

# Shibori-Inspired Fabric Dyeing: The Art of the Reveal

By [Harper Marten](#)

*In this resource, Artist Educator Harper Marten explores the ancient fabric-dyeing technique of [Shibori](#) with a group of adults in a dementia care setting. Shibori is a traditional Japanese, hand-dyeing technique involving folding, twisting, stitching, or binding fabric to create resist-dyed patterns. Derived from the verb shiboru ("to squeeze or wring"), it creates lasting, intricate designs on cloth, traditionally using indigo.*

*This activity involves a series of gentle, tactile processes; applying pigments and dyes, and submerging materials in water. These steps make it an effective, process-led activity that offers rich sensory feedback. The striking visual transformations also create an element of surprise, motivating learners throughout. By focusing on the process rather than the final product, the activity encourages learners to engage with curiosity and confidence.*

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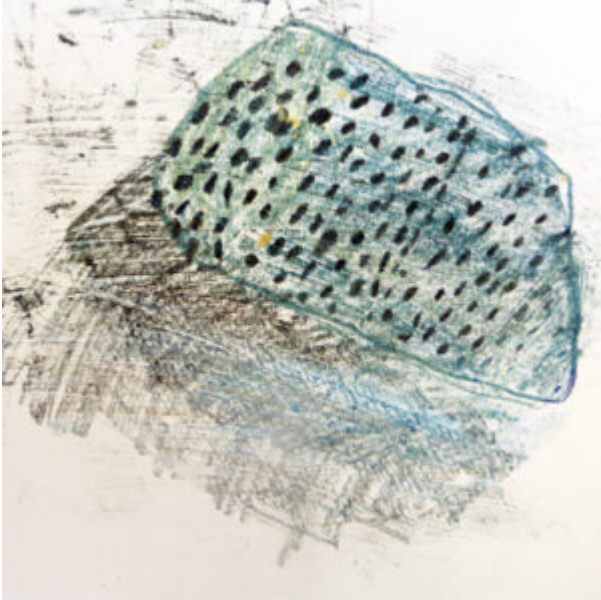
# **Cloth, Paint, Print: Inspired by Natural Objects**

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# Alternative Fashion

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## The Blood Bag Project

# What We Like About This Resource...

This project combines art and science in innovative and creative ways. It engages children with simple and more complex sewing skills, both hand and machine. The fact that a local artist collaborated on this project, bringing her own set of skills and experience is so valuable for any extended art project, and the children were able to connect with the sensitivity of the subject matter and to empathise with it's message.

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## **Making Painted & Sewn Landscapes**



**which artists: merlin evans**



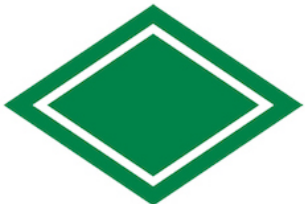
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**Which Artist: Leigh Bowser**

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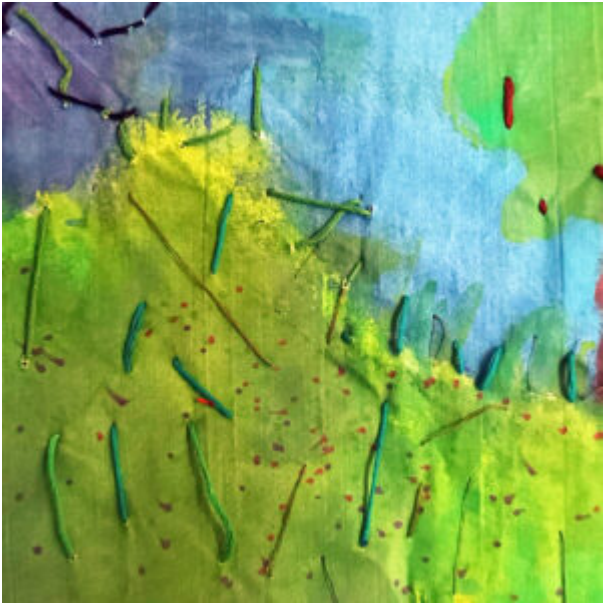
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**Making Painted & Sewn  
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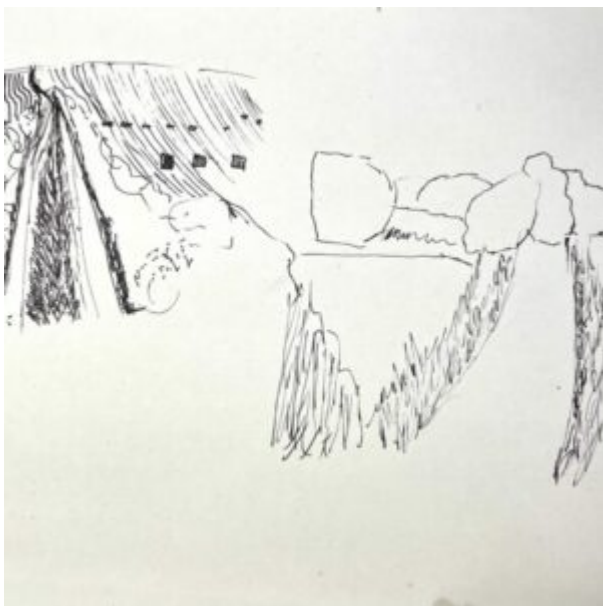


