

“Acts of Kindness” Workshop

By [Paula Briggs](#)



Portrait of Jan Brueghel I (1568-1625) and his family, by Peter Paul Rubens (Detail)

The day after Trump and Zelenskyy stunned the world with their televised argument in the Oval Office, AccessArt ran a “Constructing Positive Social Stories: Acts of Kindness” workshop session at the [AccessArt Lab](#).

The event was one of a number of “[Artists & Teachers Exploring Together](#)” sessions, devised by AccessArt to give us an opportunity to think about some of the more philosophical issues behind art education. By working with artists and educators who are open to holding ideas lightly, we hope to collaboratively discover new arts educational approaches and activities, transferable to a variety of settings.

The idea behind this particular session was to explore how we can use making as a tool to help us focus more closely on the positives which surround us everyday, no matter how small. By creating a shared space for making and conversation, we hoped to lift spirits and create a sense of shared experience.

This post shares the session aims, some of the conversational highlights, and observations of the workshop attendees, and my own as facilitator. Thank you to all who attended, and for your generosity.

“A timely workshop this Saturday morning led by AccessArt. Reflecting individually on our own experiences of small kindnesses, and then choosing

from a table of materials to abstractly or literally depict these, prompted conversation that magnified the acts beyond their original intent. The joy of creating by hand alongside others, of talking and making sense whilst sculpting and glueing, of sharing in stories of the smallest of acts that had made a difference to someone else... about people feeling seen, loved, heard. I left feeling lighter, more hopeful about the world, and with more generosity towards other drivers on my journey home."

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Adapting AccessArt: From 2D to 3D

You May Also Like

Manipulating Paper: Turning 2D into 3D



Making Prompt cards



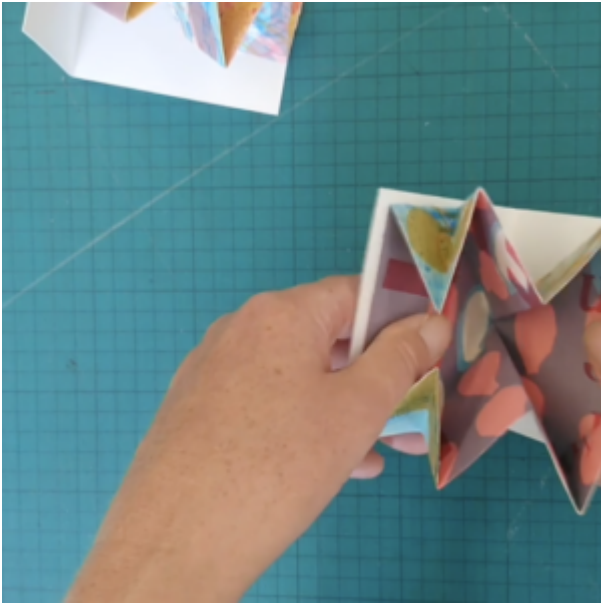
playful making pathway



ASTRONAUT PAPER BODY CASTS



Turkish map fold



Adapting AccessArt: Playful Making Inspired by Nnena Kalu



Egg Box Gargoyles

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**Visual Arts Planning Collections:
Cardboard and paper**



Making a Sculptural Modroc Mask

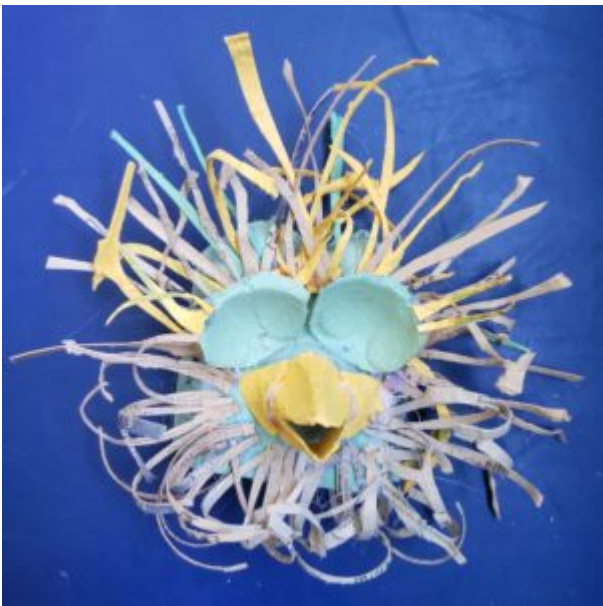


Making a Mask from Sticks and Tissue Paper



**See This Resource Used in
Schools...**





AccessArt Olympics: Stadium Design

[<<Explore Other Olympic Themes](#)

Explore the project below to help pupils consider how they might design and build an Olympic and Paralympic stadium for an Olympic [Ceremony](#).

