

What is a Canvas? Exploration Activity

By Paula Briggs



AccessArt Art Lab for ages 11, 12 and 13, explore "What is a Canvas?"

At the newly reformed AccessArt ArtLab held at [Wysing Arts Centre](#) for ages 11, 12 and 13, this term we have been exploring the question:

"What is a Canvas"

I wanted to give the children the opportunity to question the surface they paint on, and to explore how the personality of

"canvas" can affect the artwork. I wanted to try to get the children to think about the meaning of the word canvas in its most lateral sense.

To Begin

We began this week's session with a simple exercise to help us begin to question the surface we draw or paint upon, and to start to understand how the character or nature of the given surface can impact upon the marks we make.

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AccessArt is a UK Charity and we believe everyone has the right to be creative. AccessArt provides inspiration to help us all reach our creative potential.

Making Felt Sailing Boats by Ruth Purdy

Jan Miller: Our “Talented Art Teacher” Winner!

In 2016 AccessArt launched the [Children’s Art Competition](#), supported by Cass Art. Amongst the categories for children we had one for teachers, to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication we know you put in to inspiring and enabling children.

Thank you to all the teachers who entered – you filled us full of enthusiasm and passion!

We’re very pleased to announce the winner: Jan Miller from [Moreton Hall School](#) in Oswestry. Congratulations Jan!

Jan impressed us with the sheer energy and range of her work with the children – we’re sure the snapshot of images below will give you a flavour of the work she submitted. We hope Jan will be collaborating with AccessArt very soon to create some resources for us, so watch this space!

Jan Miller – Talented Teacher Award

“I completed my degree in Illustration at Kingston University followed by a PGCE at UCL. I have almost 20 years experience of teaching Art, across the full primary and secondary age spectrum. My interests particularly lie in the students’ development of observational drawing and mixed media. I strongly believe in the use of personal sketchbooks at all levels. I expect the older students to have the same confidence and spontaneity as their younger counterparts.

Similarly, I encourage the younger pupils to develop large work, over several sessions, alongside the older students. For several years I have been the Art Editor for SATIPS, a prep school magazine, to inspire Art teachers nationwide. I have recently developed Able, Gifted and Talented sessions for my own students and have extended this to a biannual event to other schools."

Using Drawing as a Way of Understanding: University of Liverpool Veterinary Science Schematic Drawing Task.

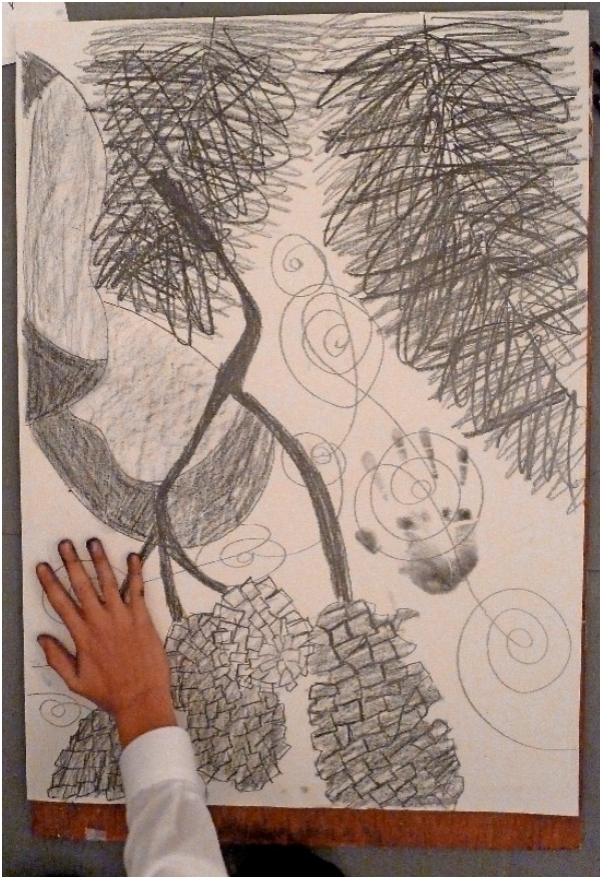
Teenagers Use Touch to Draw and Explore Small Objects

“Feely Drawings” or Drawing by Touch – a 5 minute drawing exercise



This short icebreaker or warm up exercise, led by Paula Briggs at the Drawing Workshops for ages 6 to 10, encourages the children to relax into their drawing session.