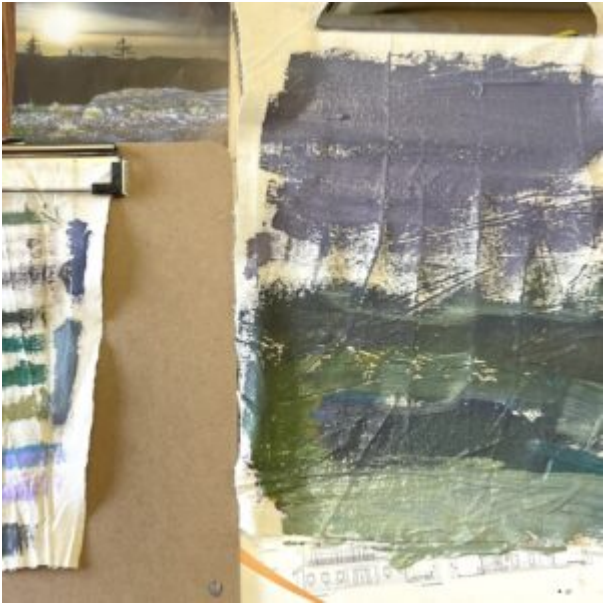


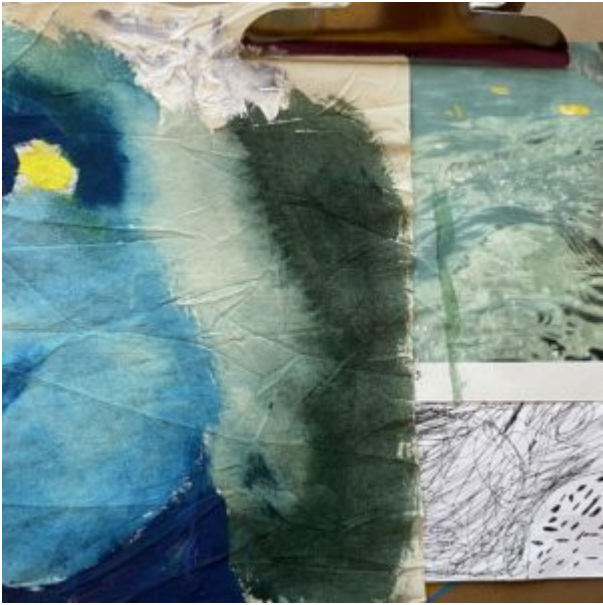














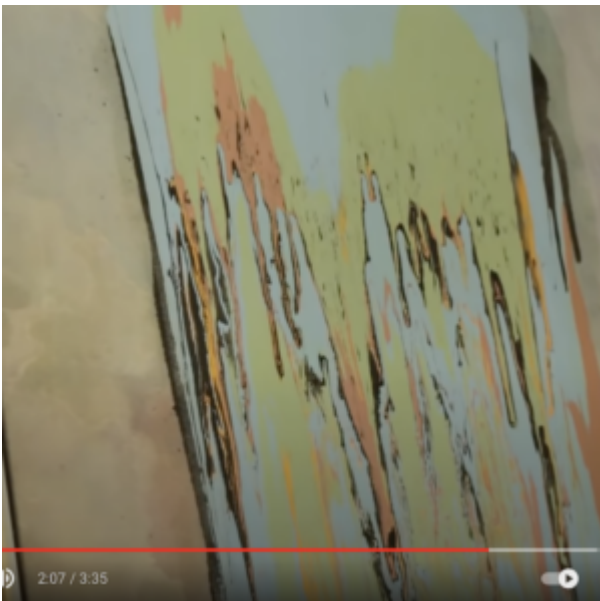
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## Talking Points: Hannah Rae



