

# Making the “AccessArt For All” Banner

By [Paula Briggs](#)

*Sewn banners sit within a long and powerful tradition of creativity and activism, where textiles, stitch, colour and symbol are used to make visible what communities care about. From [suffrage banners](#) to [trade union, peace and protest banners](#), making by hand has enabled people to gather, speak collectively and claim space. In this post, we document how AccessArt made a sewn banner to help create a strong visual presence at advocacy events.*



As a [Subject Association for art, representing over 24,000 members, and as a visual arts educational charity](#), we always try to balance our practical work creating [resources for teachers and learners](#) with our advocacy work, raising awareness of the importance of arts education for all. With the Curriculum and Assessment Review, the government's response to that review, and a whole raft of proposals aimed at providing a world-class curriculum for all, the wider arts education community has, in many ways, never felt more united in its message. It felt like an appropriate time to make a banner that AccessArt could use at events to help create greater visibility. Inspired by the beautiful banners created by trade unions

and the Suffragette movement, we decided our banner needed to be carefully crafted and beautiful to look at.



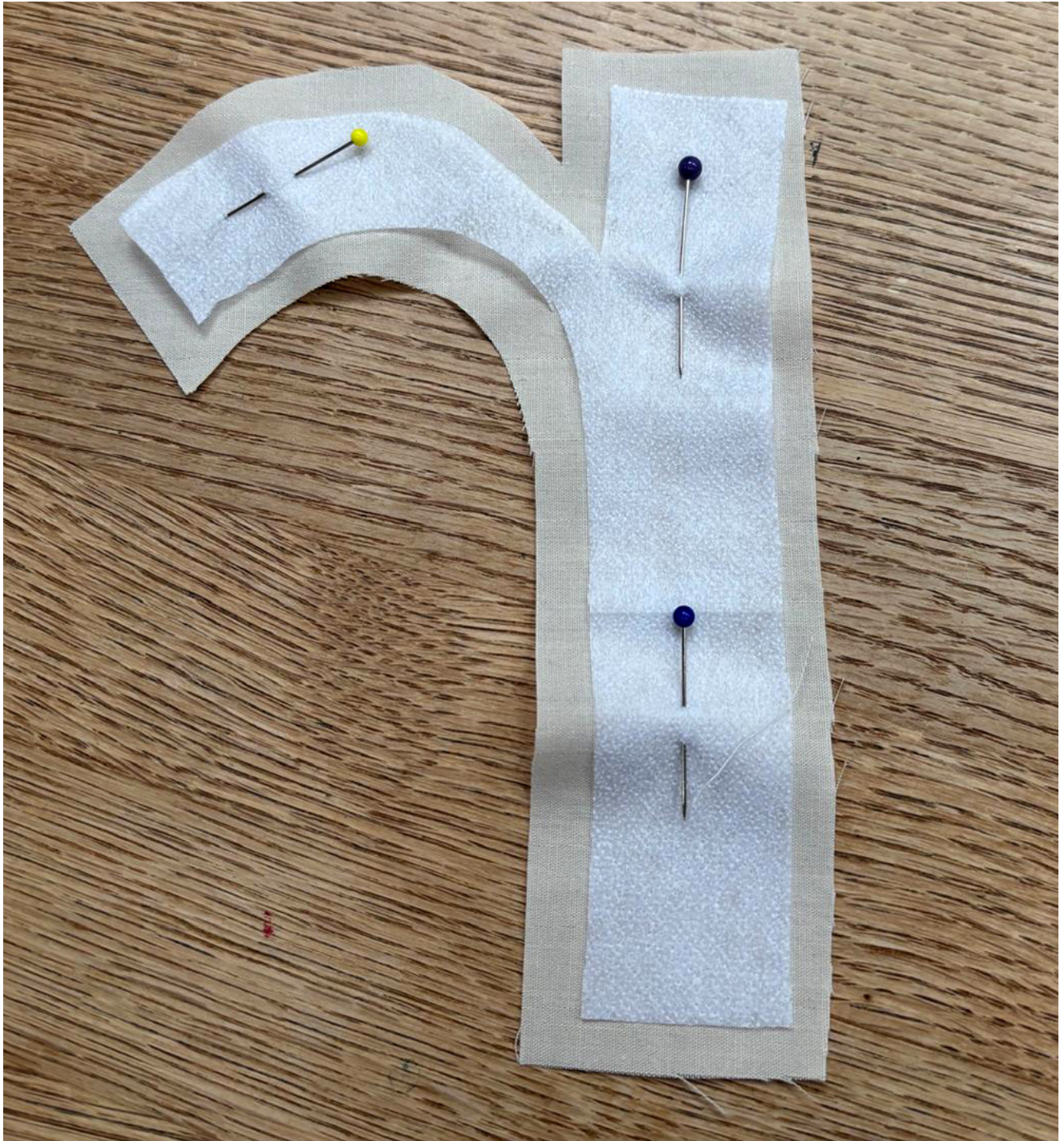
## To Begin

Letters were drawn on paper to act as templates. We sketched these freehand, working between measured lines, but you might decide to enlarge

letters downloaded from the internet.



We then used the paper letters to cut out a fabric letter that was 1cm larger in every dimension than the paper template, and then a letter cut from iron-on interfacing. The shape cut from interfacing needed to fit the *reverse* of the letter, as it was to be ironed onto the back of the fabric letter.



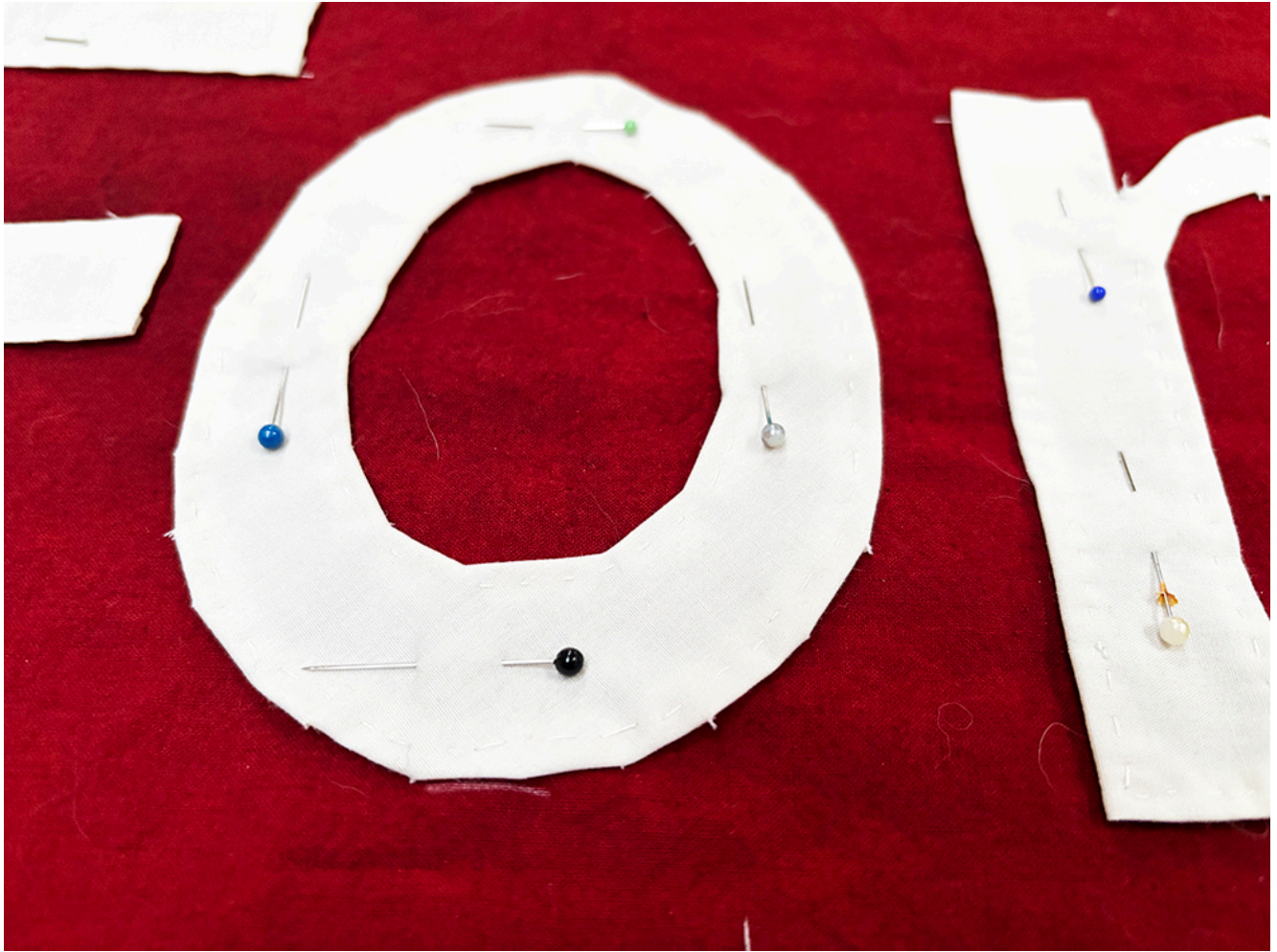
Using a running stitch, we hemmed each letter around the interfacing.



