

Quick Guide to Mixing Plaster

This is an extract from "[Make, Build, Create: Sculpture Projects for Children](#)" by Paula Briggs, published by Black Dog Publishing 2016.

Plaster of Paris (or fine casting plaster) is produced by heating gypsum. It is used in a powder form that is then mixed with water. When the powder is mixed with water, the plaster undergoes an exothermic reaction. The plaster then hardens over time into a strong material that can still be carved.

When used with care and sensible precautions plaster can be a very useful sculptural material, even with young children. For many sculptural projects you will be able to use modroc instead of plaster (page ref), but sometimes only liquid plaster will do! In conjunction with other materials plaster can be used for modelling, casting and construction.

Follow these tips and enjoy using plaster safely as a great sculptural enabler.

Mixing Plaster

Materials and Equipment

- Plaster of Paris
- Two buckets
- Access to water

Before you mix the plaster, have your sculpture, whether it is a construction or cast, ready.

1. Pour clean water into a clean bucket. You will be adding dry plaster to the bucket, so never fill the bucket to more than half full of water.



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Drawing Into Space with Melissa Pierce Murray

In this session, artist Melissa Pierce Murray invited students to create three-dimensional drawings from tape, string and paper, using the entire room as our canvas.

Questioning the Canvas

World in a Matchbox

Children love working on a miniature scale where they can create worlds which they can control and oversee. AccessArt and Mencap have devised the “World in a Box” activity to enable children plenty of creative freedom resulting in fantastic autobiographical artwork.

Making Paper Masks for Carnival and Mardi Gras

Making a Carnival Mask with the help of an AccessArt Template.

**“Plasticine Models &
Decorated Plinths”
Inspired by the Book
‘Dirty Beasts’ by Roald
Dahl & illustrated by
Quentin Blake**

You Might Also like...

Pathway: Telling Stories through drawing and making



[This is featured in the 'Drawing Stories Through Drawing and Making' pathway](#)

**Making Sculptural
Interpretations of 18th
Century Portraits at the
Fitzwilliam Museum,**

Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore making three dimensional interpretations of two dimensional 18th Century portraits.

Making Giant Withie Lanterns

With 'festivals of lights' in November and December, teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing class had a fun time constructing giant lanterns out of withies and wet-strength tissue paper.

Time to Introduce Ourselves – Initial Sculpture!

Supersized Jewellery

More Making and Drawing projects for children



[Make, Build, Create and Drawing Projects for Children, BlackDog Publishing 2015/2016](#)

Rio 2016! – Sporty / Sunbathing Dolls

Inspired by Rio 2016, the AccessArt Friday Club made dolls from modroc and wire, exploring costumes and

personality!

Take a Seat Gallery

Enjoy these chairs!

Brushes, Rollers and Dabbers – Year 4 Pupils Use Mixed Media to Make Mark Making Tools

to explore constructing in mixed media and using inventiveness and innovation to create painting tools, which would later be used to paint a Communal Drawing of the River.

**Perseverance,
Determination** **and**

Inventiveness: Building Nests

Year 4 pupils from Comberton Village College and Cambourne Village College feeder schools met for a Gifted and Talented Sculpture Masterclass led by AccessArt at Bourn Primary Academy. The session centred around an exploration of the materials and construction methods we might use to build inventive, sculptural nests.

Artist Studio Series: Emma Sandham King

Barbie & Ken Transformation

This adaptable resource shares how we transformed Barbie dolls using paper, fabric, modroc and paint. We had great fun researching and designing costumes and exploring appropriate materials. By Paula Briggs

Shipwrecked! A Shadow Puppet Play by Children Aged 10

As the winter nights draw in and it was dark outside and cosy inside, Friday Club students, turn the summerhouse into a theatre and make a shadow puppet play.

3D Drawing with Paper: Texture – Surface – Structure

Artist Andrea Butler sets teenagers the challenge to create 3D forms from sheets of paper experimenting with structure and texture using manipulation techniques.

Years 3 and 4 D&T and Making Club

A collection of resources by Sheila Ceccarelli based on her Brilliant Makers Club for year three and four pupils at Milton Road Primary School, Cambridge. Children were encouraged to experiment, think and engineer creative solutions by working on simple projects, with individual

and independently generated outcomes.

How to Make a Simple Origami Bird by Melanie Johns

Melanie Johns suggests using origami to transform old artwork. It's an exciting way of using less successful drawings or paintings on paper to produce a new creative outcome, in the form of a personalised paper sculpture.