

# Foreshortened Sketches

[AccessArt Young Artist Rowan Briggs Smith](#) shares her self portrait sketches exploring foreshortening.

I've been enjoying life drawing at the [Royal Drawing School](#), but outside those sessions I started taking photographs of myself as source material for quick pencil sketches. The setup was easy - just using my phone on its timer and a tripod. I just wanted to capture quick images in which a part of my body was particularly foreshortened, so that I could challenge myself to draw what I saw (it's always tempting for the brain to draw what it thinks it should be seeing), and to try capture something of the "feel" of the pose. In addition it was the end of a long busy term and I wanted the source images/drawings to capture snapshot emotions relating to how I felt.

Whilst nothing really matches drawing from life, I think drawing from photographic images does give you the opportunity to explore how images at their simplest level are made up of flat shapes which work together to help create patterns the eye can understand. I like the way that when you work from photographs you become practised at seeing these shapes as they really are (in an abstract sense) and I think that is a skill you can then take back to the life room. The really important thing is to keep the eye moving between paper and subject matter so that you are continually assessing the marks you make, and not to just look at your drawing which is easy to do!

The images below were made on A4 Fabriano paper with soft pencils. I didn't want to overwork the images so each one took between 20 minutes and half an hour.













[Instagram: rowanbriggssmith\\_](#)

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# 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.

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## Inspire: Behind the Scenes at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

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

## And How Cupid's Bow and Psyche's Dress were Installed

On Tuesday 3rd of December 2019, there was a very special visit to the [Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge](#), arranged by Sarah



**Villis, Holly Morrison** and [Kate Noble](#) from the museum's Education Team.

A group of pupils from two primary schools in Cambridgeshire were invited to see behind the scenes at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and the installation of [Inspire](#) – an exhibition of children's artwork in the Octagon Gallery in the museum from the 10th December 2019 until 22 March 2020.

These pupils are young artists who have had their artworks selected to be exhibited alongside the Renaissance painting of **Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio**; Year 4 and 5 pupils from the [Brilliant Makers Club](#), at **Morley Memorial Primary School, Cambridge** with their teacher **Maya Dalby**; and the **The Fitzy Peters**, a group of Year 5 pupils from **St Peters C of E Junior School, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire**, with their teacher **Natalie Bailey** and head teacher **Amy Harvey**.

The day-long session was facilitated by **Holly Morrison**.

The pupils were greeted by the museum staff and Holly took them on a tour through the museum on their way to the Octagon Gallery, where their work was being installed by Charis and Jamie.

Brilliant Makers at Morley Memorial created Magical Cupid's bow and arrows in mixed media for *Inspire*.

*'Focusing on the theme of 'change' and 'love', the group discussed inspirational people who were changing the world for the better. The children decided what positive change they would make if they had a magical Cupid's bow and arrow to shoot into the world. Responses ranged from arrows that stopped deforestation to arrows that helped people read.'*  
Maya Dalby, Art Coordinator and Year 5 teacher at Morley Memorial School, Cambridge

This was also a chance for children to see other children's work and behind the scenes at the Museum.

The children then went to the Seminar Room, where Holly had an afternoon of creative activity planned out for them, but first a chance for the Fitzy Peters to introduce the others to 'The Resilience of Psyche;' Psyche's dress which they had made over several sessions with their teacher Natalie Bailey.

*'A group of children, **The Fitzy Peters**, became fascinated by Psyche's resilience during her period of grief and loss and made significant connections to the story during our PSHE lessons. We decided to extend the children's learning by running a Summer holiday project. The children decided to tell the story of Psyche through a dress designed especially for her at Studio 15 in Wisbech. What surprised me the most was how much art helps children to communicate and express thoughts, feelings and emotions.'* Natalie Bailey, Year 5 Teacher and Art Lead

*'The main fabric is denim, we thought this showed resilience. It's tough and can take the harshness of life. The underneath of the dress is soft, white tulle showing Psyche's soft innocent side. Every single part of the dress has a message, a reason for being there.'* Tomasz, aged 10

The Resilience of Psyche can be seen from the 10th December 2019 until the 22nd March 2020 in the Armory at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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# inspire

A celebration of children's art in response to Jacopo del Sellaio's *Cupid and Psyche*

10 December 2019 – 22 March 2020

The  
Fitzwilliam  
Museum  
CAMBRIDGE



FREE ADMISSION

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**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 written by **Sheila Ceccarelli**.