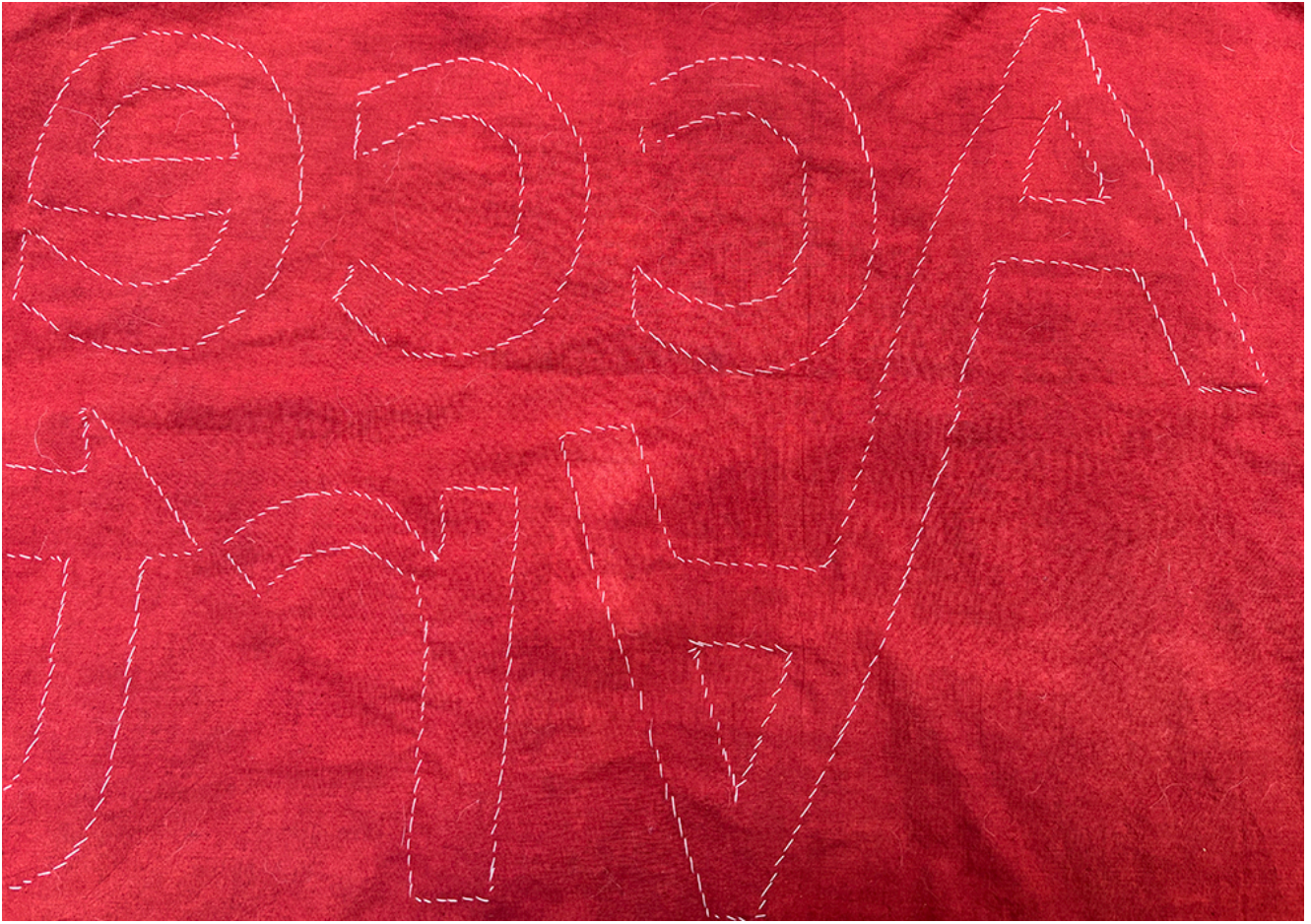
**We then pinned the hemmed letters to the banner**

