

Drawing from Life with Lance Richardson: 3 Sketchbook Exercises

By [Lance Richardson](#)

In the second of a growing collection of resources exploring drawing from life, artist Lance Richardson demonstrates three simple drawing techniques to help you get started in your sketchbook, from overcoming the fear of the white page to using drawing as a tool for exploring close-looking. These exercises are suitable across all ages and educational settings to help you or your learners get started in sketchbooks. Find the first video in the collection [here](#).

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Talking Points: WWF and NOMINT

Explore the videos below to find out about the creation of a WWF campaign.

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We strongly recommend as part of good teaching practice that teachers watch all videos and visit all websites before sharing with a class. On occasion there may be elements of a video you would prefer not to show to your class and it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure content is appropriate. Many thanks.

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AGES 14-16

FREE TO ACCESS

A Stop-Motion Made of Ice

"We follow the story of a young polar bear that

tries to survive in the increasingly melting Arctic environment. In the film, as in real life, Arctic sea ice is melting quickly “changing the Arctic ecosystems forever, causing destruction around the planet.” This is a stark reminder that world leaders need to act now.

We used an innovative combination of 3D-Printing, Mould-Making, and Ice-sculpting to create 500 unique polar bear ice-sculptures that were then used to create the stop-motion animation. More than 1000 liters of ice were used to create the polar-bear sculptures and environment. The film, which took a year to produce, was created by [NOMINT](#) co-founder Yannis Konstantinidis, in collaboration with Marcos Savignano and Jua Braga, with music by Ted Regklis.” – [Vimeo](#)

Watch the video below to find out how the animation was created.

In Hot Water

“In our latest project, we’ve partnered with WWF to unveil “In Hot Water,” a film that explores the devastating impacts of climate change on the world’s oceans. The film tells an important story about rising ocean temperatures and marine heatwaves, highlighting the threats they pose to both marine life and humans.” – [WWF](#)

Watch the video below to find out how the animation was created.

Questions to Ask Children

What can you see in the animation?

What do you like / dislike about the animation?

How does the animation make you feel?

How successful is the animation in communicating its message?

Would you like to create an animation out of ice? Why?

If you could make an animation with a message about our planet, what would that message be?

This Talking Points Is Used In...

Pathway: Using Art To Explore Global Issue



This is featured in the 'Using Art To Explore Global Issue' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see



Pathway: Using Art To Explore Global Issues

Pathway for Years 5 & 6

Disciplines:

Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Collage, Sketchbooks

Key Concepts:

- That art can help us focus on, and explore, big issues. By looking at the artwork of others, and by making our own artwork, we can feel empowered to explore topics which might otherwise be overwhelming to us.
- That by working alongside others on a similar project we can feel a shared sense of purpose. We can feel supported and understood.
- That we can bring many disciplines together (including drawing, painting and sculpture) into one artwork.

In this pathway children are enabled to begin to recognise that they are able to make an individual creative response which will be different to that of their peers, but one which comes from the same starting point and share a similar message. They learn that all artwork, however it is made and by

whom, will be valued, and that each piece can contribute to a larger shared artwork.

As children progress through the school, they are enabled to use and further develop the knowledge and skills learnt so far, and bring their personal likes, dislikes and experience to a project, working towards being confident creative decision makers.

By using a variety of media and techniques, all children are enabled to explore and succeed.

The projects featured centre around an exploration of global warming and ice worlds, but this pathway can easily be adapted to explore other global issues such as deforestation or weather patterns. Change your source material accordingly.

Try to make sure you leave time at the end of the project for a discussion over the global issue to emerge, based upon the artwork.

Theme: Climate change, Landscape, Habitats, Animals

Medium:

Drawing Materials, Modelling Materials (incl. Modroc)

Artists: Faith Bebbington, Frances Hatch, NOMINT

If you use this resource in your setting, please tag us on social media: #InspiredBy @accessart (facebook, twitter) @accessart.org.uk (instagram)

and share the url. Thank you!



Additional Pathway

This pathway is an additional pathway to help you extend, develop or further personalise the [AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum](#).

We suggest this pathway is used to replace a “Working in 3 Dimensions” (Blue) Pathway or a “Print, Colour, Collage” (Yellow) Pathway.

It works well in replacement of the [Set Design](#) (Year 5 & 6) or [Activism](#) (Year 5 & 6) Pathway.

Please note the Modroc Polar Bear activities in this pathway are best suited to more confident

teachers who are happy with a higher level of interaction with the work, and more able or experienced pupils.

You may also like to use the activities in this pathway with a smaller group of children in an after school club or community context.



AGES 5-8

AGES 9-11

Teaching Notes

Find the MTP for this pathway [here](#).

[See the recording of the Zoom CPD session exploring Modroc.](#)

Curriculum Links

Geography: Climate zones, North & South Hemispheres

Science: Animals, Predators/Prey, Environmental changes.

PSHE: Supports Responsibility to the planet, Collaboration, Peer Discussion.

I Can...

