

# Inspired! Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights

By [Kirsty Webb](#)

In this post, **Kirsty Webb** shares the submission by Linton Heights Junior School, Cambridgeshire for [Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche](#) by Year Five pupils.

Kirsty 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](#) and the benefits of having a full immersion into materials and working together as a class on a shared project.



The Story of Cupid and Psyche Sellaio, Jacopo del; painter; Italian artist, 1441/2-1493

## Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights





### Trying things out

'I had never worked with wire before.  
I learned that you don't need to rush  
on everything.'

Sophie, aged 6,  
Harston and Newton Community Primary School

'After deciding on the theme of love from  
Cupid and Psyche, the children used wire  
and reclaimed wood to represent what love  
means to them. Some children showed the  
love between themselves and their parent or  
sibling. Others showed love for the Earth.  
Many children chose to create their much  
loved pet in wire, even Blaze the Turtle. The  
children were able to bend and twist the  
wire quite skillfully. Importantly, the children  
were able to problem solve when the original  
plan.'

Janette Evelyn, Class Teacher,  
Harston and Newton Community Primary School

Cupid and Psyche by Year Five Pupils at Linton Heights Junior School, Cambridgeshire in 'Inspire', Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Linton Heights Junior School had a privileged opportunity to



immerse themselves in the world of visual arts, particularly focussing on Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche painting.



For a whole week, the school had the pleasure of exploring the painting through all subjects including Maths, English, RE, Science and of course Art. Year 5 decided to create an art project that would last the entire week resulting in a final piece across the year group.

In order to challenge the children and give them as much exploration as possible, they were to work collaboratively on this project. The teachers arranged the children into small groups of children that wouldn't normally work together. Each group was then given a section of the painting and they were set the task of upscaling their section.





In order to maximise the potential of this collaborative work, the children took ownership of their own learning.







This project gave the children the freedom to explore a range of different materials and ways of working within art. Previous art lessons were generally quite prescriptive, however, here the children were free to go into their surroundings, use unknown items and mediums which they hadn't had the opportunity to use before.

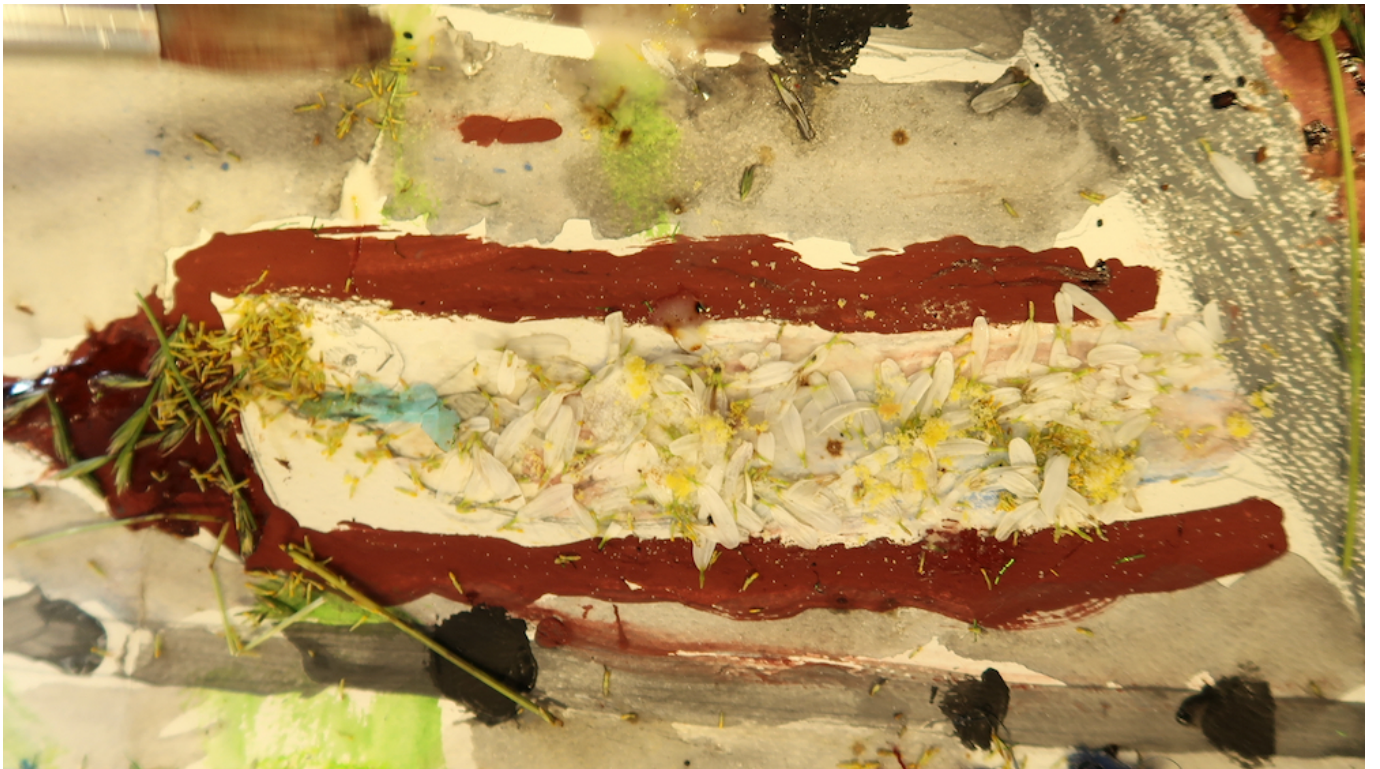
They could be as creative as they liked, even using coffee granules, grass and salt to create texture!

Over the course of the week, the children built their art project ensuring it had a range of colours, textures and that it was 3D in some way.













































The children had a fantastic week exploring the painting. They thrived at having the opportunity to work collaboratively,



explore using a range of resources, having freedom and taking their time to create a final piece.

The work they achieved went above and beyond the expectations of the project and it has inspired both the children and teachers to work in new ways.

The final pieces created were exceptional and both the children and adults involved are extremely proud of their work!

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[Go back to Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche](#)



**Inspire** – December 2019 to March 2020, was an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrated creativity in Cambridgeshire schools. It championed the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for all children and young people.

Based on the National Gallery's [Take One Picture](#), **The Fitzwilliam Museum** and **AccessArt** teamed together to offer free [Inspire 2020 CPD](#) (Continued Professional Development for



Teachers), focusing on one painting, [Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo del Sellaio](#), as a source of ideas and inspiration.

Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche was on display next to the children's work in the Octagon Gallery.

With very special thanks to [Kate Noble](#), **Miranda Stearn**, **Sarah Villis**, and **Holly Morrison** for making this project happen and **Alison Ayres**.

This post was contributed by [Kirsty Webb](#) with special permission from **Linton Heights Junior School** edited for AccessArt by [Sheila Ceccarelli](#).

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