background, using a chalk pencil to mark out positions to ensure everything was straight.





We used a small overcast stitch to simply attach the edges of each letter to the banner. We then ironed each letter down, using the interfacing to help fix the letters in place.



**We scaled up the AccessArt bird using the grid method.**







As we wanted the banner to display the message "AccessArt for All" from both the front and the back, we made two versions, one mirrored, so the text could be read from either side.





We then sewed them together (hemming as we went) using a sewing machine.



**Time to take the “AccessArt for All” banner out into the world!**



The [Arts & Minds Coalition](#) visited Westminster to deliver an [open letter signed by 10,000 people](#) to make space for the arts in schools (2025).





Banners can communicate hope, resistance, care and solidarity in ways that words alone sometimes cannot. Making a banner is also a collective act: it brings people together to think, talk, make and stand alongside one another. Banners help us claim space and show what matters to us. We hope the AccessArt banner encourages you to think about how you might make your own banner. What will it convey? Who will you make it with? Where will you take it?



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**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.**

**AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.**

**We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.**

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**2026 – Time for a New Relationship?**

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# Drawing With Two Hands

## You May Also Like...

see three shapes



## Feely Drawings



**Ten minutes, five times a week**



**CPD recording: drawing with two hands**



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**Art in Times of Ill Health**

# You May Also Like...

AccessArt treehouse



AccessArt Wellbeing Resources



Which Artists: Merlin Evans

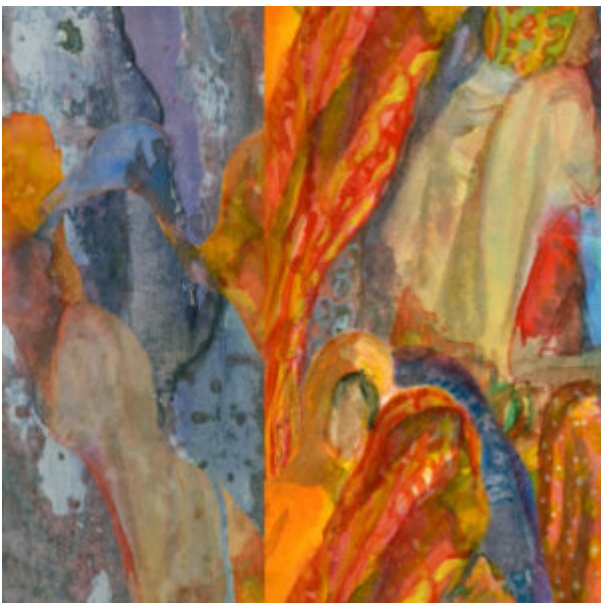


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# Dreaming With Watercolour

You May Also Like...

