

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

By [Eilis Hanson](#).

Eilis Hanson is a primary school teacher who loves to get art into the curriculum, wherever and whenever she can! She has a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Newcastle University and studied at Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna during her third year there. More recently, she has studied watercolour painting in Verona. Eilis has taught children in Indonesia, Japan and Italy and now lives and works in Cambridge. She has exhibited sculptures, prints and installations in Newcastle, Vienna and Istanbul.



In response to the National Gallery's *Take One Picture* initiative, our school chose to spend a week focusing on Joseph Wright 'of Derby's' dramatic painting [*An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump* \(1768\)](#). After discussing and exploring

the painting in assemblies, each class was set the challenge of responding through art and literacy. The Year Two children were particularly interested in the cockatiel in the painting. Having learnt about the artist's dramatic use of chiaroscuro, the use of strong contrasts between light and dark, they had a go themselves using black pastels and rubbers to create their own tactile drawings of cockatiels.

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