## Talking Points: Alice Kettle



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**To The Thames Barrier And**

# Beyond

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## Which Artists: Tatyana Antoun

## What We Like About This Resource...

*“The research phase of a creative project can be presented in many different ways, and can even be an art form in itself. Here, Tatyana demonstrates how her sketchbooks became a medium through which she expressed her thoughts, refined her ideas and explored materials. We believe sketchbooks to be a powerful tool for children to take ownership of their ideas and travel on their own creative journey, without necessarily knowing the destination. Take a look at our [sketchbook journey](#) for more sketchbook inspiration” – Rachel, AccessArt.*

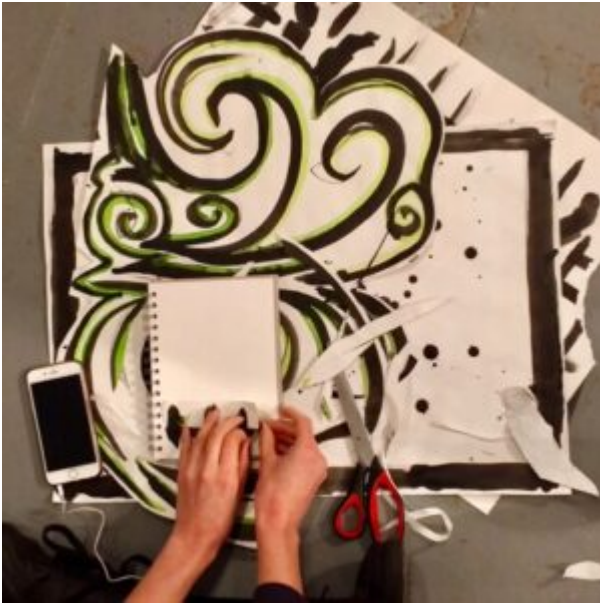
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## Sketchbooks and Thinking Skills



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## [Using Sketchbooks to Take Ownership of Ideas](#)

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## **Making A Banner At Woking College**

# What We Like About This Resource...

Working collaboratively towards a shared aim provides an alternative experience to working on individual projects. Creating together encourages listening, peer feedback and creative problem solving – all of which are hugely valuable in all areas of education” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

## You May Also Like...



[Animal Habitat Mural](#)



## Collaborative Public Mural



## Mural and Workshop Project

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**Which Artists: The Life &**

# Works of Madge Gill

## What We Like About This Resource...

“The life of Madge Gill that Sophie Dutton recounts here gives us real insight into the challenges that Madge Gill experienced, and how these challenges would have been common among women at the time. When we study the work of Artists, it adds a rich context to our experience of their work to consider their personal history, and helps us ask questions like ‘why do you think the Artist painted in this way or was inspired by this subject matter?’ If you introduce your class to Madge Gill, begin with looking back over her younger life to try and better understand her motivations as an Artist” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

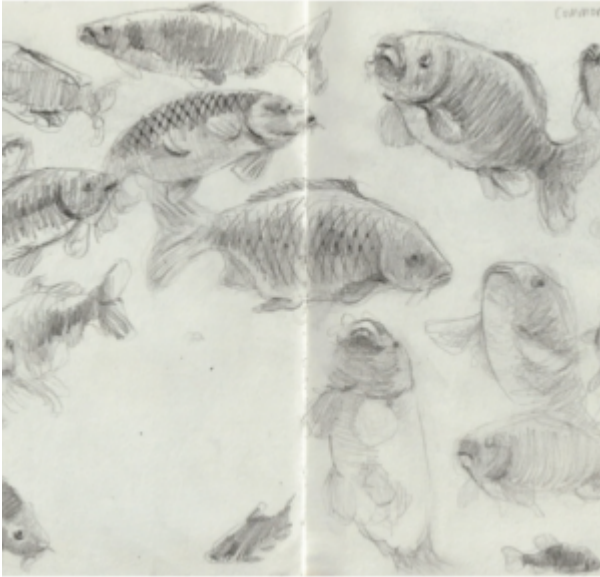
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## [How I Use Drawing and Sketchbooks](#)