let me inspire you by emma burleigh



## Globe paintings



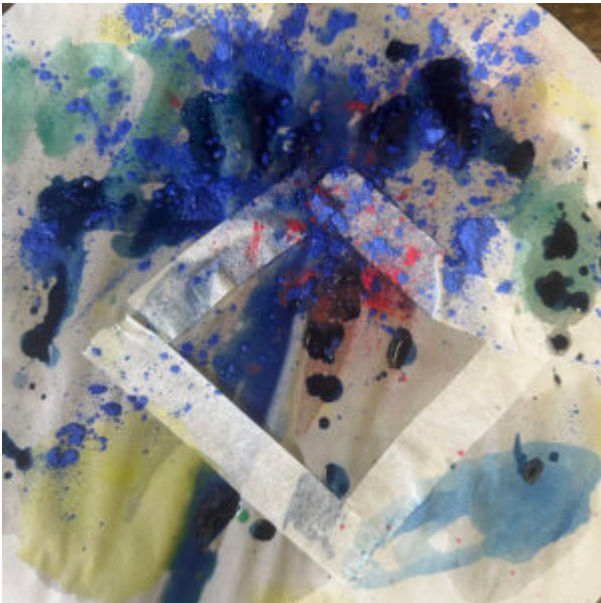
## introduction to watercolour

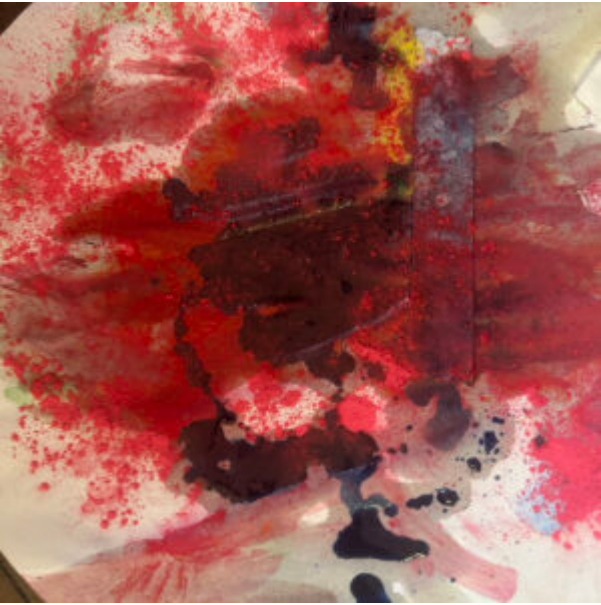


See all send resources



**See This Resource Used in Educational Settings...**







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## **“Acts of Kindness” Workshop**

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**Collage: Deconstructing,  
Reconstructing and  
Abstracting**

**What We Like About This  
Resource...**

*“I really like how this playful resource helps us*

*to make a creative response inspired by a stimulus, ensuring that the stimulus is only an entry point into an outcome that will look totally different. Exploring the themes of colour, texture and composition through the lens of different artists also helps us see how we can interpret (and re-interpret) colours and materials in a meaningful way. Viewfinders and collage are also great tools for those who experience ‘fear of the white page’ and will allow learners to make conscious creative decisions as they go.” – Tobi, AccessArt*

## **You May Also Like**

**Adapting AccessArt: Colour and Composition**



**Cut Paper Collage Still Life**



**Cooking with collage**



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**Adapting AccessArt: Stories and Faces**

## **You May Also Like...**

**Making Physical or Digital Layered Portraits**



**Pathway: Exploring Identity**



**Quentin Blake's Drawings as Inspiration:  
Exaggerating to communicate**



## Session Recording: Creating School Exhibitions & Displays



## Finger Palette Portraits



**elastic band sketchbook**



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**Playing With Perspective**

# You May Also Like...

## Other Resources by Joe Gamble



## Adapting AccessArt: Colour and Composition



## Thoughtful Mark making



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# Returning to Our Bodies – Poised Between The Slip and The Grub

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## The Blood Bag Project

### What We Like About This Resource....

This project combines art and science in innovative and creative ways. It engages children with simple and more complex sewing skills, both hand and machine. The fact that a

local artist collaborated on this project, bringing her own set of skills and experience is so valuable for any extended art project, and the children were able to connect with the sensitivity of the subject matter and to empathise with it's message.

