

Alternative Fashion

By [Jan Miller](#)



Jan Miller is an Art and Design Technology teacher and magazine editor with 25 years' experience. In this post Jan describes a fashion and textiles project delivered to a class of Year 5s and 6s where the group were encouraged to create unique fashion designs using a range of processes.

The project was developed over several lessons, but any one of the activities could be completed as a standalone task,

depending on the availability of materials and paper size. The activity is suitable for any age, any setting – kitchen table craft, activity group or lesson. Children can work in pairs and younger/older pupils could also engage with this project.

Introduction

Children often make imaginative figure drawings in their leisure time and this joyful project was a development of this interest. The figure has always been a source of focus for artists through time and there are several artists who could be used as inspiration. We wanted a fun and engaging approach, whilst building skills and working with spontaneous techniques in a creative environment – by creating our own fashion school and designing unique clothes.

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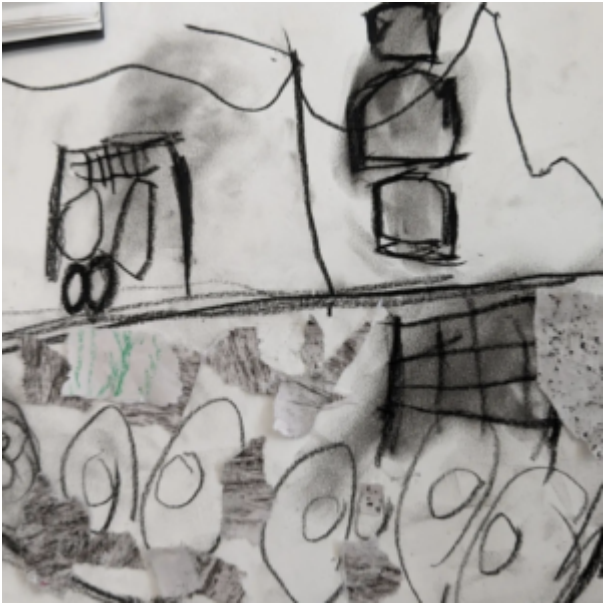
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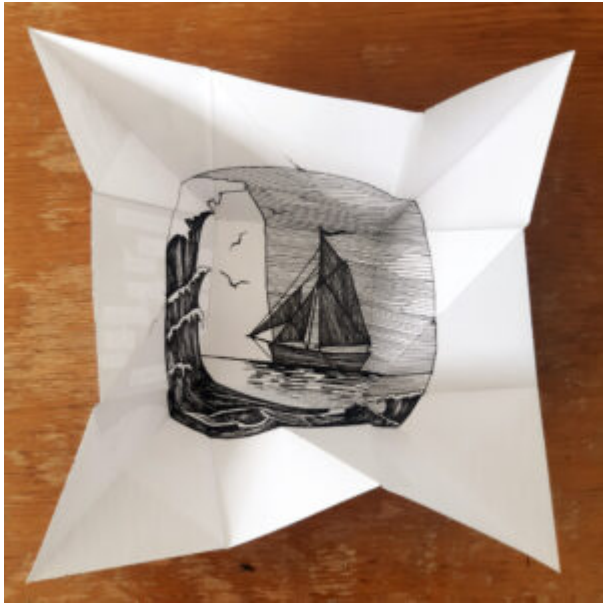
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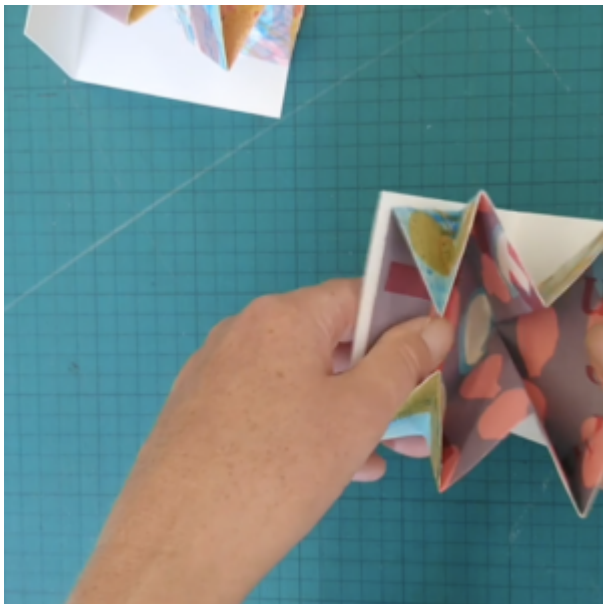
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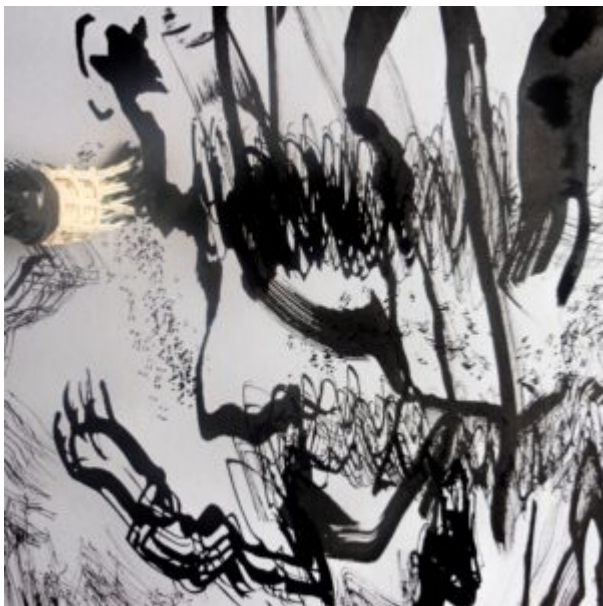
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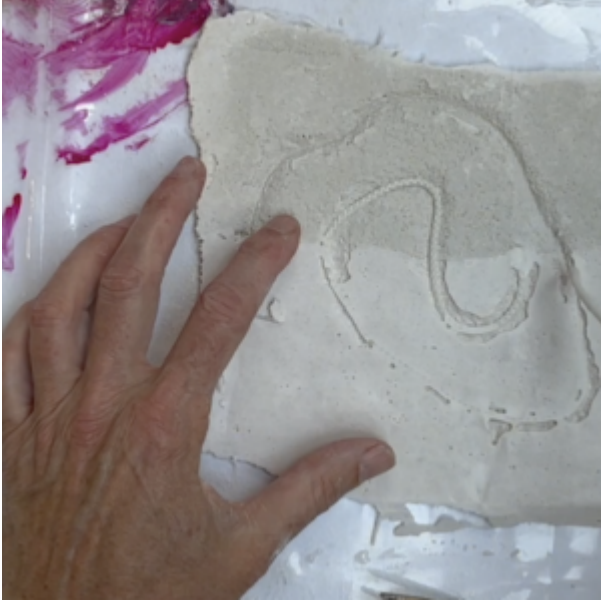