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# Collage Streets

## What We Like About This Resource...

"This project provides a real opportunity for children to engage with a range of different processes to produce truly individual final results. Jan Miller is an experienced teacher and connects her projects well with learning outcomes. In this case, children are encouraged to have a loose approach and to make their own creative decisions – which is such a valuable part of any

child (or adults!) creative education". – *Rachel, AccessArt*

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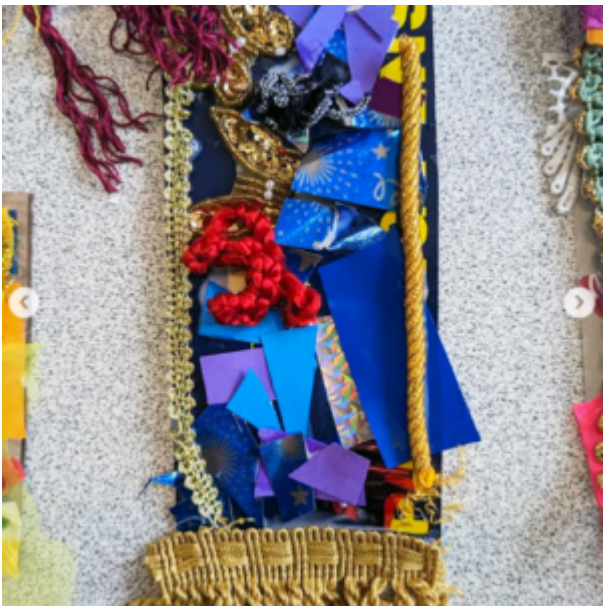
## Responding to Place



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## 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*

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**Clay Art Medals**



**Talking Points: Nnena Kalu**



**Talking Points: Linda BELL**



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## **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 through 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.

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Pathway: Exploring pattern

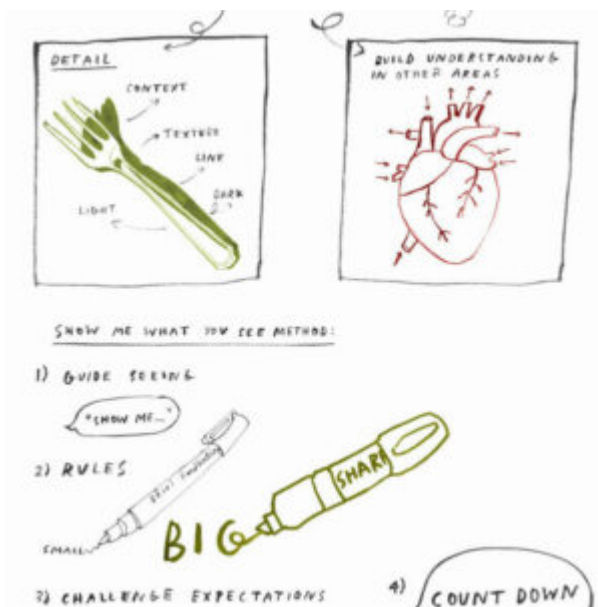


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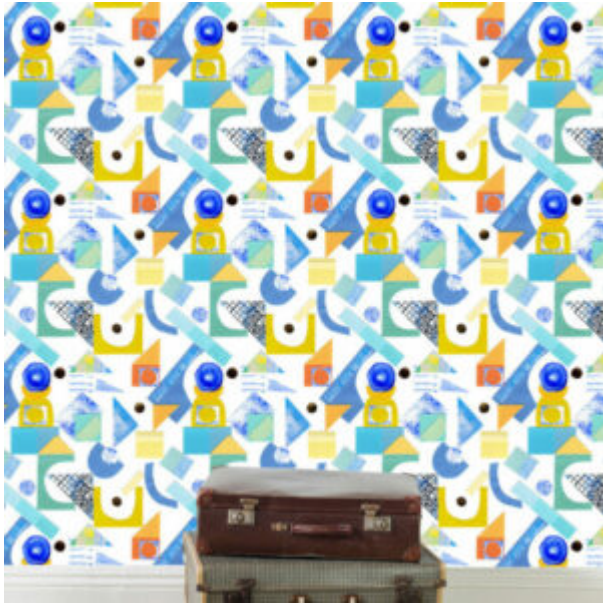
using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see



Inspired by Rachel Parker



## Sewn Treasure Box



## Felt and Embroidery Sets



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## **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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# **Gabby Savage-Dickson: Felting & Embroidering Sets**

## **What We Like About This Resource...**

"It's really interesting to see how Gabby works across the different disciplines of textiles and illustration in her work, and you can see how the principles of each are present in these beautifully made felt sets. We enjoyed learning how she went between planning and making – showing

that the process of creating isn't completely linear, and that the journey of idea creation can happen through sketching ideas, but also through making itself" – *Andrea, AccessArt*

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