Stadium Design

Aim: To introduce pupils to architecture through stadium design. Pupils will get the opportunity to transform and manipulate materials through model making, thinking about the form and function of a stadium.

Step 1: Introduce in Sketchbooks

Consider asking pupils to make an Olympic project sketchbook using one of the “[Making Sketchbooks](#)” resources.

Begin by introducing students to stadiums designed for the Olympics and Paralympics with “[Talking Points: Olympic and Paralympic Stadiums](#)”. Invite pupils to create “[Visual Notes](#)” in their sketchbooks inspired by the information they see.

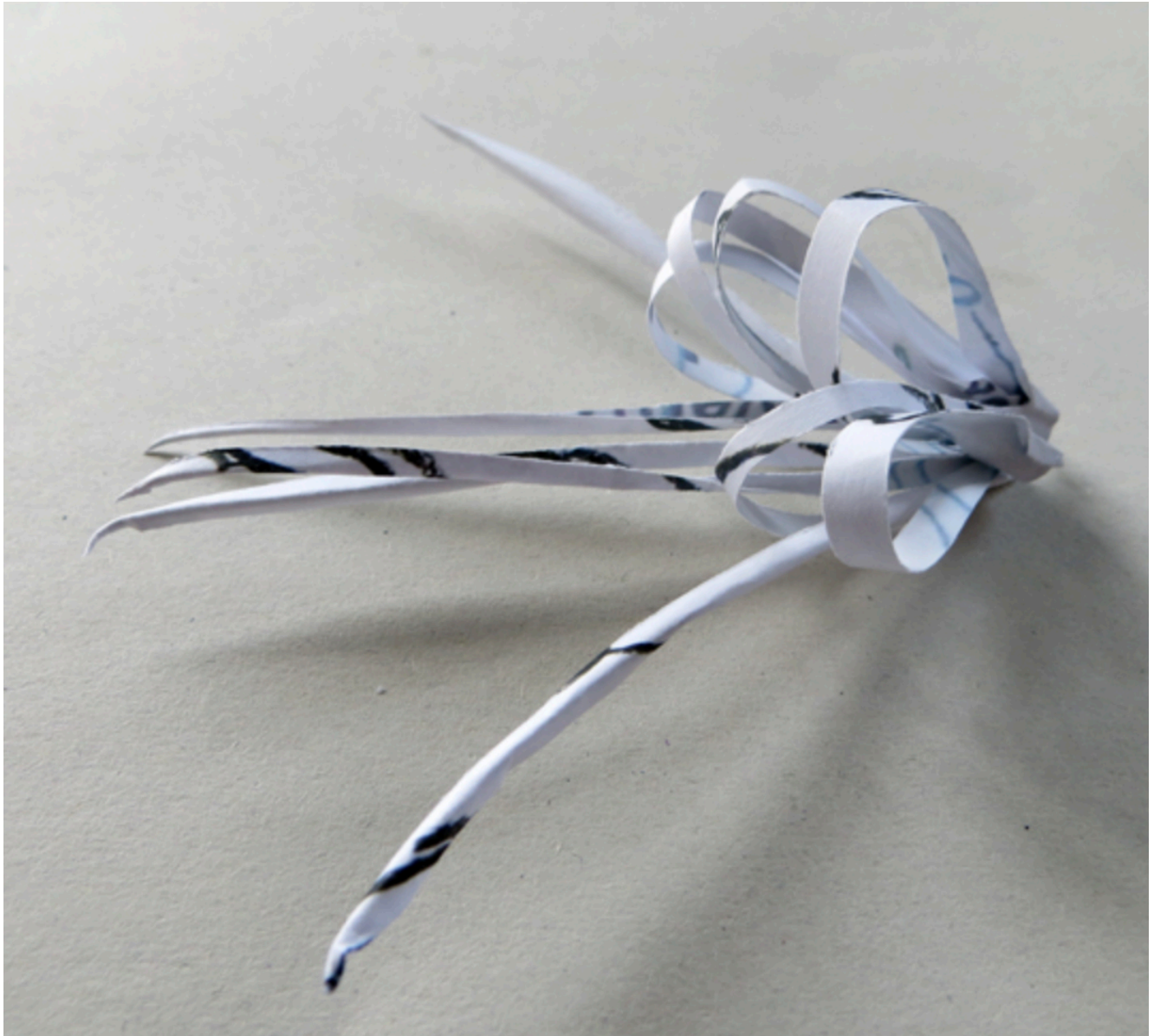


© Iwan Baan

Step 2: Drawing and Making

Using “[Drawing Source Material: Inspirational Stadiums](#)” invite pupils to create drawings inspired by what they can see. Find out how to run this guided session with the “[Show Me What You See](#)” resource.

Introduce this short making task “[Roots and Shoots](#)” to get pupils to think about how they might get creative with making, attaching and manipulating materials.