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Talking Points: Dancing to Art

A collection of imagery and sources designed to introduce children to using their whole bodies to respond to paintings.

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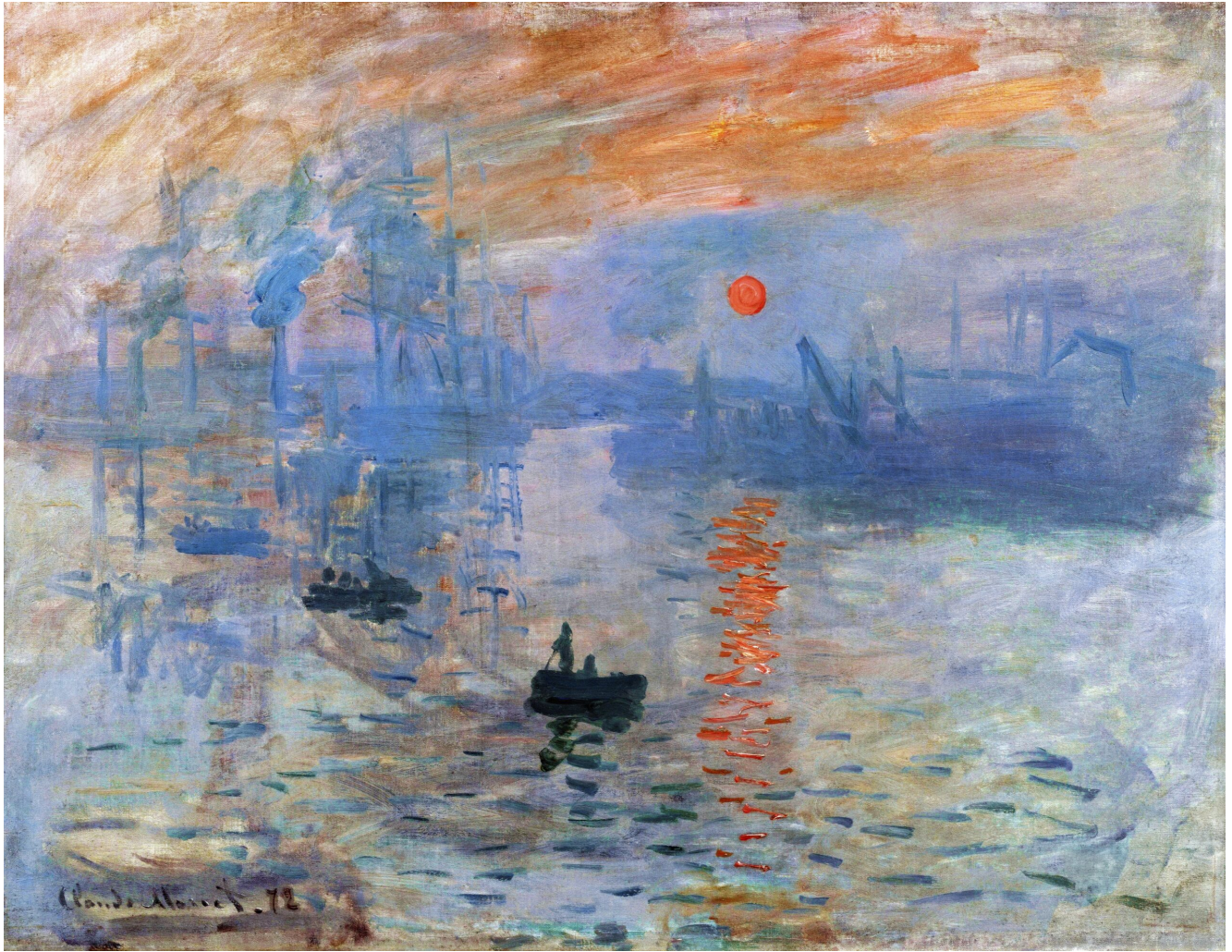
Dancing to Art by Tate Gallery

“Coralī, a leader in dance created by artists with a learning disability, have worked with Tate since 1998 and are experts in creatively taking up space in our galleries. We invited Paul, Sherri, Bethan and Dj from Coralī to design performances in response to four artworks at Tate Britain. We wanted to show what happens when people have the freedom to enjoy the gallery however they want, and how this can open up new ways of responding to art.” – [Tate Youtube](#)

Watch the video with the pupils, and look at the images below. Find out how you can respond to art through dance.



Improvisation 35 (1914) painting by Wassily Kandinsky



Claude Monet's Impression, Sunrise (1872) famous painting. Original from Wikimedia Commons.

Questions to Ask Children

What movement might you use to describe a windy day?

What movement would you use in response to the colour red? Blue? Green? Black?

Use your whole body to make a movement that represents an atmosphere or an emotion, such as gloomy, peaceful, excited...

**How would you use your body to respond to a spikey
/ straight / curved line?**