

Botanical Fairies

By [Rachel Thompson](#)

In this table top post, AccessArt team member [Rachel Thompson](#) demonstrates a simple collage activity using flowers from the garden to create a Fairy collage.



Despite the challenging times, feeling the warmth of the sun and the new growth of spring is something I've been thankful for over recent weeks. With this in mind, I wanted to do a simple collage activity that used flowers and plants as inspiration. This is an early years resource and is great for encouraging figurative drawing skills as well as observing colour and design. Of course, older children could also enjoy this process, and may be able to create more complex botanical work.

For this activity, I used a couple of books as a starter, both of which are regularly dipped into by my 5 year old daughter. Firstly, one of the well known and loved [Flower Fairy books](#) by Cicely Mary Barker and secondly, [Fairie-ality: The Fashion from the House of Ellwand](#), a beautiful book of fairy costumes made with flowers. Older children doing this activity may be able to create more detailed botanical collage, akin to David Ellwand's lovely work.





We started by going into the garden to observe and discuss the flowers that are now blooming beautifully in all the spring sunshine we have been having. We picked a few - making sure to leave plenty for the bees!

We also had a lovely vase of tulips inside, that were just passing their best - and so these petals formed the bulk of what we used.



Pansies in a pot showing their lovely two tone colours. We discussed how the petals looked like ballet skirts.



A purple wall flower provided some small delicate flowers



Inside now, and pulling off a few carefully chosen tulip petals.



The collected petals arranged on a tray.

Next, it was time to design and draw a fairy! Depending on the age of your participants, this stage could take all of four minutes (as with us) or could take your child on an imaginative journey, and take considerably longer...





Once the fairy has been drawn, invite your child to make choices as to which flower petals work best for the different elements of their dress. In our case, the idea was floated of using some greenery to contrast with the pink petals - but my daughter preferred to use just the petals so that's what we went with.



Adding smaller flowers along the top of the skirt created a lovely contrast.



It's good to use the opportunity for children to develop their scissor skills for this activity. Trimming petals makes an interesting change to paper and some minutes can be spent just snipping and trimming little pieces of petals, even if they don't make it onto the final collage!



The final collage with some colour added using pencils - a simple exercise in collage and colour composition but something fun to do at this time of year to bring some spring colour in from the garden! The activity could be extended into creating more fairy characters, and even using old fashioned clothes pegs and fabrics to create something more 3 dimensional. Another idea would be to make a chain of fairies using fan folded paper.

With thanks to Walker Books for kind permission to use their images.

FAIRIE-ALITY

Photographs Copyright (c) 2002 David Ellwand

Reproduced by permission of Walker Books Ltd, London SE11 5HJ

www.walker.co.uk

This permission is only granted for the stated use of the resource, if you wish to utilise them in a different way you will need to get back in touch to gain permission to do so.

You can see more of Rachel's resources [here](#).

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.

Rainbows and Waves for Grey

Days

Unesco: Celebrating the Power of Making!

Inspired by Paula's recent rousing film, 'It's in Our Hands', artist Jan Miller pulled images together from her own teaching to illustrate the things the children in her classroom do with their hands

Thinking Silhouettes

Wall Drawings with Tape

Abstract Face – Relief Sculptures

In this construction and painting resource, students make an abstract face, relief sculpture from cardboard, adding colour,

texture and metal findings. This resource was inspired by the work of Kimmy Cantrell, a self-taught contemporary artist who uses asymmetry to question long-established views around beauty.

Nursery Night Time Collage

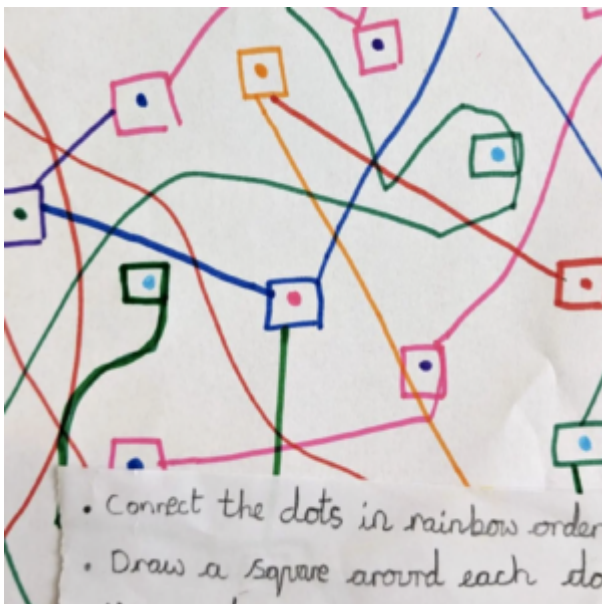
Inspired by the AccessArt Village, artist Rachel Thompson works with pre-school aged children in St Matthew's Nursery School, Cambridge to make their very own night time scenes with collage and wax-resist.

