An Exploration of Pandora's Box

By Rachel Thompson

In this post, AccessArt team member and Artist Rachel Thompson goes on a creative journey exploring the Ancient Greek Myth Pandora's Box. The exploration involved reading and discussing the story, designing and creating a clay box inspired by Ancient Greek vases, distressing fabrics and seeing how they move to air rushing past and finally drawing imaginative creatures emerging from the box.

This extended project took place over 3 sessions of approximately 1 hour each, with time left in between for the clay box to dry. The project could be complimented by some drama or history based activities that further explore the text and its themes.

This first activity focussed on Pandora's Box itself, and re creating one using air dry clay and paint, inspired by the colours and patterns seen in Ancient Greek Amphoras.



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Ancient Greek Lyres



Decorative Coil Clay Pots



Visual Arts Planning: Clay

Creativity Medals

See the Resource Used in Schools...









What We Like About This Resource....

"The sentiment behind this resource idea is lovely and it provides an opportunity to really develop some fine motor skills as well as independence of approach. Taking ownership of the medal design means the sense of achievement is heightened beyond the children just being given one. You can really imagine the positive energy that would surround this activity within a classroom, with each child working on a shared project but embarking on their own creative journey." — Rachel, AccessArt

You May Also Like....

Pathway: Playful Making



Featured in the 'Playful Making' pathway

Talking Points: Introduction to sculpture



Clay Art Medals



Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



Talking Points: Linda BEll



Making Musical Instruments

What We Like About This Resource....

"It's great to see music being explored in this way, and combining it with making creates a really interesting immersive project. This activity would work well as part of an extended project looking at musical instruments around the world and some of the natural materials they are made from." — Rachel, AccessArt

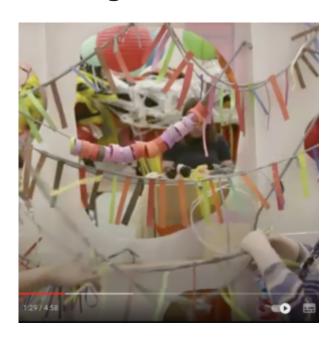
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Pathway: Music and art

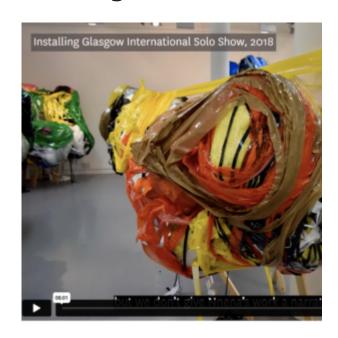


This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway

Talking Points: Linda BEll



Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



talking points: wassily Kandinsky



drawing source material: orchestras



A Cheerful Orchestra



Touch Wood

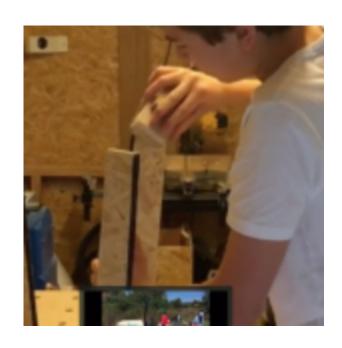
What We Like About This Resource....

"You can get a real sense of the environment in this post and how this could provide so much inspiration for creative projects. We are aware there the challenges to exploring the outdoors when many schools are in towns and cities. A way around this could be to have a regular collection of natural objects within the classroom and using them as a stimulus to respond creatively in sketchbooks or in extended projects" — Andrea, AccessArt

You Might Also Like....



Woodland Exploration



A Passion for Woodworking



<u>Visual Arts PLanning: Tees, Forest and Landscapes</u>

Which Artists: Jason Line

What We Like About This Resource....