Step 3: Making

Get pupils to work in pairs or small groups to create “[A Model Studio](#)” of a stadium. They may choose to start with designing or making first. Remind them of what they learnt about materials in the previous step.

Alternatively, you may want to build stadiums by adapting “[Inspired by google Earth: Making](#)”. Use polystyrene to build the stadium from the ground

up.

Extension: Use the [“Taking Photos of 3D Artwork”](#) resource to incorporate a digital element into the project. For help with introducing pupils to green screens see the [“Exploring Scale with Green Screens”](#) resource.



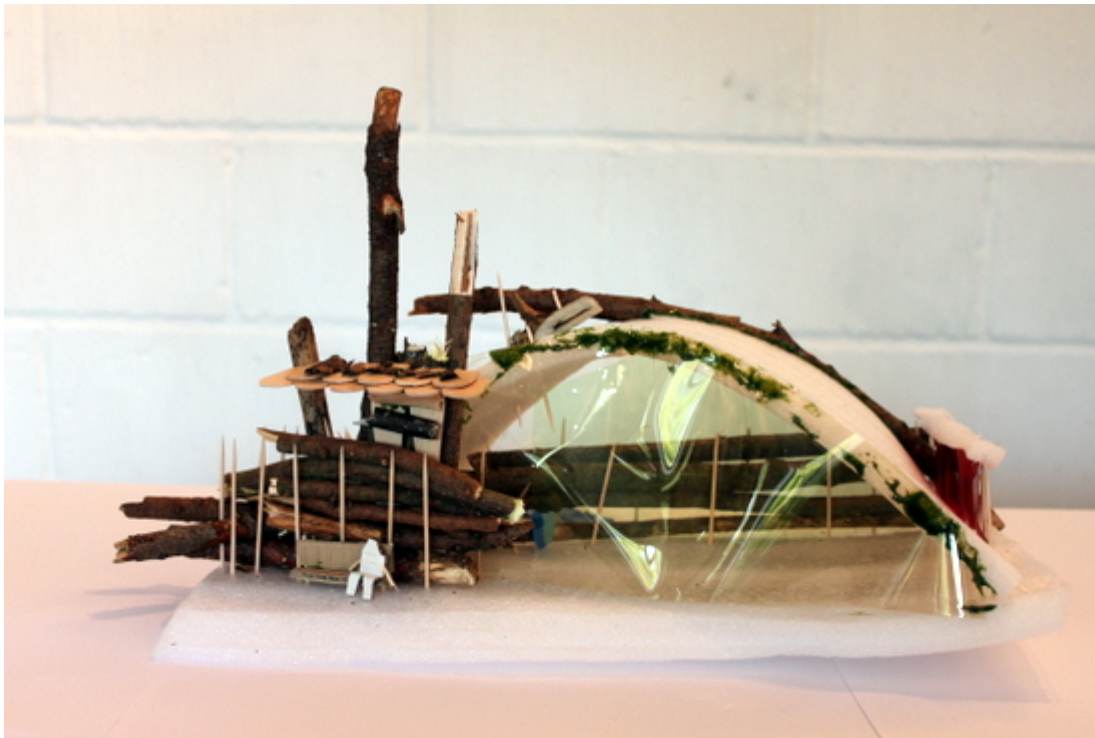
Step 4: Reflect

[Use the resource here to help you run a class “crit” to finish the project.](#)

Invite children to display the work in a clear space on tables or on the wall. Recap with them about the exploration – where they started, what they discovered and what they enjoyed.