## **You May Also Like**

### **Autumn Floor Textiles**



**Cloth, Paint, Print: Inspired by Natural Objects**



## **Making Painted & Sewn Landscapes**



**which artists: merlin evans**



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**Which Artist: Leigh Bowser**

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**Which Artists: Merlin Evans**

**What We Love About This Resource...**

So often, we hear talk of the distinction between science and art, and no more so when teenagers proceed through their education and they are encouraged to choose one route or another. In reality, creative thinking helps scientific

understanding and a scientific approach can inform and inspire art.

It's so refreshing to read and see Merlin's experience and understand how she works between these two areas – in her words *“mixing subjects, and seeing how they work and intersect is where inventions take place!”*

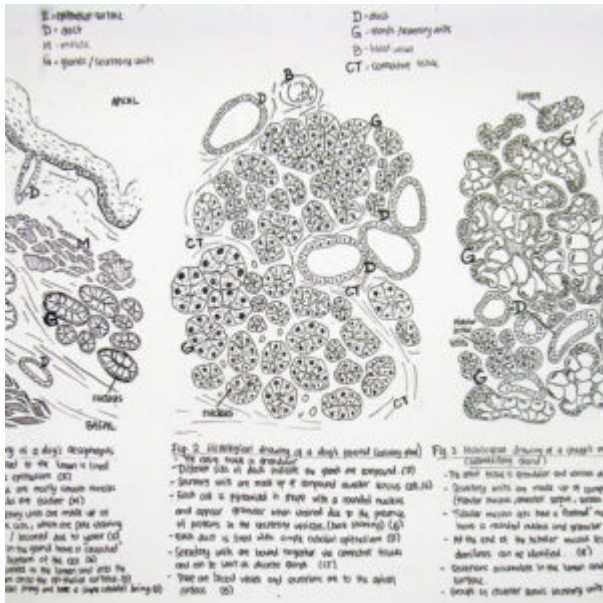
We also love the way her work embraces the *felt* world of being human, as well as the *known* world. We're sure many young people will find Merlin's work of interest and reassuring when they are pressured to choose *“art or science”*.

## You May Also Like...

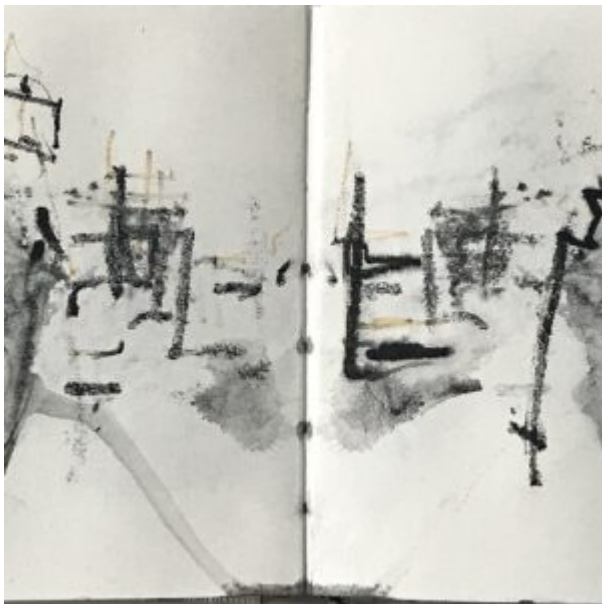
### Drawing for Learning



### Drawing as a Way of Understanding



## Drawing as a Way of Understanding



## World War I Mail Art

# What We Like About This Resource...

“This project links poignant subject matter with meaningful art processes and local history. What we learn about the re purposing of materials, (in this case spent ammunition) re affirms how we can use what is around us as a starting point to making and creating. You could extend or adapt this project by looking at broken pottery, re purposing that into new sculptures that link with Roman or other local historical cultures” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