"It's always so inspiring to hear how different artists work and we particularly like the detailed references Jake makes to his process — marking out the composition using neutral tones; adding and taking away compositional elements and gradually building in more colour and detail. Delivering a still life session in a classroom could begin with this process and encourage the practice of looking at positive and negative space. Some suggested resources below also touch on this". — Rachel, AccessArt

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Tackling Still Life for Children



Drawing Negative Space



<u>Visual Arts Planning: Still Life</u>

Which Artists: Su Blackwell

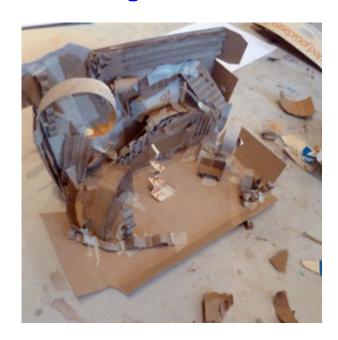
What We Like About This Resource....

"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



<u>Sketch Set Design Models</u>



<u>Set Design for Primary Aged Children</u>

Which Artists: Rachel Parker

What We Like About This Resource

"It's really interesting to see the combination of hand and digital work in Rachel's work, and particularly how her hand stitched embroidery is scanned before being used to create patterned products. We love that lots of Rachel's work begins in sketchbooks and how this really underpins her creative process. For children in school, learning to utilise a sketchbook and discover their potential though drawing and mapping ideas is invaluable. We have a whole Sketchbook Journey section on the AccessArt website (linked below) which explores this in more detail". — Rachel, AccessArt.

You Might Also Like....

Pathway: Exploring pattern

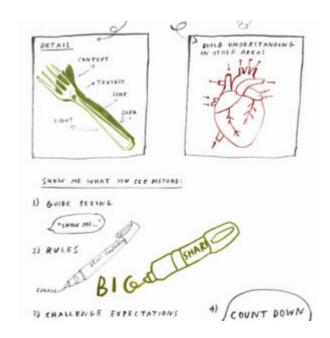


This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see



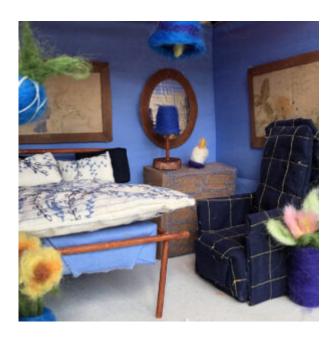
Inspired by Rachel Parker



Sewn Treasure Box



Felt and Embroidery Sets



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

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Working With and In the Landscape



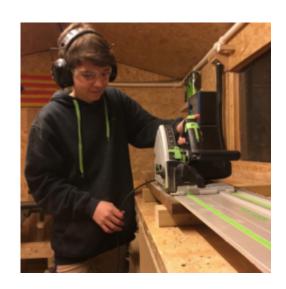
Landscape Sculptures

Working with Dogwood

What We Like About This Resource....

"It's lovely to see a resource that centres on a particular material and the scope it offers. I particularly like how the dogwood is used here to make wooden beads. This idea could be developed further by looking at how wood has been used to make jewelry throughout history and within many different cultures." — Rachel, AccessArt.

You Might Also Like....



A Passion for Woodworking



Woodland Exploration



<u>Visual Arts Planning: Trees, Forests and Landscape</u>

Which Artists: Nathan Ward

Dropped Cone Sculptures with Julia Rigby

What We Like About This Resource....

"There's a really fun element to this activity which is you can imagine all children really enjoying! The idea of food on large scale is a great starter for a sculpture project and an early exploration of working in 3D. What's really positive to see in this project is how the children used their sketchbooks to design their ice creams prior to working in 3D. They then had the opportunity to re visit and refine their ideas as they worked. This provides a sold foundation for the concept of design development and design through making- both of which underpin any visual arts or design project or profession. For more support on how to develop sketchbook practice in your setting please see our Sketchbook Journey" -Rachel, AccessArt

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Communal Drawing: Summer Picnic



Redesigning Food Packaging

Volcano Painting inspired by Frank Bowling

See This Resource Used In Schools...





















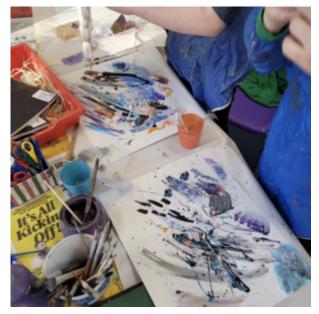


























What We Like About This Resource....