Introducing Graphite and Blind Drawing



Teenagers explored mark making, drawing 'blind' with the age old drawing tool 'the pencil' and softer graphite sticks. Sheila Ceccarelli

Now We Are Back

External Links for Special Educational Needs and

Disability (SEND)

The Royal Academy of Arts

The RA Access programme for visitors with additional needs.

www.royalacademy.org.uk/access-at-the-ra

Family workshop for children with SEND: call the shots –
October 15th 2023

www.royalacademy.org.uk/event/send-call-the-shots

The National Autistic Society

www.autism.org.uk

Autism Together

Supporting the individual with autism to maximise life opportunities and offering a wide range of specialist support services to people with autism and their families.

www.autismtogether.co.uk

the Autism Alliance

The major UK network of specialist autism charities.

www.autism-alliance.org.uk

NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The leading charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people.

www.ndcs.org.uk

Action on hearing loss

Providing support for people with hearing loss and tinnitus.

www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

RNIB

Supporting people with sight loss.

www.rnib.org.uk

Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities Network

www.pmlnetwork.org

Downs Syndrome association

www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

About Learning Disabilities

www.aboutlearningdisabilities.co.uk

actionspace

Supporting the development of artists with learning disabilities.

actionspace.org

ArtBox London

Free weekly studio sessions for artists with learning disabilities plus the opportunity to exhibit and sell work.

www.artboxlondon.org

Core Arts

Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing through creative learning.

www.corearts.co.uk

dash

A disability led visual arts organisation.

www.dasharts.org

Rowan

A Cambridge-based charity set up to improve the lives of learning-disabled people through the provision of services and meaningful activities. It has five studios working in a variety of mediums to produce high quality art and crafts.

www.rowanhumberstone.co.uk

full circle arts

A disabled led organisation encouraging inclusive participation to give people the capacity, inspiration and tools to be part of the cultural conversation and achieve excellence in the arts.

www.fullcirclearts.co.uk

Red2Green

A Cambridgeshire charity providing services including learning, leisure and work opportunities for people with a wide range of disabilities, including mental ill-health, learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions.

www.red2green.org

outside in

A platform for artists who see themselves as facing barriers to the art world due to health, disability, social circumstance or isolation.

www.outsidein.org.uk

Project Ability

A Glasgow-based visual arts organisation providing creative opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and mental health issues.

www.project-ability.co.uk

Rocket Artists

A group of artists with learning disabilities making visual artwork and performance alongside a community of over 100 other artists at Phoenix Arts, Brighton.

www.rocketartists.co.uk

Artists Access 2 Art Colleges

Offers inclusive courses:

www.aa2a.org

studio upstairs

Promoting artistic practice as a valuable way to create meaning and purpose in life, leading from isolation to community for adults experiencing enduring mental or emotional difficulties.

www.studioupstairs.org.uk

DISABLED PHOTOGRAPHERS' SOCIETY

Photography for people with disabilities, or their carers, or groups or anyone with an interest in helping disabled people.

www.the-dps.co.uk

the film bunch

Showcasing short films from upcoming filmmakers from around the world. The Film Bunch's mission is to improve access for deaf and hard-of-hearing people to mainstream short films, by providing subtitles, British Sign Language interpreters and live captioning at their events.

thefilmbunch.com

carousel

Supporting learning disabled artists develop artistic projects in film, music, performance and production.

www.carousel.org.uk

arts and disability ireland

The national development and resource organisation for arts and disability.

adiarts.ie

creative future

Nurtures marginalised artists and writers in their creative development, providing skills training, mentoring, exhibiting, promoting and publishing opportunities.

www.creativefuture.org.uk

disability arts online

A digital hub that connects people to the world of disability arts: blogs, articles and editorials, information on arts projects and a weekly e-bulletin with the latest listings for arts-related disability jobs, opportunities and events across the UK and abroad.

www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk

WESC Foundation

A leading national visual impairment centre for the education and care of children, young people and adults, aged 5-25, based in the south west.

www.wescfoundation.ac.uk

Arts and Minds

The leading arts and mental health charity in Cambridgeshire offering Arts on Prescription, a series of friendly, weekly art workshops for people experiencing depression, stress or anxiety.

artsandminds.org.uk

Coral

A committed group of people made up of performers with learning disabilities and artist collaborators and educationalists who do not. Coral exists to explore the unique creativity and expression of people with learning disabilities by putting on original performance works and by offering on-going professional development, education and training opportunities.

www.coral.org.uk/wordpress/

Early Birds and Night owls at the Science Museum, London

Enables families with children who have an Autism Spectrum Condition to come along and enjoy the Museum free from the hustle and bustle of the general public.