If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the

children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.



ACCESSART OLYMPIC RESOURCES

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

Materials:

Sketchbooks

A3 Paper

Drawing materials

Making Materials: Card, Coffee stirrers and/or lolly sticks, Twigs, Foam board, Toothpicks, Wire, String, Colour Gels, Polystyrene, Cardboard

PVA Glue

Scissors

Glue Guns

Tablet (Optional)

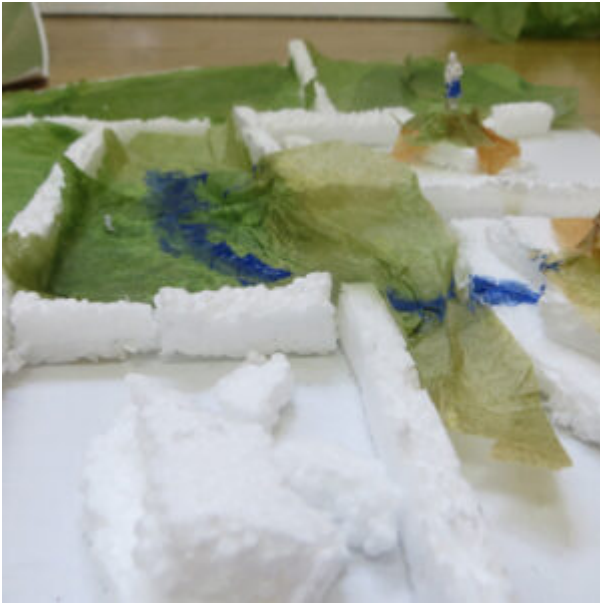
Green Card (Optional)

Adaptations:

You may like to shift the focus of this project to Ancient Greek architecture and stadiums, to explore structures such as the Parthenon. You may find resources in the “[A Sketchbook Pathway, Anglo Saxon Architecture](#)” helpful.

Think about significant buildings or history within the local area that you could integrate elements of into stadiums, forming links to locality.

Explore Other Resources in Ceremony:



Mapping and Modelling



Mascot Design



Friendship Tower

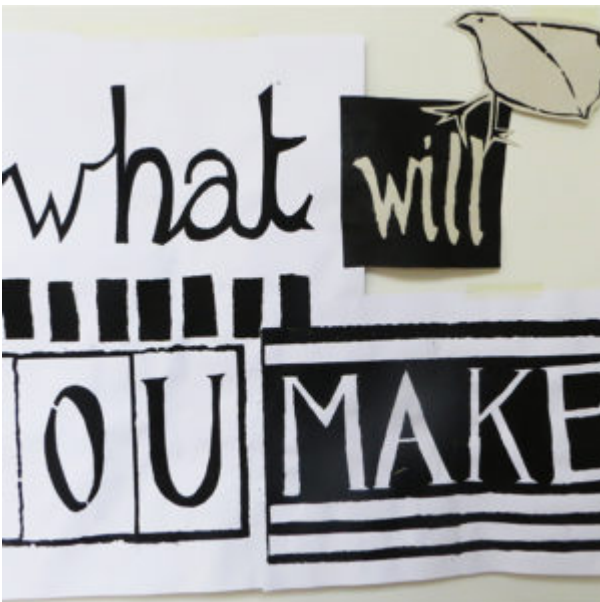
Explore other olympic themes
history



Athletics



Values



Hew Locke Inspired Boats

See This Resource Used In Schools...





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Making a Treehouse



Dropped Cone Sculptures



What is Sculpture?



