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

By Sheila Ceccarelli for Students and Staff at Red2Green

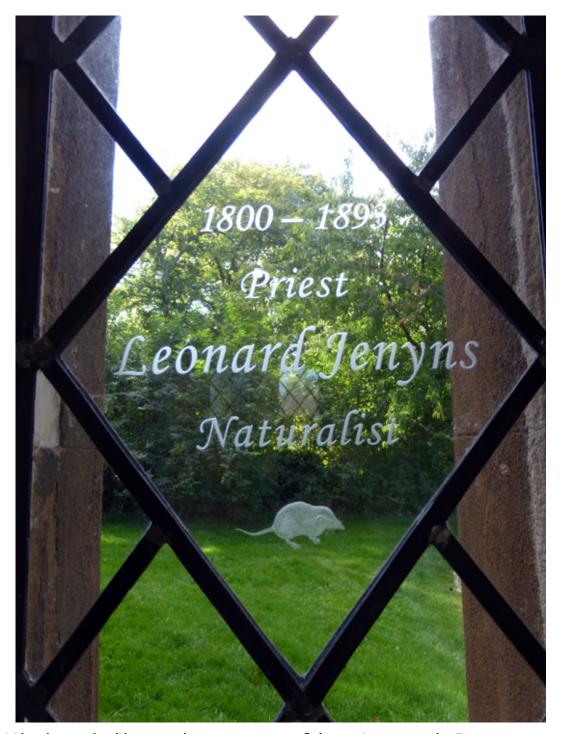
In autumn 2015, AccessArt was invited to lead a series of practical workshops as part of an Arts Council, Grants for the Arts project, Aspire to Create which was managed and delivered by Red2Green.

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, <u>Sheila Ceccarelli</u>, from AccessArt, worked with *Aspirations*, a group of adult learners with <u>Autistic Spectrum Disorders</u> 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 <u>Leonard Jenyns</u> and his connection to <u>Charles Darwin</u>. 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 <u>Fitzwilliam Museum</u>, <u>Cambridge</u>, exploring both 20th century and classical art works inspired by nature and the <u>Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences</u>. A box of skulls was also borrowed from the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology <u>Loans Boxes</u> 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



<u>Using drawing to look at designs and patterns in nature to inspire the creation of wire sculpture</u>

Three: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions



Recording the surrounding world by taking rubbings

Four: Block Printing



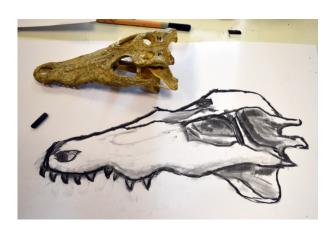
Learners are introduced to block printing

Five: Monoprinting



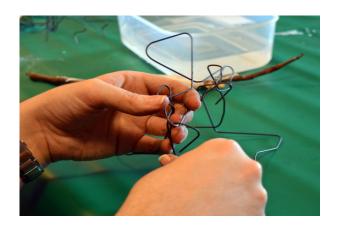
Exploring texture, pattern and mark
making through monoprinting

Six: Steps to Observational Drawing



Four steps to enabling observational drawing

Seven: Making Sculpture



<u>Learners explore sculptural principles of</u> <u>form, space and balance</u>

Eight: Wax Resist and Scraffito



<u>Introducing colour with wax resist and</u> <u>scraffito techniques</u>



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

Life Drawing: A Collection of Resources by Hester Berry

How to Run a Life Drawing Class



_Introducing Hester and providing an overview of how Hester sets up and facilitates a life class.

An Introduction to Life Drawing



__Getting started with life

drawing and some simple warm-up exercises to help you become familiar with your drawing materials and the life model.

Capturing gesture



__Hester provides some helpful advice along with a series of short drawing exercises, that will enable you to identify the essentials of a pose and successfully record the movement and gesture of the life model.

Drawing the head



_Drawing faces can be daunting, but Hester explains how you can tackle them successfully using simple and logical steps.

drawing hands and feet



__Hands and feet are tricky subjects and often get omitted because the forms seem too

complicated to draw. Hester shares a secret shortcut to understanding and drawing these complex forms ...think mittens and socks!

Understanding Foreshortening



_When drawing the life model, it can be difficult to process your view of a 3D form into a 2D representation. Hester explains clearly and concisely how to successfully achieve a foreshortened figure to create the illusion of space in your drawings.

Using Tone



_Hester explains how to use tone effectively to give your drawings more definition and an increased sense of volume and suggests ways of using tone when drawing short poses, that will build your confidence and skills.

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

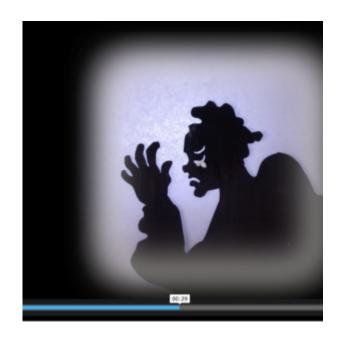
Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animating Articulated Beasts

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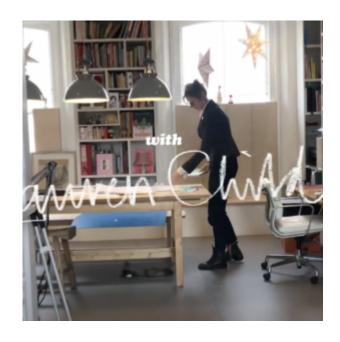
Talking points: Making drawings move



Talking Points: paper cut puppets



Talking Points: Lauren child



Talking Points: Lotte reiniger



Painting the Light and the Dark...

Show Me The Shadows

Cantus Arcticus (Concerto for Birds and Orchestra) Op.61: Images Inspired by Music

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

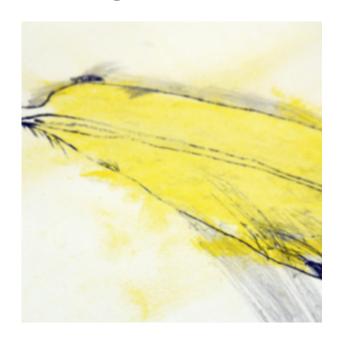
Pupils at Battyeford Primary School

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Drawing Feathers



Flat yet sculptural



Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Articulated Beasts

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Pathway: Making Animated Drawings

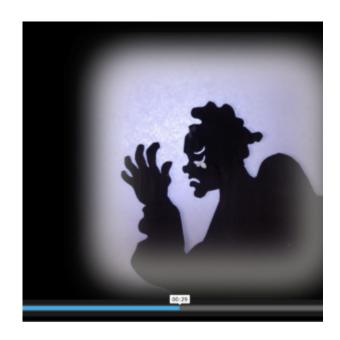


This is featured in the 'Making Animated Drawings' pathway

Talking points: Making drawings move



Talking Points: paper cut puppets



Talking Points: Lauren child



Talking Points: Lotte reiniger



In the Company of Birds

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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.