

Making Sketchbooks 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 make sketchbooks and explore them as a physical space to connect and collect ideas and observations from museum collections.



Teachers making sketchbooks in the Education Room at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Engineering Sketchbooks

This session followed on from [Thoughtful Drawing and Mark Making in the Armoury](#) and [Using Sketchbooks, Drawing and Reflective Tools in the 20th Century Gallery](#).



In the Education Room at the Fitzwilliam Museum

Back in the Education Room at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, teachers started by gathering their collection of drawings from the galleries and a selection of paper. They were then given quick demonstrations on how to make a sketchbook and got to work.



Teachers choose from a range of different paper to start making their books



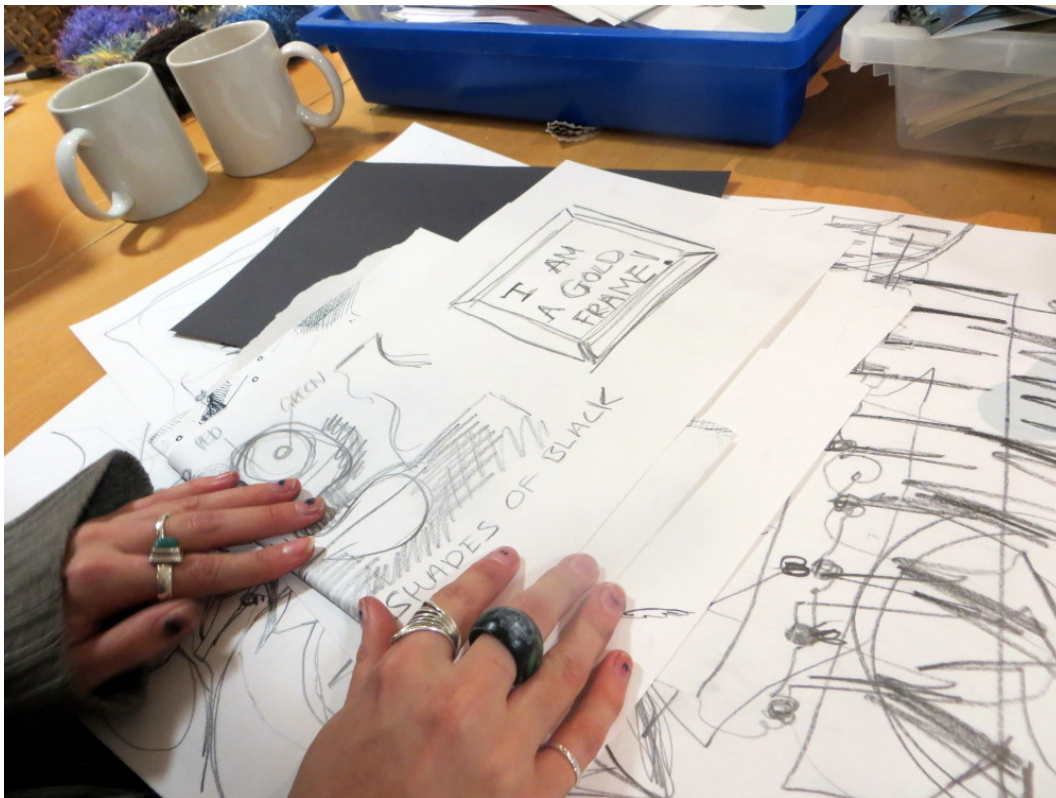
And collected their drawings together



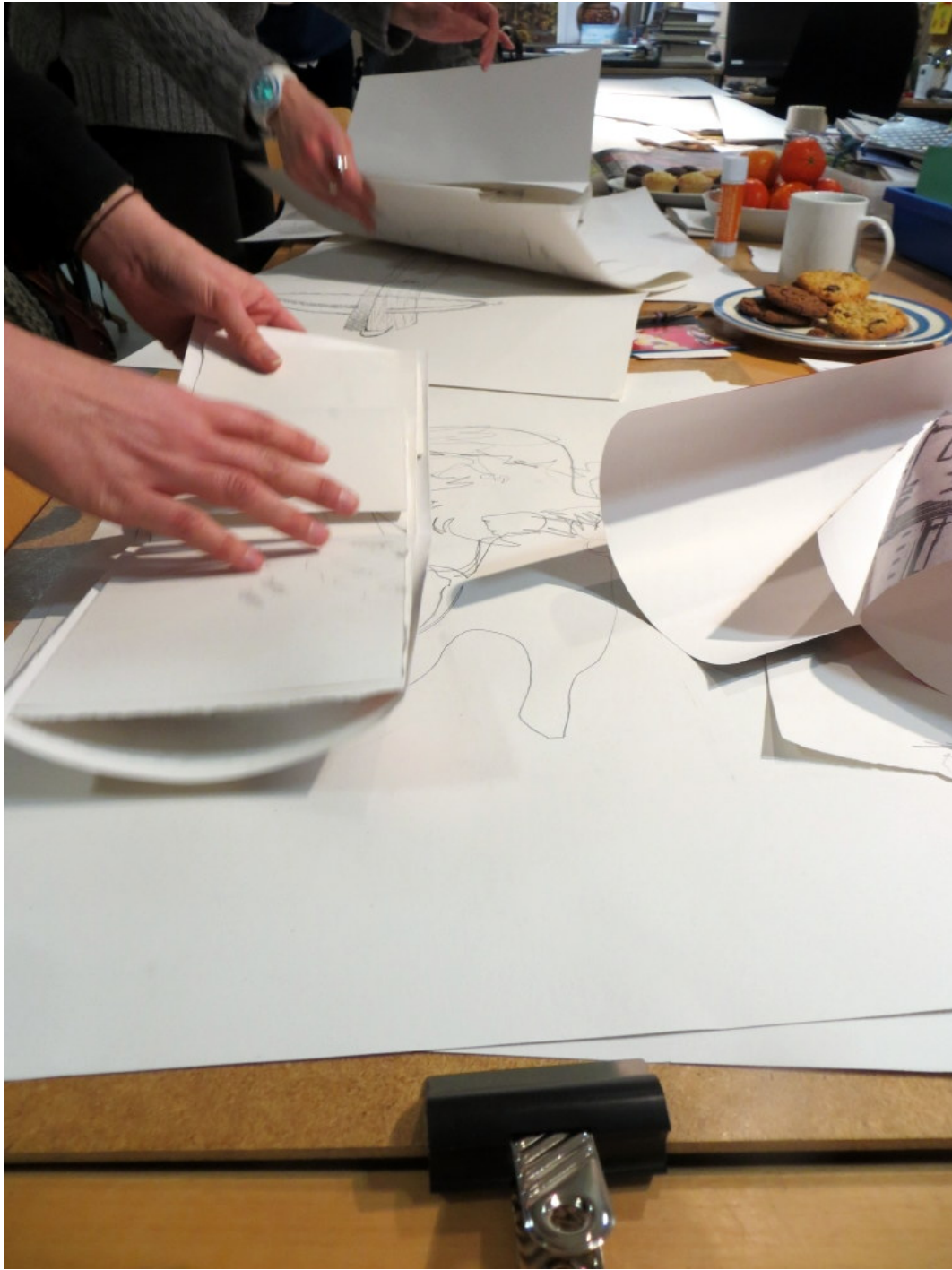
Paula and Sheila demonstrated how to make a sketchbook by either folding or binding paper together.

Participants were provided with a range of materials and loved the physicality of the session. They were encouraged to think out of the box and find engineered solutions for how their books might look, feel, open and close, the scale of them and how the pages might work together.

Teachers were inventive and playful in their approaches and many used the drawings from the galleries to create new sketchbook pages by tearing and folding them.



They started cutting and folding their drawings



And started to physically explore how their books might work - some created pages which concertinaed outwards, or folded inwards