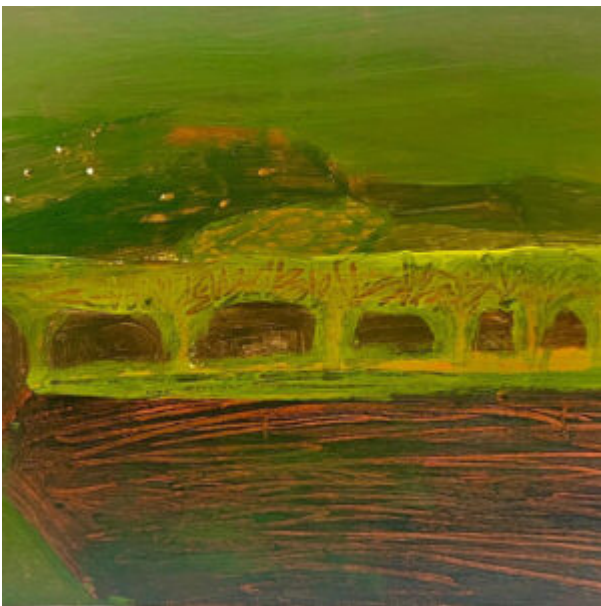
CPD Recording: Exploring Sculpture for Art Leads in Primary School

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[AccessArt Sculpture Resources](#)



CPD Recording: Exploring Painting For Art Leads



CPD Recording: Exploring Drawing For Art Leads



Exploring Macbeth Through Art: Witch's Capes

Design Through Making

Making 2d & 3d Fashion Designs with Painted and

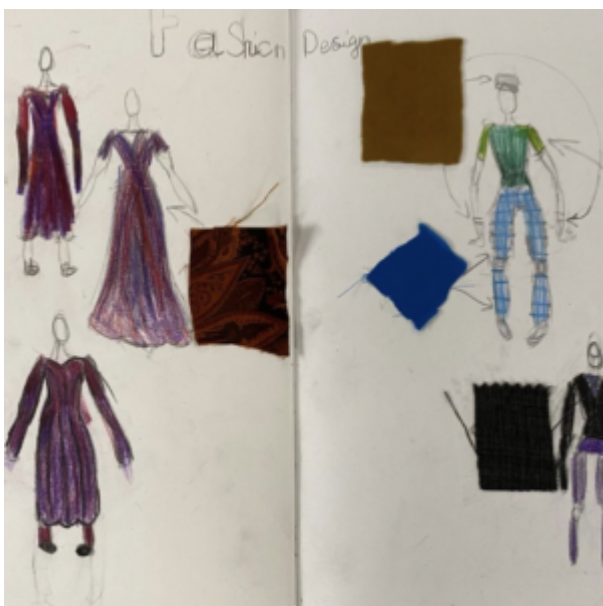
Decorated Paper

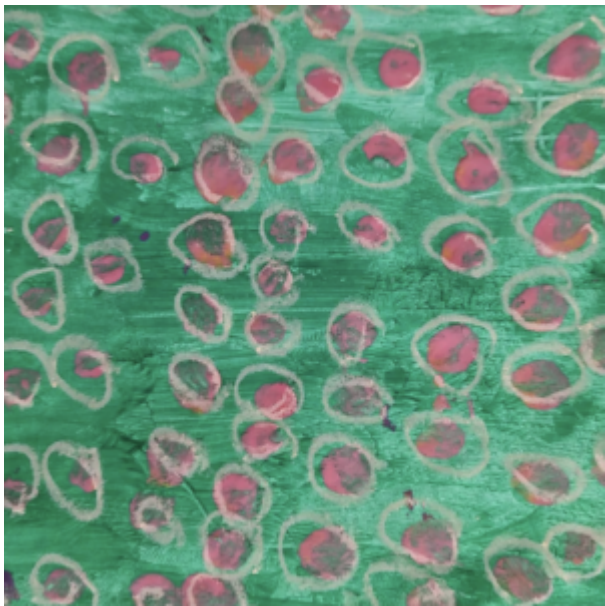
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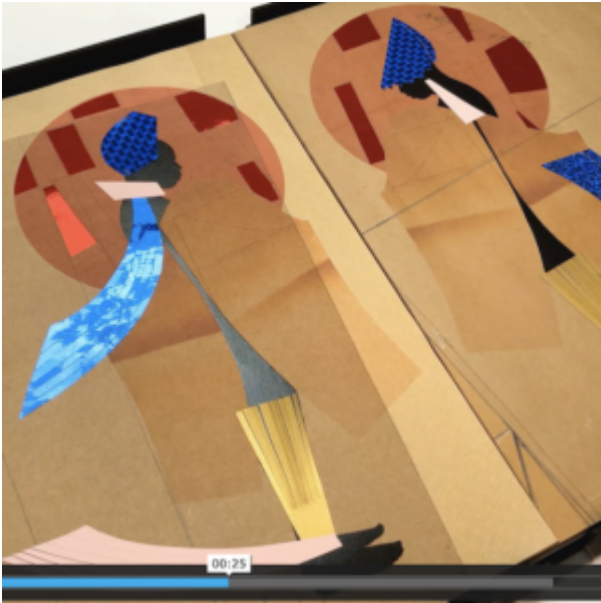
You May Also Like...

