

Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings

This resource shares how schools might use Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings to inspire creativity in the classroom. [See this resource as part of a pathway for use in schools here.](#)

The Shelter Drawings can be used to:

- Develop visual literacy skills
- Explore watercolour, ink and wax resist
- Explore how to convey form in drawings by using contour lines
- Explore Chiaroscuro (light / dark) to convey mood
- Explore perspective to build sense of claustrophobia / confinement
- Explore themes of shelter, confinement, safety, being trapped

Context & Background



Tentoonstelling beeldhouwwerken Sonsbeek Arnhem. Family Group (Henry Moore), Bestanddeelnr 905-1531.jpg

Henry Moore was a sculptor and draughtsman.

When introducing his drawings to children, it's important to remember the fact that he was a sculptor - his drawings have a characteristic "sculptural" feel. Understanding this will help children explore how they convey form in their own drawings. Moore's sculptures were monumental, inhabiting the landscape, but his studio was full of small maquettes (models) inspired by fist sized pieces of flint and bone. Even his drawings of these small objects feel "sculptural" and solid.



Three Reclining Figures 1975 HMF 75(8) watercolour wash, charcoal, chalk, gouache on blotting paper 263 x 217mm photo: The Henry Moore Foundation archive, Michel Muller. Reproduced by kind permission of the Henry Moore Foundation

The Shelter Drawings



Row of Sleepers 1986 by Henry Moore. Reproduced by the Henry Moore Foundation

Some records say Moore made his shelter drawings after taking shelter one night in 1940 in Belsize underground station, when Moore was fascinated by the families camping out underground. Other records say Moore took many underground journeys and saw the figures in the platforms as the trains passed by.

Returning to his studio, the Shelter Drawings were often made

from his memory of the experience. The images capture feelings of confinement and claustrophobia; the figures are anonymous but relationships between figures are clear. The figures in the underground, often seated or reclining, also reminded Moore of his sculptures.

See the clip above at 10 minutes 30 seconds for images of Moore making his Shelter Drawings

[See this resource as part of a pathway for use in schools here.](#)

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 850 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

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.

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Pathway: Exploring Form Through Drawing



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Form Through Drawing' pathway](#)

Watercolour Washes Inspired by the Tapestries of Henry Moore



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.*

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[A Passion for Woodworking](#)



Woodland Exploration



Visual Arts Planning: Trees, Forests and Landscape

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 solid 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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Art Club Cafe



Communal Drawing: Summer Picnic



Redesigning Food Packaging

Which Artists: We are out of office

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*

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[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



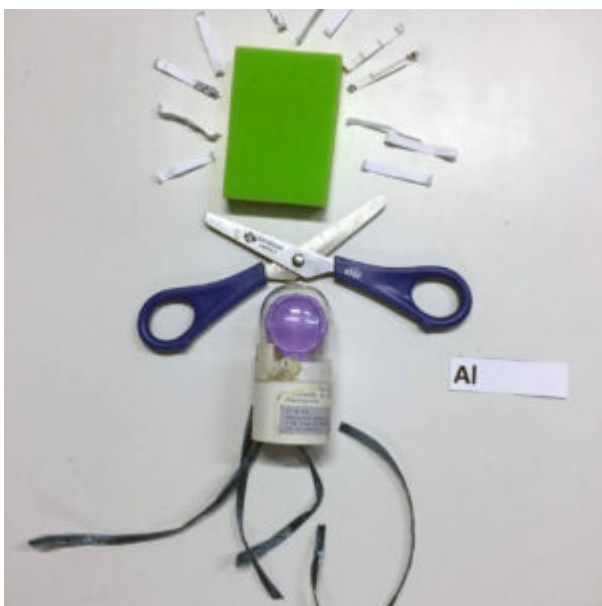
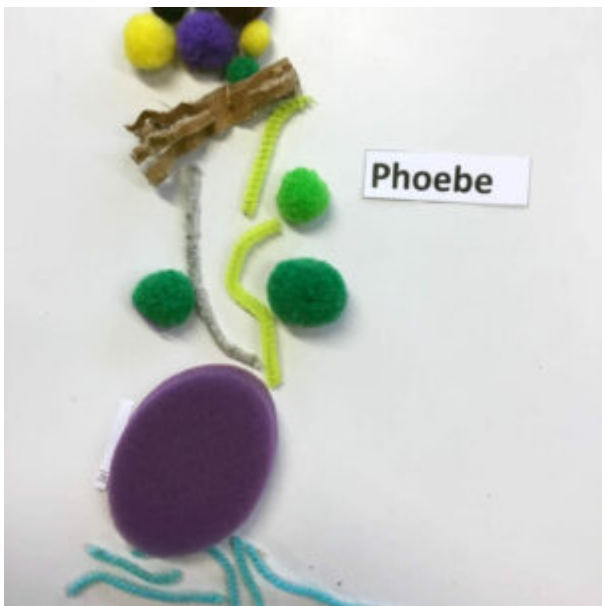
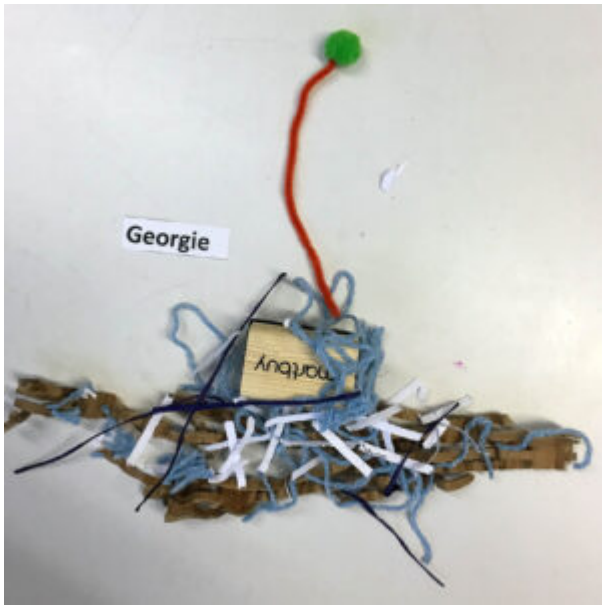
Draw, Paint, Build, Make: Gallery Project