"We love how this activity provides an opportunity to explore a well known Artist's work, through focussing on their materials and techniques. The children looked at Frank Bowling's work before creating their own individual responses that retained individual ownership — something we

advocate as part of a rich and balanced visual arts education. It was also great to see how a professional artist visited the school to further enhance the children's experience." — Rachel, AccessArt

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Cloth, thread, paint



This is featured in the 'Cloth, Thread, Paint' pathway

Talking Points: Frank Bowling



Talking Points: Hannah Rae



Talking Points: Alice Kettle



Which Artists: We are out of office

Gabby Savage-Dickson: Etching

What We Like About This Resource...

"These are such beautiful and evocative images - certain to inspire. There is a lot of potential for schools to explore Gabby's work as a way to

inspire pupils to create their own imagery inspired by literature, or inspired by imaginative writing by pupils.

Although etching might not be particularly accessible to many schools, there are low tech ways of approaching the process (see below) which mean pupils can explore similar ways of working in the classroom." Paula, AccessArt

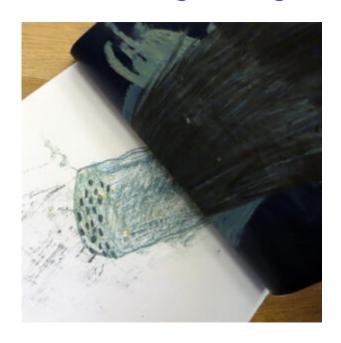
You May Also Like...



Dry Point Etching



Printmaking Using Packaging



MonoPrinting with Carbon Paper

Rosie Hurley: Esio Trot

What We Like About This Resource...

"Rosie highlights the importance of embracing a wide variety of interests and ways of working into our wider creative practice, resulting in wonderfully rich and very personal explorations and outcomes.

There are so many clues in this resource for teachers. Look out for how Rosie slows down her whole process into a series of interconnected stages, which weave in and out of each other. These include time for research (collecting and observing), analysing and revisiting, drawing, making and finally documenting." Paula, AccessArt

You Might Also like...

Pathway: Telling Stories through drawing and making



This is featured in the 'Drawing Stories Through Drawing and Making' pathway

Pathway: Set Design



This is featured in the 'Set Design' pathway

talking points: negative space by tiny inventions



Gabby Savage-Dickson: Felting & Embroidering Sets



Year 3 Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake Homework



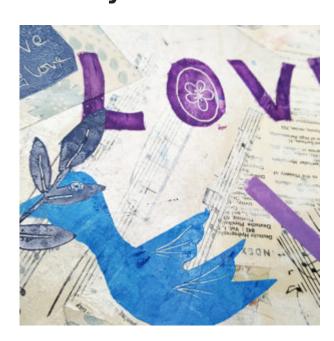
Draw, Paint, Build, Make: Gallery Project



The Art Of Zines

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Pathway: Print & Activism

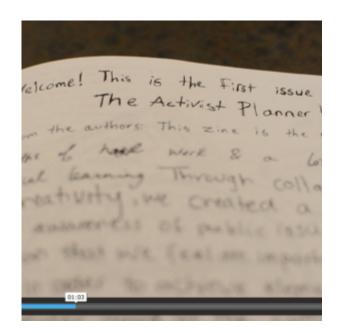


This is featured in the 'Print & Activism' pathway

Talking Points: Luba Lukova



Talking Points: What is a Zine?



Making Large Scale, Screenprinted, Collaged, Co-Created Campaign Posters!



Making an Artist's Book



Book Artists



Through Art

Connecting With Nature

Lino Printing Inspired by Gestural Drawings

Anthotype Photography: Plant-

Based Photography Without a Camera

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Pathway: using natural materials to make images



This is featured in the 'Using Natural Materials to Make Images' pathway

Talking Points: What is a cyanotype



Talking Points: Anna Atkins



Movement Maps