All That Glitters...

Teacher and artist Jan Miller shows year three pupils works by the artist Andrew Logan. Pupils then have fun playing with materials that glitter and sparkle, developing their design and making skills to produce personalised brooches, decorative images of celebrities and gorgeous treasure glitter boards. Finally, they explore portrait drawing, creating a sparkly 'selfie'!

Rules and Resolutions

See This Resource Used In Schools...





You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring pattern



This is featured in the
'Exploring Pattern' pathway

Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



For Remembrance Day

Anne-Louise Quinton creates a project for her Year 9 pupils to commemorate Remembrance Day. The teenagers worked collaboratively to create a collaged frieze of paper soldiers in response to an artwork by John Singer Sargent and a war poem by Wilfred Owen.

Use Scrapstores!

7 & 8 Year Olds Explore MonoPrinting & Oil Painting

Drawing with Scissors: Screen Printing Workshop in 3 Stages, Inspired by Matisse

Withy Butterflies

Art educator Anne-Louise Quinton shares a workshop for making a flock of large, withy butterflies, creating a colourful and dramatic artwork.

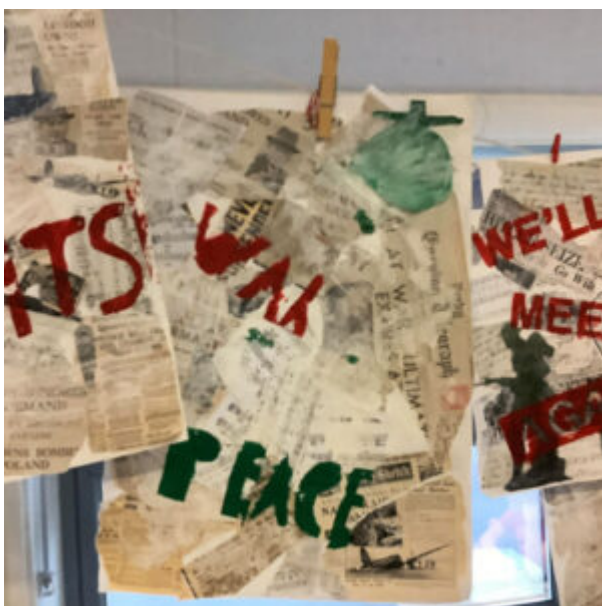
An Exploration of Artwork by Shepard Fairey

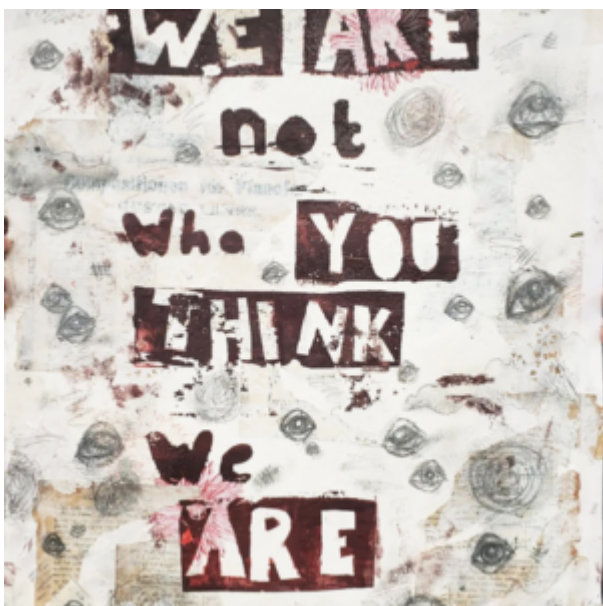
Teenagers Propaganda Inspired Shepard Fairey