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/plan_your_visit/events/other/early_birds_event

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/Plan_your_visit/events/other/Night_Owls

The British Museum

Access and SEN – Inclusive learning opportunities for all young visitors offering a wide range of facilities for students with visual, hearing, learning and mobility impairments.

britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/access_and_sen.aspx

Museum of London

Events for visitors with additional needs, including Morning Explorers for families with children who have autistic spectrum conditions.

www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands/whats-on

The National Gallery

The Gallery provides British Sign Language-interpreted talks on paintings for visitors who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and art sessions for visitors who are blind and partially sighted. For school groups, the Gallery can also offer sessions using multi-sensory materials for students who are blind and partially sighted and for students with learning disabilities.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/access/access

V&A Museum

Assistance offered for visitors with additional needs, including a sensory back-pack designed for children with visual impairments.

www.vam.ac.uk/info/disability-access

The Museum of Liverpool

The Museum has signed up to the [Autism Charter](#) to make the Museum autism-friendly, through [Autism Together](#) and the [Connect to Autism](#) scheme. It is piloting learning sessions for visitors with autism. It also offers tactile tours of the Museum.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatson/world-museum/event/curator-tour-tactile-return-of-gods

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Portals to the World: a free art appreciation course designed especially for individuals living at home with a dementia diagnosis and their care partners. Each week there is a short talk in one of the galleries followed by a related art handling, or hands on, art activity.

[Portals to the World](#)

The Story Museum, Oxford

Visitors with disabilities receive a concessionary ticket and if they require a companion or carer then this person receives a free ticket. Relaxed Visits on the first Sunday morning of every month, are for those with autism, learning disabilities or sensory and communication disorders.

www.storymuseum.org.uk/visit/accessibility/

the royal airforce museum

The museum has prepared a couple of free information packs for those visitors with autism who wish to come to the London site. Both packs are free to download.

www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/plan-your-day/accessibility.aspx

The Discovery Museum, newcastle

To support learners with special educational needs and disabilities the gallery is keen to work in partnership with teaching staff to adapt as appropriate their core workshop offer to provide inclusive learning experiences.

There is a Visual Story of the Museum which some children may find useful to see before a visit and can be downloaded for free. There is also an online guide with a Street View of the different floors in the Museum which can be used to explore the Museum before a visit. This may be beneficial to some visitors with conditions that cause anxiety when entering a new environments.

discoverymuseum.org.uk/learning/send-provision

Whizz Kidz

Transforming the lives of disabled children by providing the vital equipment, support and life skills they need to reach their full potential.

www.whizz-kidz.org.uk

Amici Dance Theatre Company

A unique dance theatre company integrating able-bodied & disabled artists and performers. Its productions and workshops

have had a major impact world-wide, challenging conventional attitudes about disability and the arts.

www.amicidance.org

Drake Music

Working where music, disability and technology meet to:

- Create opportunities and instruments that make music fully accessible
- Increase participation in music-making at all levels
- Build an integrated musical culture where disabled and non-disabled musicians work together as equals.

www.drakemusic.org

Face Front

An inclusive theatre company of disabled and nondisabled artists producing professional, entertaining and challenging multi-layered theatre, through its Theatre in Schools, Participation and Theatre programmes.