Pathway: Fashion Design



[This is featured in the 'Fashion Design' pathway](#)

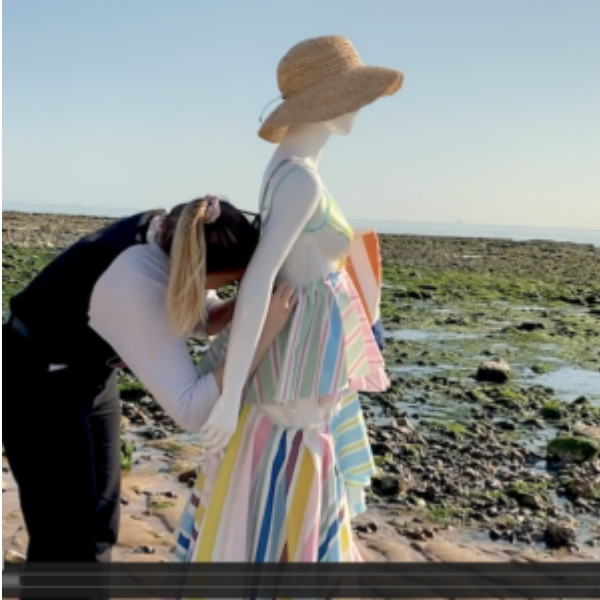
Talking Points: Hormazd Narielwalla



Talking Points: Tatyana Antoun



Talking Points: Alice Fox



Talking Points: Pyer Moss



Talking Points: Rahul Mishra



Making a Treehouse

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Stick Transformation project



This is featured in the 'Stick Transformation Project' pathway

Talking Points: treehouses



Workshop Season in Review

Which Artists: Tatyana Antoun

What We Like About This Resource...

“The research phase of a creative project can be presented in many different ways, and can even be an art form in itself. Here, Tatyana demonstrates how her sketchbooks became a medium through which she expressed her

thoughts, refined her ideas and explored materials. We believe sketchbooks to be a powerful tool for children to take ownership of their ideas and travel on their own creative journey, without necessarily knowing the destination. Take a look at our [sketchbook journey](#) for more sketchbook inspiration” – Rachel, AccessArt.

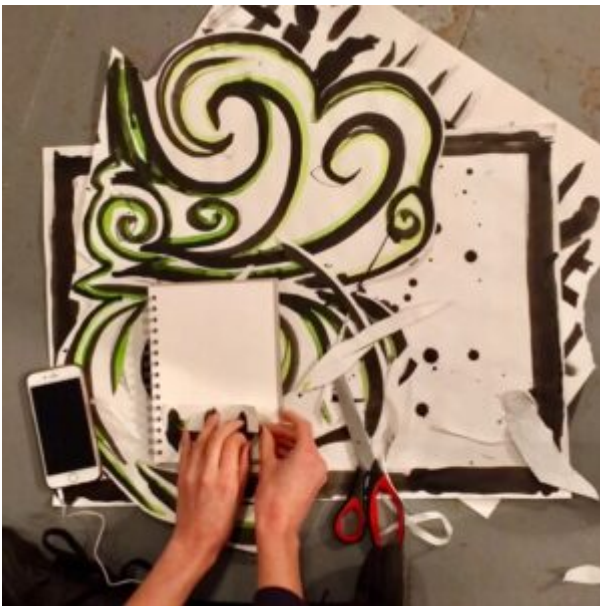
You Might Also Like...



[Sketchbooks and Thinking Skills](#)



Sketchbooks for Designers – an Introduction for Children



Using Sketchbooks to Take Ownership of Ideas

Creating Repeat Patterns With Rachel Parker

What We Like About This Resource...