- I have explored the work of artists who use art as a way of drawing attention to global matters, and I can share my responses with the class.
- I can use my sketchbook to record and reflect how the artist's work makes me feel.
- I can use my sketchbook to make drawings, working from still images, videos and from life, demonstrating close looking and drawing. I can use these drawings to inspire my sculpture.
- I can make a sculpture of an animal, understanding that by working in 3d my

sculpture will be seen from different viewpoints.

- I can explore and experiment using “Design through Making”, and I can discover how I can transform and construct with different materials to make my sculpture.
- I have seen how my own sculpture can form part of a larger artwork, and how we can all find inspiration in each others’ ideas.
- I can explore painting and collaging using colour mixing and different surfaces and see how the materials respond to each other. I can create an environment for my sculpture.
- I can present my work as part of a larger artwork, and I can share my response to my own work and also to the work of my peers.

Time

This pathway takes 6 weeks, with an hour per week. Shorten or lengthen the suggested pathway according to time and experience. Follow the stages in green for a shorter pathway or less complex journey.

Materials

Soft B pencils, Charcoal, Acrylic Paint

Construction Materials

For Ice Worlds

Fruit Crates, A variety of paper, Making Tape, PVA glue

For Polar Bears

Modroc sheets, Newspaper, Plastic bags, Masking Tape

Pathway: Using Art To Explore Global Issues

A PDF of this pathway can be found [here](#).

• Aim of the Pathway

The aim of this pathway is to give children the opportunity to understand that art can be used to enable an exploration of important issues which affect us all. Through drawing and making, and through looking at art made by other people, we can build our understanding of the issues involved, and make a creative response to share with others.

Look and Draw



Introduce pupils to a stop-motion campaign about the effects of melting ice with “[Talking Points: A WWF Campaign](#)”. Find out how ice was used to create the animation and discuss the impact of the campaign.

▪ Drawing in Skethbooks



Continue the session by exploring “[Drawing Source Material: Polar Bears](#)”.

Refer to the first section of the “[After School Art Club: Drawing, Collage, Painting and Sculpture. \(Part 1\)](#)” resource to help you guide the drawing session.

▪

Find Your Focus

Choose between whether you would like to create sculptures of polar bears or if you would like to make 3d ice world landscapes. For less experienced teachers we would recommend following the Ice World resource.

▪ Week

2/3/4/5

Option 1: Create an Ice World



Begin by introducing pupils to the work of artist Frances Hatch through "[Talking Points: Drawn to Antarctica](#)". Use the questions to prompt discussion and feed into sketchbook and 3d work.

Explore colour, form and texture in a playful way. Working in small groups pupils will create a 3d interpretations of an "[Ice Worlds](#)".

If you have time at the end of week 5, add some of the drawings made of Polar bears in week 1 to the ice worlds.

Option 2: Build a Polar Bear

Introduce pupils to sculptor Faith using the "[Talking Points: Faith Bebbington](#)".



Invite children to create “[Visual Notes](#)” documenting what they notice about the artists work.

▪ Week

3:

Build

Creating Sculptural Forms



In this session pupils will be creating a sculpture of a polar bear using either plastic bags or newspaper and tape. Refer to Part Two of ["After School Art Club: Drawing, Collage, Painting and Sculpture. \(Part 1\)"](#).

▪ Week

4:

Introduce

Modroc

Using Modroc



Once the forms are complete, invite children to cover them in modroc. See “[How to Use Modroc](#)” to find practical advice about how to use modroc, or refer to our our recorded Zoom CPD “[Exploring Modroc](#)”.

Use Section 3 of the “[After School Art Club: Drawing, Collage, Painting and Sculpture. \(Part 1\)](#)” for extra support.

▪ Week

5:

Paint

Paint the Polar Bears



Finish off the polar bear sculptures with some paint. Explore part 4 of the "[After School Art Club: Drawing, Collage, Painting and Sculpture. \(Part 1\)](#)" resource to see how you can use and adapt the session in your classroom.

- Week 6: Share and discuss

Share, Reflect, Celebrate



End the pathway by taking time to appreciate the developmental stages and the final outcomes in a clear space.

Depending upon the project option chosen, display the work appropriately including having open sketchbooks. Use the "[Crit in the Classroom](#)" resource to help you.

Encourage children to reflect upon all stages of the journey, and reference the artists studied.

If available, children can use tablets or cameras to take photographs of the work.