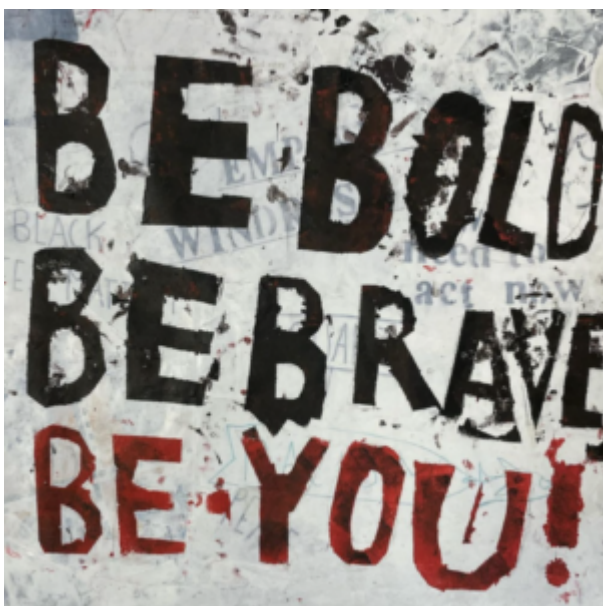
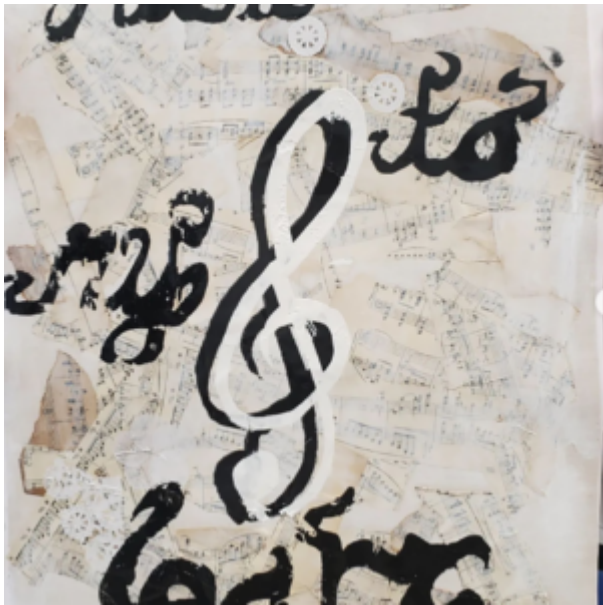
Make Art by

See This Resource
Used In Schools...















You May Also Like...

Pathway: Print & Activism



This is featured in the
'Print & Activism' pathway

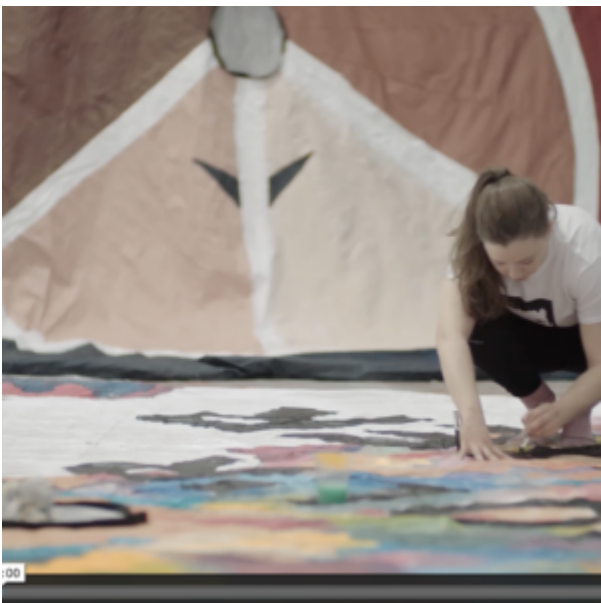
**Talking Points: Luba
Lukova**



Talking Points: Faith Ringgold



Talking Points: Kate DeCiccio



Talking Points: Shepard Fairey



**Screen Prints
Inspired by
Shepard Fairey**

Making Sculptural “Wild Things” (Session 2 & 3)

**See This Resource
Used In Schools...**







You May Also Like...

Pathway: Drawing and Making Inspired by Maurice Sendak



This resource is featured in the 'Drawing and Making Inspired by Maurice Sendak' pathway

talking points: maurice sendak



session recording: exploring modroc



Roseate Spoonbill Mixed Media Project

Beginning with Bones

In a workshop led by artist Melissa Pierce Murray, teenagers make observational drawings of a 1/4 life size model of a skeleton to understand the structure of the human body. Students looked at how artists used

**armatures, including Alberto Giacometti
and Henri Matisse.**