“This is a great activity for really tuning into colour and shape. The process is ultimately quite a refined one (ie making a pattern balanced and repeated ‘correctly’) – but there’s plenty of scope for exploring pattern in a more experiential way prior to the refinement page. Try one of the recommended resources below to introduce pattern and begin with some open ended activities to build skill and confidence.” – Andrea, AccessArt

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring pattern



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway](#)

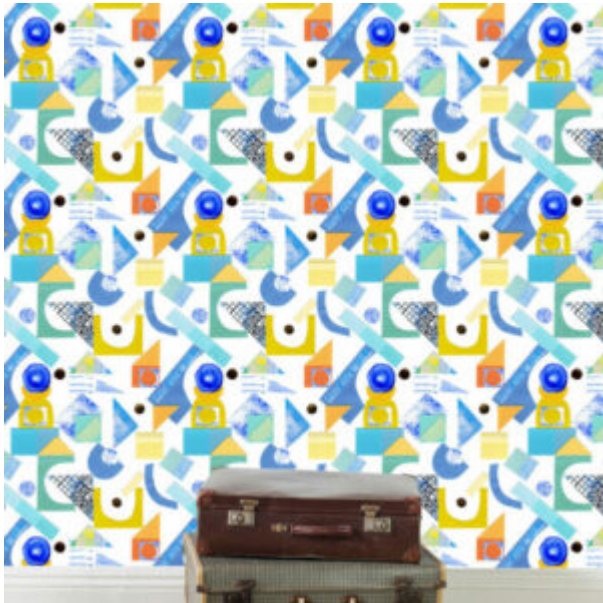
Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



Inspired by Rachel Parker



**Teachers Explore Pattern, Shape
and Texture**



Block Printing Repeat Patterns



AccessArt's Prompt

Cards for Making

You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Music and art



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

Pathway: Playful Making



**This resource is features in the
'Playful Making' pathway**

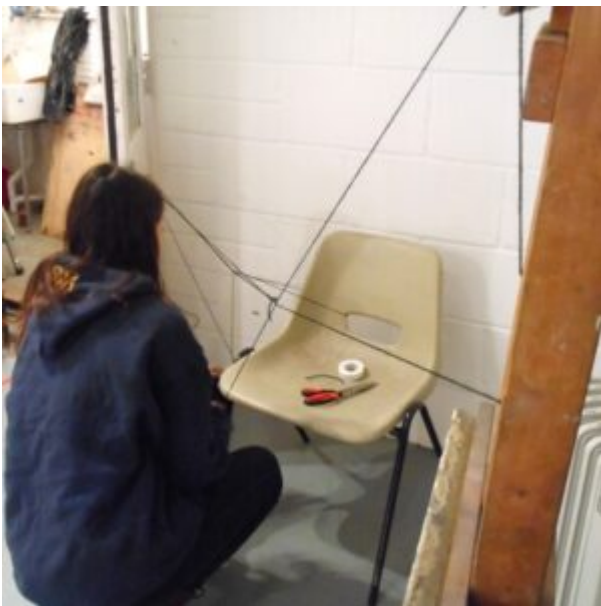
Manipulating Paper



Cardboard Sculptures



The Chair and Me



Make First

The Transformation Project

You May Also Like...



Transforming Cardboard with Andrea Butler

Artist Andrea Butler shows how to explore simple design and construction using cardboard and jewellery. [Read More](#)

Turkish Map Fold

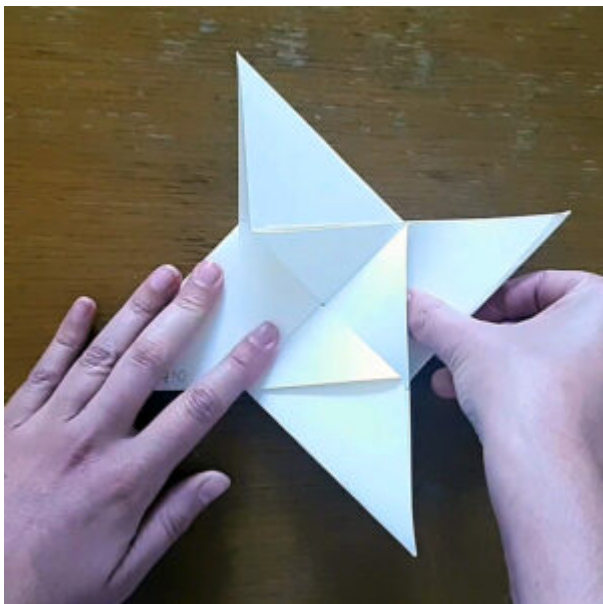
What We Like About This Resource...