[Explore how children can take high quality photographs of 3d artwork with this resource.](#)

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The Sketchbook journey



Sketchbook pedagogy



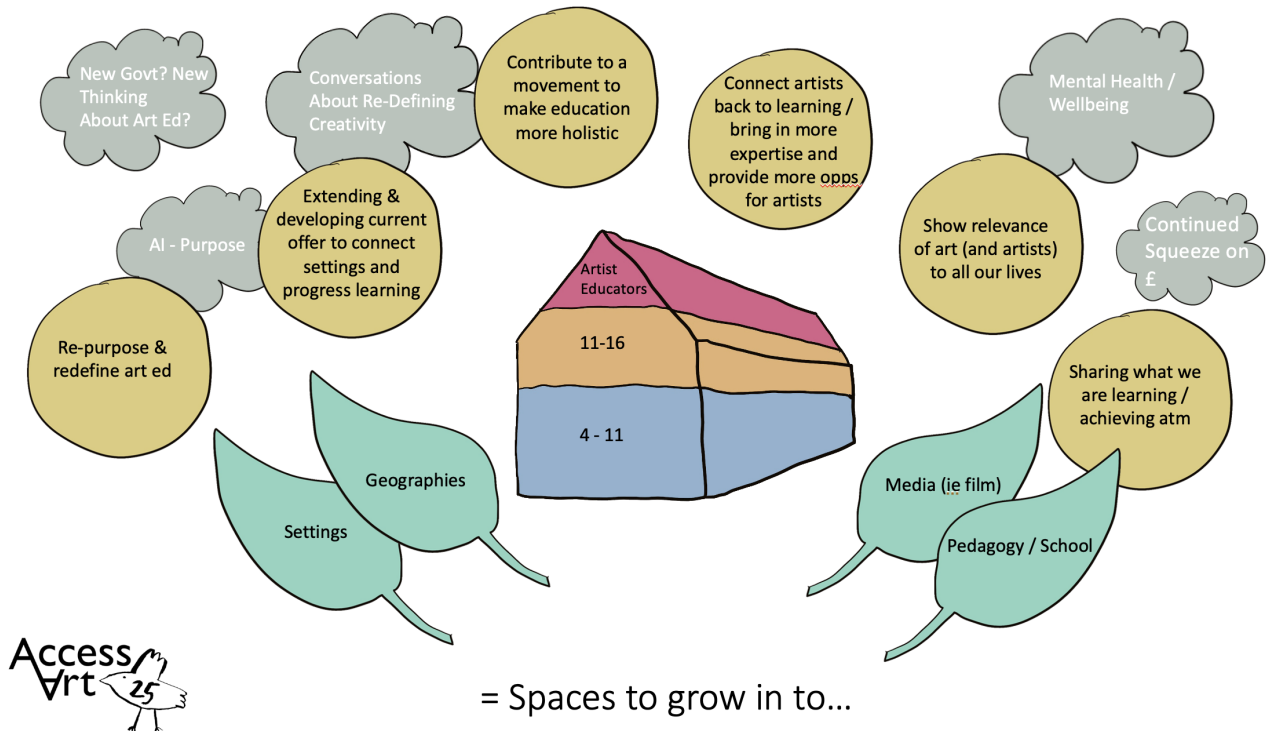
Team & Trustees Celebrate 25 Years

AccessArt is a truly digital organisation – we have no offices and all [team](#) members work remotely. It's been SO long since we met up in person, and it was fantastic to meet up with the Trustees and the team members who could make it for two days in York.

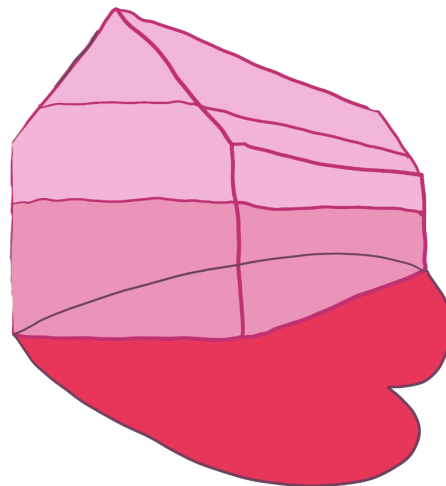
We reach our 25th year with nearly 23,000 members and over 38,000 subscribers, and the conversation was far reaching, insightful, celebratory and ambitious. We're excited for the years ahead. If you are already part of our journey thank you, and if not please [find out more about how we are](#)

celebrating 25 years and join us!

**Paula Briggs, Co-founder, CEO & Creative Director
AccessArt 2024**



Structures
Protocols
Systems



Vital to Preserve:

Our Heart

AccessArt as
mechanism for saying
what we believe

Free to follow instinct

Free to follow energy
created by belief and
passion



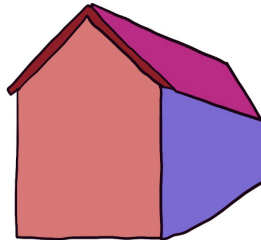
The AccessArt Audience fills 2 x O2 Stadiums!



Exercise

Paula:
I like, I wish, What if...*

Aim: To help us all feel empowered to inform creation of shared legacy



**Taken from Creative Acts for Curious People, D school at Stanford*





**CPD Recording: Exploring The
World Through Mono Print
Pathway**

**Sketch Your World: Drawing
The Details**

**Sketch Your World:
Perspective**

**Sketch Your World: Choosing
Subject Matter**

Sketch Your World: Materials

**Sketch Your World:
Sketchbooks & Composition**

Sketch Your World: The Basics

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**Urgent Reform Needed In 11-16
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