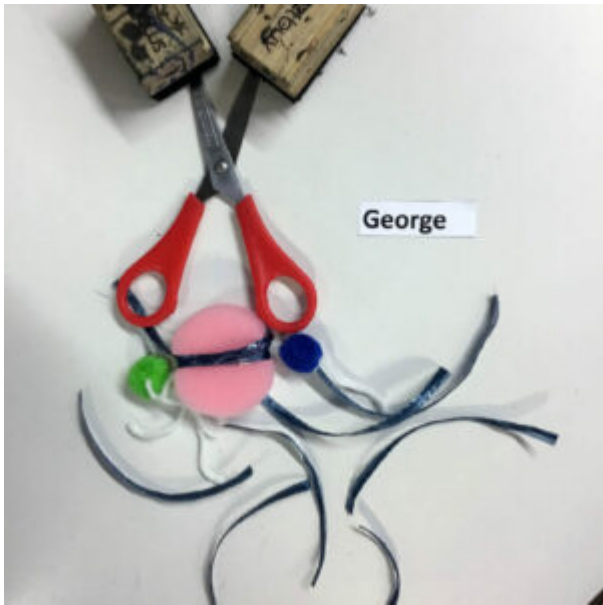


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Art Club Cafe

Use a range of making and modelling techniques to create a cafe, including modroc doughnuts and fabric pizzas!

Get Connected! Cardboard Robots with Movable Joints

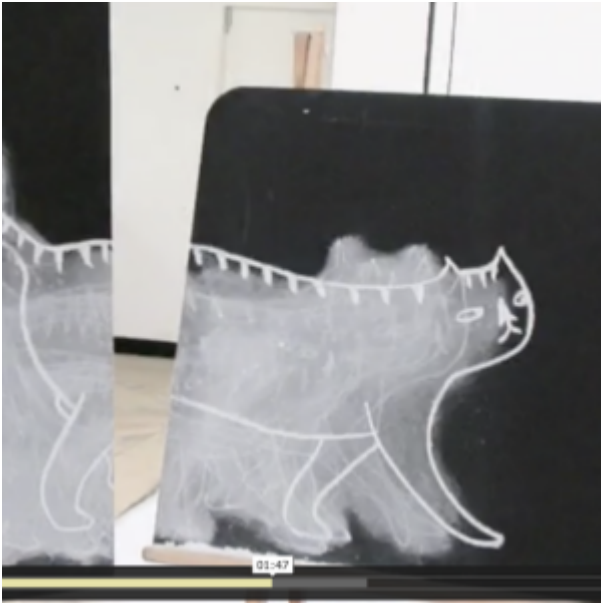
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Pathway: Making Animated Drawings



[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



**Home: The Little House on
West Street LockDown Project**

Inspired! Making at Linton Heights Junior School

Anna Campbell shares how a whole school engaged with making projects integrated across subjects in response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and how she used the project to progress pupils' making skills throughout the year groups.

Inspired! Psyche's Resilience by The Fitzy Peters

Natalie Bailey shares the pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as well as her reflections on the transformative impact that the project had on the children and how Art can support healing and wellbeing.

Ofsted are Coming Tomorrow!

Sue Brown shares her experience of an Ofsted inspection with an Art Deep Dive.

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

Cupid and Psyche: How a Fifteenth-Century Renaissance Panel Became the Most Loved Painting in Cambridgeshire

Sheila Ceccarelli tells the story of how Cupid and Psyche, painted by Jacopo Del Sellaio, an Italian Renaissance artist, came to become the most loved painting in Cambridgeshire. Inspire is an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrates the creativity of our local schools. It champions the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for children and young people. A chance also to see Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche on display next to the children's work.

Flying Minpin Birds

Roald Dahl's The Minpin Birds inspired Arbury school pupils to design and make their own birds for a tiny Minpin to ride upon. Alongside this project, the class drew their own maps of imaginary worlds and imagining themselves as Minpins.

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.

Painted Clay

A resource inspired by the Japanese art of dorondongo, where mud and dirt are shaped and buffed into highly polished spheres.

Decorative Clay Coil Pots

Artist educator Sharon Gale working with KS1 & KS2 students at the Weston Park Art Club shares a clay pot making resource: "This is not the traditional way of making coil pots but it's

lots of fun and by using different paint effects, the end results can be very interesting. We worked on this project for two, two hour sessions".