“This activity is a great example of how we can use paper as the focus of creativity. Often we use paper purely for drawing or painting on, but here, it is central to the activity itself. While these particular folded sculptures have their roots in Turkish culture, you

could still deliver the activity if looking at things like Origami too, thus linking it across different cultures” – *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...

Puzzle Purses Part 1



Puzzle Purses Part 2



Paperback Figures



Which Artists: Liz West

What We Like About This Resource...

"It's really interesting to hear how the interest Liz has in the quality of light comes from a personal place and is something she has responded to since childhood. Seeing how her work has developed over the years is therefore a really positive re enforcement that individual creative journeys, where nurtured, are so central to a rich arts education. We also love hearing Liz is always on the 'quest for knowledge' – meaning she is open to her ideas constantly evolving and the process of gathering new information and inspiration never stops!" – Rachel, AccessArt

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Brave Colour



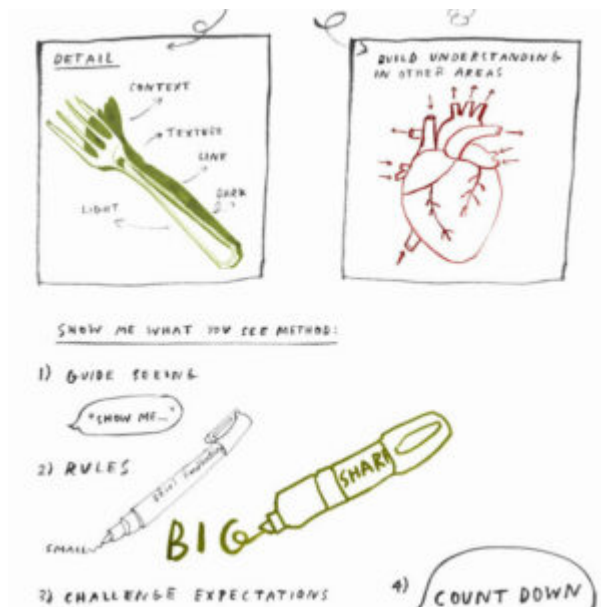
This is featured in the 'Brave colour' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise

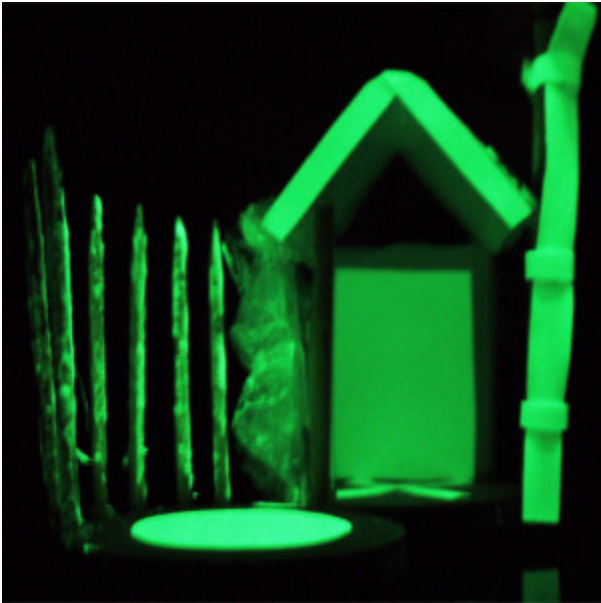
Lightbulb Art



Mini World Light Boxes



Visual Arts Planning: Light and Dark



**Making
Instruments**

Musical

**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



Which Artists: Su Blackwell

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s really interesting to hear how Su’s career path evolved organically, and how experimenting with different disciplines such as ceramics and

sculpture whilst studying Textiles at the RCA began her journey towards paper craft and books. We really like how the small book sculptures inspired the larger scale set designs for The Snow Queen. They transfer so effectively to the stage and you can imagine how engaging it would be for a young audience to recognise letters and words on lampposts and other scenic elements".
– *Rachel, AccessArt*

You Might Also Like...



[Creating a Book World](#)



Sketch Set Design Models



Set Design for Primary Aged Children