

In-Depth Drawing Experience for Teenagers by Betsy Dadd

A 40 Artist Educator Resource:
Be Inspired by Betsy Dadd



Student walks and draws at the same time - looking and drawing in continuous motion

Artist and educator Betsy Dadd shares how she inspired teenagers to enjoy an in-depth exploration of drawings

resulting in working on a large scale and finally animating their work.

This project was shared with AccessArt as part of the [40 Artist Educator Project](#), funded by Arts Council England, aiming to highlight and celebrate artist-led teaching and facilitation.

Moving & Drawing by Betsy Dadd

Betsy offered year nine Graphic and Art students at [St Bede's Inter-Faith School](#), an exceptional opportunity to look and visually re-consider the environment around them with an in-depth exploration of the drawing process.

Betsy showed students her own work and talked about her process of creating large scale, textured animations on paper. Betsy then led students through a series of insightful and meaningful drawing experiences that would make students re-examine their idea of what drawing is.

"The workshop at St Bede's was dedicated to drawing and in particular moving drawing. By venturing out of the classroom to the various green spaces around the school, we explored different ways to look and record what was seen. As well as experimenting with mark-making, the exercises were about being observant and scrutinising familiar spaces that often go overlooked. Whilst the drawings were abstracted from their subject matter, they exist as a portal back to the experience of being in that place."

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See Curriculum Guidance for Drawing: Resources



[**Further Guidance to Support Drawing in Schools**](#)

More Drawing Projects



[Find more drawing exercises and projects for primary-aged children in this beautiful book by Paula Briggs.](#)

Why use Warm Up Drawing Exercises?

Drawing on Pebbles to Make Treasured Fossils

Using a variety of drawing media on a variety of found surfaces to create a collection of fossils. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

How to Run a Life Drawing Class by Hester Berry

Using Pastels to Capture Texture

Using soft pastel and graphite in an intuitive way to capture a sense of texture. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Experimental Drawing – Process over Outcome

Artist and facilitator Sharon Kelly shares an inspirational mark-making workshop in which participants are encouraged to take risks in their work.

Scrapboard

Woodcut

Lookalikes

Making simple scraper board drawings with oil pastel and acrylic paint, which take on the appearance of woodcuts. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Bad Cat: Inspiration for Art Week

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Making Broadway Market



How does the Sculpture Balance?

Construction-based sculpture project inspired by Ben Nicholson's paintings. Encourages children to take more risks

by asking them to through their sculptures “off balance”.

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Layered Colour Gestural Drawing

Using colour to help develop gestural drawing skills. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Quentin Blake’s Drawings as Inspiration!

3 simple exercises inspired by the drawings of Quentin Blake. Enables children to develop observation skills and explore drawing from life, combined with permission to exaggerate certain aspects of their drawings to help convey intention.

Drawing in the National Curriculum

Teenagers Explore Expressive Drawing with Charcoal and Soft Pastels

Students intuitively respond to marks, allowing forms and rhythmic lines to emerge. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Drawing Clouds and Mark Making

Mark-making exercise for children which encourages them to push their drawings, and their imaginations out of their safe zone. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

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Using monoprint to Create a Textured Collage: Toy

Farmyard and Woodland Animal Still Life

Teenagers use acrylic paint to monoprint and create a textured collage. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Minimalising: Using Simple Line Drawings to Explore Sculptural Form

Teenagers explore a 'reductive' or 'minimalising' approach to drawing, as a tool to study form. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Seasonal Drawings: Observation, Composition and Colour

From careful line drawings to full colour collages – rich and evocative imagery by primary-aged children. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)