## You May Also Like...



[Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings](#)



Remembrance Day Soldiers



For Remembrance Day

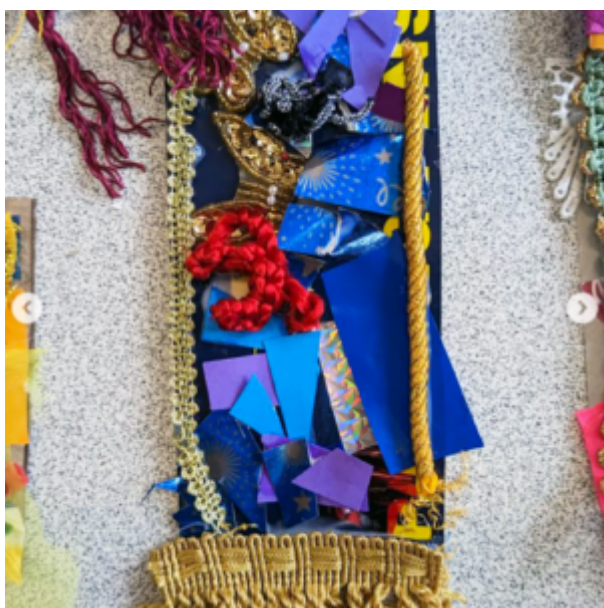
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**Which Artists: Ava Jolliffe**

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# Creativity Medals

See the Resource Used in Schools...





## What We Like About This Resource...

“The sentiment behind this resource idea is lovely and it provides an opportunity to really develop some fine motor skills as well as independence of approach. Taking ownership of the medal design means the sense of achievement is heightened beyond the children just being given one. You can

really imagine the positive energy that would surround this activity within a classroom, with each child working on a shared project but embarking on their own creative journey.” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

## You May Also Like...

Pathway: Playful Making



[Featured in the 'Playful Making' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Introduction to sculpture

Sculpture.mp4



## Clay Art Medals



## Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



## Talking Points: Linda BELL



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# Making Musical Instruments

# What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s great to see music being explored in this way, and combining it with making creates a really interesting immersive project. This activity would work well as part of an extended project looking at musical instruments around the world and some of the natural materials they are made from.” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

## You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art



[This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Linda BELL



## Talking Points: Nnena Kalu



## talking points: wassily Kandinsky



**drawing source material: orchestras**



**A Cheerful Orchestra**



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## Touch Wood

### What We Like About This Resource...

“You can get a real sense of the environment in this post and how this could provide so much inspiration for creative projects. We are aware there the challenges to exploring the outdoors when many schools are in towns and cities. A way around this could be to have a regular collection of natural objects within the classroom and using them as a stimulus to respond creatively in sketchbooks or in extended projects” – *Andrea, AccessArt*

## You Might Also Like...



### [Woodland Exploration](#)



### [A Passion for Woodworking](#)



## [Visual Arts PLanning: Tees, Forest and Landscapes](#)

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**Connecting With Nature  
Through Art**

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**DrawAble: The Secret Powers  
of Sketchbooks**

[By Jo Blaker](#)

Sketchbooks are powerful tools. Enjoy these three

videos in which Jo Blaker shares why sketchbooks have secret powers.

## **Sketchbook Powers Number 1 & 2**

Secret powers numbers 1 and 2: Jo describes how sketchbooks can be a door into a hidden world, and a place to explore what you feel like as a person.

## **Sketchbook Power Number 3**

Secret power number 3: Sketchbooks can be a weapon; a weapon you can use to fight boredom, ease anxiety, and find gratitude.

## **Sketchbook Power Number 4**

Secret power numbers 4: Sketchbooks can be a laboratory – a safe place to experiment, test and discover.