

Questioning the Canvas

By Paula Briggs

This resource shares the aims and outcomes of 4 one-hour long sessions with students aged 11, 12 and 13 from the AccessArt Art Lab which took place at Wysing Arts Centre.



Following on from a short warm-up exercise which introduced the children to the question: "[What is a Canvas](#)", I wanted to provide the students with the opportunity to create 2-d or 3-d artwork inspired by the creation of a canvas. Rather than take an off the peg, ready made canvas, or a sheet or paper upon which to paint, I thought it would be interesting if we built up the canvases using other materials, so that the nature and character *of* the canvas could inspire what was then created *on* the canvas.

The sessions were particularly successful in enabling students to take part in a continuous process of reflection and action, as they made decisions, sometimes consciously sometimes not, about their next creative action.

To Begin

We began our questioning of what a canvas was, or might be, by a gift and an invitation to deconstruct the gift. Each teenager was given an old Observer book, and with the book they were given permission to take it a part, and put it together again in any way they wished...

	Please log in here to access full content.
Username	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
	<input type="button" value="Login"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remember me
	Forgot Password

To access all content, I would like to join as...

An Individual



Creative practitioners, educators, teachers, parents, learners...

[From £3.50](#)

An Organisation...



Schools, Colleges, Arts Organisations: Single and Multi-Users
From £42

AccessArt is a UK Charity and we believe everyone has the right to be creative. AccessArt provides inspiration to help us all reach our creative potential.

Decorative Eggs

A project based on Ukrainian Pysanky eggs using broken beads.

World in a Matchbox

Children love working on a miniature scale where they can create worlds which they can control and oversee. AccessArt and Mencap have devised the “World in a Box” activity to enable children plenty of creative freedom resulting in fantastic autobiographical artwork.

AccessArt helps teachers at Belvue School to get ready for a Drawing Week

[Back to InSET & CPD](#)

Teachers Battle it Out in Conversation with Marks on Paper



Teachers embarked on an exercise whereby they made marks on paper to have a conversation with a partner. This was a playful and fun exercise and teachers very much enjoyed both the process and outcomes.

Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape & Texture with Charcoal, Graphite, Masking Tape and Pastels



This was the second session in the series and an introduction to pattern, shape and texture with charcoal and graphite, and an opportunity for teachers to break down any preconceived ideas about what drawing is and who drawing processes is for.

Play and Placement: Teachers Explore Approaches to Drawing



This was the third and final session in the series, and an opportunity to play with creative mark-making and explore context and placement as an introduction to larger scale drawing and concepts around installation art.

UK Charity AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

Join AccessArt from only £3.50 per month and enjoy full access to hundreds more resources!

Play and Placement: Teachers Explore Approaches to Drawing

This was the third and final session in the series, and an opportunity to play with creative mark-making and explore context and placement as an introduction to larger scale drawing and concepts around installation art.

Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape & Texture with Charcoal, Graphite, Masking Tape and Pastels

An introduction to pattern, shape and texture with charcoal and graphite, and an opportunity for teachers to break down any preconceived ideas about what drawing is and who drawing processes is for

“Plasticine Models & Decorated Plinths ” Inspired

**by the Book 'Dirty Beasts' by
Roald Dahl & illustrated by
Quentin Blake**

You Might Also like...

**Pathway: Telling Stories through drawing
and making**



**[This is featured in the 'Drawing Stories
Through Drawing and Making' pathway](#)**

Arts and Minds: Manipulating Clay with Water

This post shows how to facilitate a sensory session exploring water and clay.

Arts and Minds: Asemic Writing and Invented Text

Arts and Minds: A 'Heart-Work' Conversation

Gathering Marks and Tearing Paper to Appreciate Prints by Goya, Turner and Cornelius at the Fitzwilliam Museum,

Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to enter into the intricacies of prints made by Turner, Goya and Cornelius in a Temporary Exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in summer 2016: 1816: Prints by Turner, Goya and Cornelius.

Making Sculptural Interpretations of 18th Century Portraits at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore making three dimensional interpretations of two dimensional 18th Century portraits.

Using Drawing to Get Closer to 18th Century Portraits at

the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, used drawing exercises to take a closer look at 18th Century portraits

Collage and Construction

What is a Canvas? Exploration Activity

Time to Introduce Ourselves – Initial Sculpture!

**Lights | Camera | Action | we
all love glow-in-the-dark
tape! By Sara Dudman**

**Collagraph, Collage and
Stitch: Make a Image of Your
Home on Fabric**

**The August Creative Challenge
Gallery – Week Four**

Supersized Jewellery

You May Also Like...

More Making and Drawing projects for

children