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# The Story of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo del Sellaio (1442 – 1493)

In this post, Kate Noble, Education Officer at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge shares the story of Cupid and Psyche as depicted in the 15th Century painting by Jacopo Del Sellaio. This is one of a series of posts from Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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## Inspire      Exhibition      CPD Programme for Teachers

During these practical, hands-on **CPD Sessions for Primary School Teachers**, we will take a closer look at [Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche](#), and celebrate how this remarkable Renaissance panel inspired the creation of artworks by primary school pupils in Cambridgeshire, on display in the [INSPIRE Exhibition](#) in the **Octagon Gallery** from **10th December 2019**



**until 22nd March 2020.**

We would be delighted to welcome back primary school teachers, who participated in the [INSPIRE 2020 Project](#), as well as those who were unable to come to the original sessions. These sessions will demonstrate how to look at and use objects in the Fitzwilliam Museum collection to support and deepen learning in the classroom, and further develop practical, fine art skills essential for the delivery of a balanced curriculum.

The sessions will be facilitated by the **Fitzwilliam Education Team** and **AccessArt** and co-led by participating teachers from the **INSPIRE Exhibition**.



## INSPIRE – A Closer Look at Sketchbooks

## Wednesday 12th February

**2 pm until 5 pm**

**Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This session will look at examples of best sketchbook practice within a school and museum setting and explore how schools can harness sketchbooks as tools for learning, research, and the development of visual literacy.



## **INSPIRE – A Closer Look at Colour**

**Saturday 29th February**

**2 pm until 5 pm**

**Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This session will look at examples of the journeys that pupils undertook in their own experimentation and exploration of colour, as inspired by Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche and the processes used in the Italian Renaissance to create a painted panel.



## **INSPIRE – A Closer Look at Making**

**Wednesday 4th March**

**2 pm until 5 pm**

**Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

Often forgotten in schools, this session celebrates the importance and power of making and the exploration of materials for children as tools for thinking and understanding

the physical world.

To book call 01223 332904 or email  
[education@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](mailto:education@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)

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## Bubble Drawings

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## 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.

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## Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

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## Thinking Silhouettes

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# 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.

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# Inspire

A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Inspire opens on Tuesday 10 December 2019 and ends on Sunday 22 March 2020

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# Wall Drawings with Tape

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# Painted Clay

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



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# Classical Inks

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## Abstract Face – Relief Sculptures

In this construction and painting resource, students make an abstract face, relief sculpture from cardboard, adding colour, texture and metal findings. This resource was inspired by the work of Kimmy Cantrell, a self-taught contemporary artist who uses asymmetry to question long-established views around beauty.

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## Anthropomorphic Paintings                      Animal

This painting activity looks at giving human characteristics to animals. Anthropomorphism is making something which is not human, more human like for e.g Miss Piggy, Mickey Mouse and the characters created by Beatrix Potter. This activity was inspired by the paintings of two contemporary artists who use anthropomorphism in their work, Ken Hoffman and Svjetlan Junakovic.

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# Nib & Ink Mark Making Still Life

Many thanks to accessArt Young Artist  
Rowan Briggs Smith



Young  
Artists



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## 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".

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## 'Painting' with Plasticine

In this resource, students create an A4 plasticine painting on mountboard, in a theme of their choice. The artwork is

completed with a painted border using water based paints. This project took six, one hour sessions to complete but if you can't allocate that amount of time, reduce the size of the mountboard to A5 or smaller.

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## Clay Art Medals

In this three stage resource, students make a circular medal from clay depicting their own profile, look at examples of fun lettering and devise a short, fun or meaningful phrase to paint inside their portrait profile.