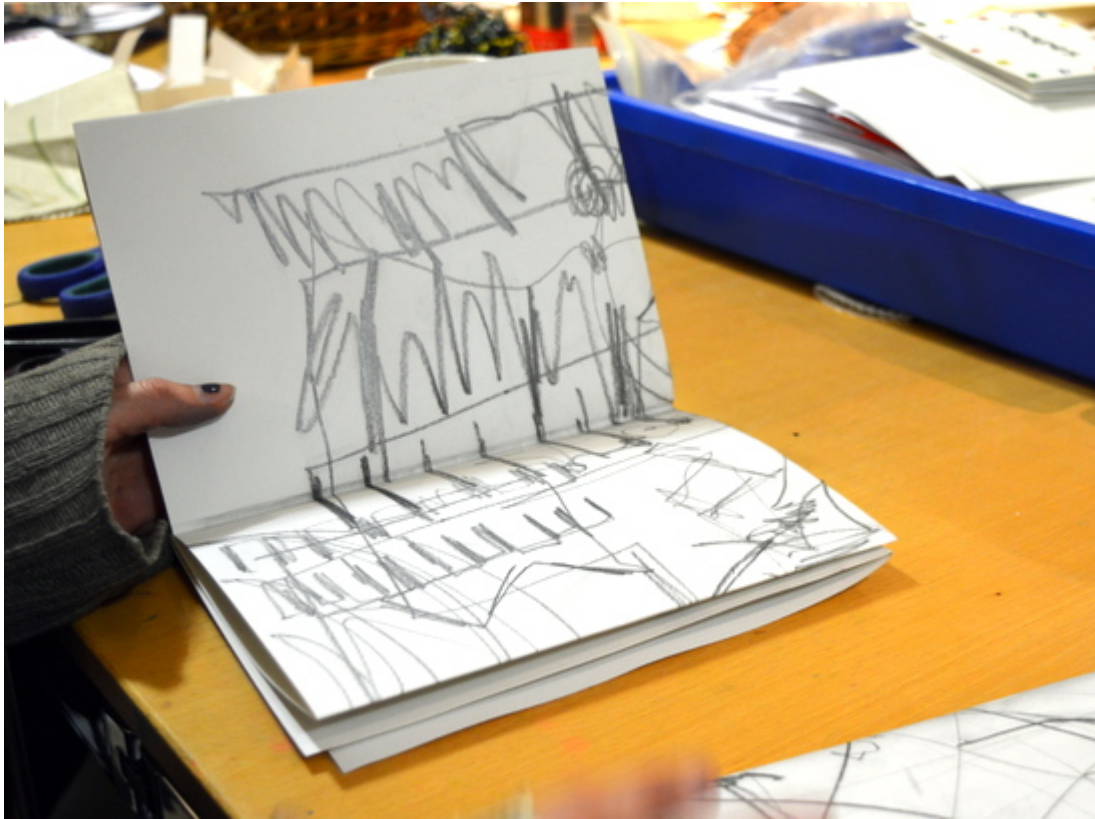


Teachers enjoyed playing with combining different sizes and shapes of paper.



Here a teacher folds her drawing from the 20th Century Gallery and makes a folded sketchbook





Which she then incorporates with another book



Then binds the two books together with red paper and ribbon



Gathering sheets together to make a small, soft back book with a fabric cover



Bound together with a needle and thread



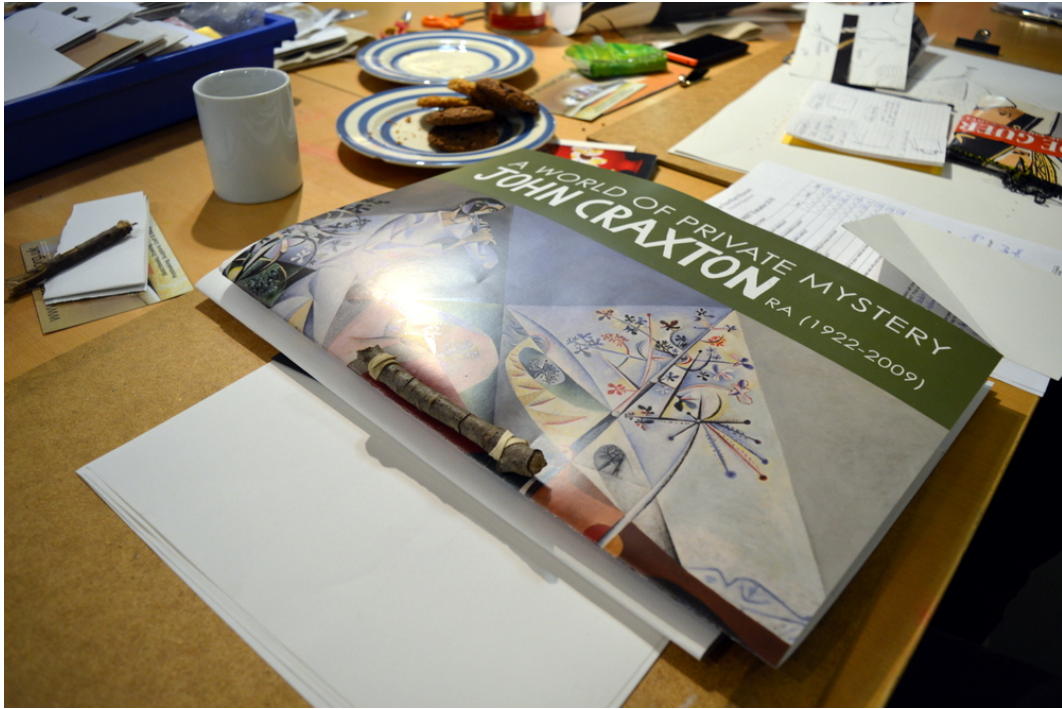
Combining different paper together to make a large folded and then bound sketchbook



And some pages fold out to be even bigger



And then bound with elastic bands and a stick



Finished book - closed - See the clever binding!



Here a combination of paper and drawings bound together with a hole punch and string



Using a hole punch to bind sheets together



And string to bind the sheets together



Creating a sketchbook with pages which extend



A torn and folded sheet of paper



Extended to reveal a drawing from the gallery



And bound together with a poster cover



Here the finished book with a paper band to hold loose sheets together



We finished the session by admiring each other's books



And enjoying the rich pages and happy memories on an afternoon at the Fitzwilliam Museum!

Many thanks to the teachers who participated in this InSET training session for sharing their process with AccessArt and

the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Many thanks to [Pink Pig Sketchbooks](#) for their generous donation. of sketchbooks to AccessArt.

Thank you to Kate Noble for facilitating the session and to Ali for her support.

Photographs by Sheila Ceccarelli.

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UK Charity AccessArt created this resource in collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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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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Making Sketchbooks: An Introduction



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Making Sketchbooks by Paula Briggs

Artist Aurora Cacciapuoti Introduces Japanese Bookbinding



[Artist Aurora](#)
Cacciapuoti demonstrates, step by step, how to bind a
sketchbook