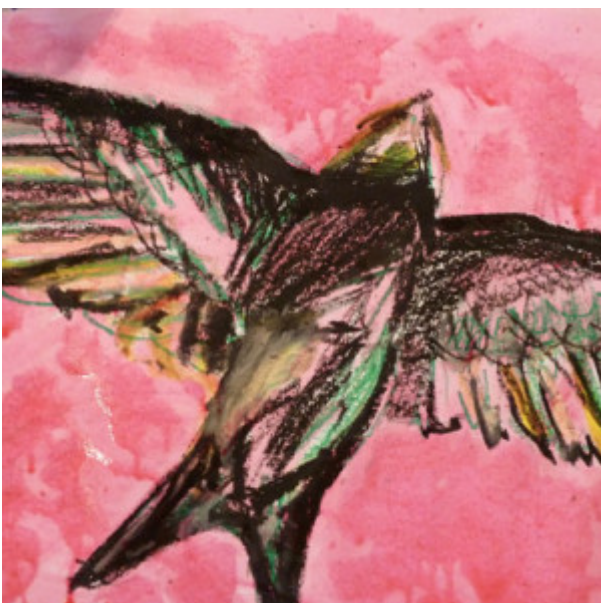
A simple project to teach how to make an articulated drawing with only very basic materials.

---

## **“Flock” at Prospect House School, Inspired by Veronica Lindsay-Addy**

### **You May Also Like...**

**Visual Arts Planning Collections: Birds**



## Swoop



## How To Make an Origami Bird



---

**Printing at Battyeford**

# **Primary, Inspired by Hester Cox**