Performances and workshops, which take place in regional theatres, schools and a variety of venues, are carefully crafted to be accessible to all, including people with physical, sensory and learning impairments.

www.facefront.org

Graeae Theatre Company

Champions accessibility and provides a platform for new generations of Deaf and disabled talent through the creation of trail-blazing theatre, at home and internationally.

www.graeae.org

Half Moon

A theatre company based in Tower Hamlets, London working to engage participants (artists and young people) who often feel excluded from arts activity, such as those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, Deaf and disabled people, or those excluded due to socio-economic circumstance.

www.halfmoon.org.uk

stopgap dance

Employing disabled and non-disabled artists who find innovative ways to collaborate. Stopgap are experts of inclusive choreography and have extensive experience of nurturing disabled and non-disabled artists for making inclusive works.

stopgapdance.com

Visable

Creating mainstream professional opportunities for actors, presenters and models with disabilities.

visablepeople.com

Purple Patch Arts

Working across the Yorkshire region offering learning programmes to people with learning disabilities and professionals that support them. All of their programmes use creative, interactive and multi-sensory teaching methods.

purplepatcharts.org/

Thelma Hulbert Gallery

Based in Devon, the gallery has an ongoing programme of

occasional workshops by artists, offering practical, accessible approaches to visual art. They also have monthly Art & Mind sessions: an afternoon of artmaking in a safe and welcoming atmosphere for people who have experience of mild to moderate stress, anxiety or depression, or who care for someone who has.

www.thelmahulbert.com

Outside In

Providing a platform for artists who see themselves as facing barriers to the art world due to health, disability, social circumstance or isolation. The goal of the project is to create a fairer art world which rejects traditional values and institutional judgements about whose work can and should be displayed.

www.outsidein.org.uk/home_2013

Livability

Providing disability and community services that promote inclusion and wellbeing for all.

www.livability.org.uk

Tincture of museum

A blog with an ongoing discussion of Autism in museums.

tinctureofmuseum.wordpress.com/

Jhinuk Sarkar

An artist and illustrator who facilitates workshops for learning disabled people and physically and invisibly impaired people.

cargocollective.com/paperfig

Rehab4Addiction

Learn more about overcoming addiction for the sensory impaired by reading this informative article by Ollie Clark.

www.rehab4addiction.co.uk/guides/overcoming-addiction-sensory-impaired

Building and Drawing

Feeling Our Way Around Wool

Time to Introduce Ourselves – Initial Sculpture!

Art in Schools: Linton

Heights Junior School

Marbling for Surface Design by Ruth Purdy

Working with Children and Vulnerable Adults?

When you work with children and young people it is important to have a child protection policy in place (and where appropriate you should ensure this extends to cover vulnerable adults).

You can find guidance from the [Charity Commission here](#).

[Download AccessArt's Policy Document here](#). Please note that this is our working document – you may use this for reference only.

Early Primary Sketchbook

Exploration

**Lights | Camera | Action | we
all love glow-in-the-dark
tape! By Sara Dudman**

Doodling with Stuff

Paula Briggs shows how to create a safe environment for pupils to explore a range of materials which they would be able to manipulate and transform.

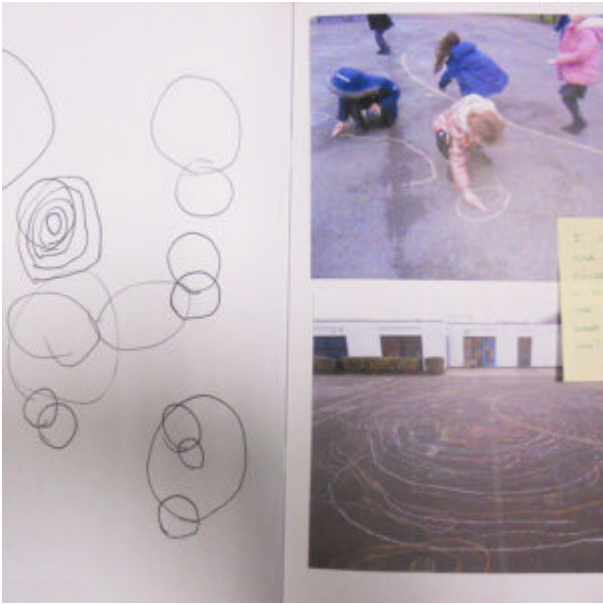
**Collagraph, Collage and
Stitch: Make a Image of Your
Home on Fabric**

The August Creative Challenge Gallery – Week Four

Drawing Spirals

See How This Resource Is Used In Schools...









You May Also Like...

Pathway: Spirals



[Featured in the 'Spirals Pathway'](#)

Talking Points: Molly Hausland



The ancient art of kolam



**The August Creative Challenge
Gallery – Week Three**