

Modelling The Head in Clay – by Melissa Pierce Murray

Artist [Melissa Pierce Murray](#) led a series of workshops for AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class in which the teenagers modelled a head in clay. There are four resources in this series, beginning with constructing an armature and making preparatory drawings, then studying the bone structure of the skull before moving on to features.

The work was done over 8 sessions of 75 minutes each, but could be adapted to two or three longer sessions. The workshops took place at over a term at [Cambridge ArtWorks](#).

Part One - Armature



Teenagers construct simple armatures out of cardboard and build a form for their clay heads out of paper and clay. [Read More](#)

Part Two - Preparations



[__](#)This post looks at two preparations for making a clay head: drawing to help us learn to see the form in the round, and taking measurements from life. [Read More](#)

Part Three - Skull



[__](#)In this post we concentrate on developing the shape of the cranium and forehead, the structure of the eye sockets, cheekbones, jaws and teeth. Referring to anatomical drawings or to a model of a skull will help students begin to see this bony underpinning to the skin and muscles of the head. [Read More](#)

Part Four - Features



 We look at how to form the features: eyes, ears, mouth. We look at ways to finish and embellish the form using hair, clothing or inventing horns. In the class we talked about how the muscles attach to the bones, and how the skin smooths over the surfaces. [Read More](#)

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

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Modelling the Head in Clay Part 4 – Features

This is the final post in a series of posts following teenagers modelling a clay head over a term with artist Melissa Pierce Murray. In the final session of the series: Modelling the Head in Clay, we look at how to form the features: eyes, ears, mouth. We look at ways to finish and embellish the form using hair, clothing or inventing horns. In the class we talked about how the muscles attach to the bones, and how the skin smooths over the surfaces.

Modelling the Head in Clay Part 3 – Skull

This is the third post in a series of posts we concentrated on creating a solid armature and clay foundation for our clay heads. In this post This post is the third in a series of posts following teenagers making a clay head over the course of a term with artist Melissa Pierce Murray. Here they concentrate on developing the shape of the cranium and

forehead, the structure of the eye sockets, cheekbones, jaws and teeth.

Modelling the Head in Clay Part 2 – Preparations

This post looks at two preparations for making a clay head: drawing to help us learn to see the form in the round, and taking measurements from life.

This is the second post in a series of resources showing how teenagers modelled a clay head over the course of a term.

Modelling the Head in Clay Part 1 – Armature

Making a Steel or Wood Armature is the first in a series of resources showing how teenagers modelled a clay head over the course of a term.

How to Make Beautiful, Liquid

Drawings Inspired by Degas

This resource looks at drawings by the French artist, Edgar Degas (1834-1917), and how to enable the production of beautiful, 'inky drawings' in the classroom. This resource was created in collaboration with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Making Monotypes Inspired by Degas

This resource shares how Edgar Degas made his 'inky drawings,' or monotypes, and how the process of mono-printing can be further explored in the classroom – In collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

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Teachers Battle it Out in Conversation with Marks on Paper



Teachers embarked on an exercise whereby they made marks on paper to have a conversation with a partner. This was a playful and fun exercise and teachers very much enjoyed both the process and outcomes.

Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape & Texture with Charcoal, Graphite, Masking Tape and Pastels



This was the second session in the series and an introduction to pattern, shape and texture with charcoal and graphite, and an opportunity for teachers to break down any preconceived ideas about what drawing is and who drawing processes is for.

Play and Placement: Teachers Explore Approaches to Drawing



This was the third and final session in the series, and an opportunity to play with creative mark-making and explore context and placement as an introduction to larger scale drawing and concepts around installation art.

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Teachers Battle it Out in Conversation with Marks on Paper

After a series of warm up exercises which introduced drawing through feel, teachers embarked on an exercise whereby they made marks on paper to have a conversation with a partner.

InSET Day at Welland Academy: Exploring Printmaking Processes