Galaxy Painting

By Rachel Thompson



In this table top activity, AccessArt team member Rachel uses a classic water colour technique to create a colourful galaxy scene.

You will need:

- Some large water colour paper (unfortunately standard cartridge paper is not absorbent enough for this activity!)
- Water colour paints, inks or food colouring
- Pippets and/or brushes
- Test tubes, jug and funnel (if you don't have test tubes then a standard paint pallet or a few pots work fine)
- A small sponge

• An ice cube tray or other colour mixing pots

To create a link between art and science, we used some equipment taken from a 'science kit' we have - namely, pippets, test tubes, a funnel and food colouring - but you can just as easily use paint brushes and water colour paint or inks. The advantage of pippets and funnels however, is that it creates a few more steps to the process, (therefore taking more time, keeping engagement up for more than twenty minutes!).



This activity uses a classic water colour technique of applying paint to a dampened piece of paper. The result is that the paint shows its lovely quality of travelling and swirling across the paper through the channels of wet paper. Young children love to see how colours can 'magically' merge together and create beautiful moving patterns.

Starter discussion: This is a great opportunity to combine a

bit of art with science! Take a look at photos or books of how our galaxy looks. Observe the colours and patterns and talk about where space is and how we learn about it. I did this activity with my five year old daughter and a few minutes discussing space galaxies definitely seemed to help her focus!

Then, we used the test tubes to mix our colours. This proved an engaging part of the process as we could use a small funnel and jug of water to first add some water into each tube, followed by some drops of food colouring. Inks or water colour paint work equally well here though.





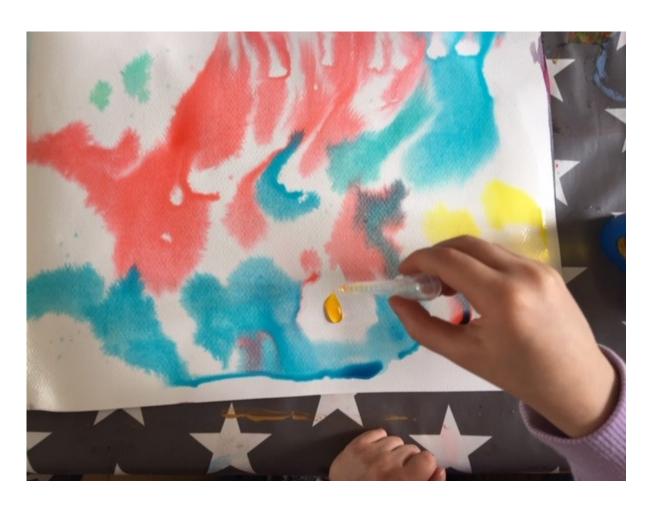
Primary colours work well here as there's more scope for creating new colours.



Then, take a large sheet of water colour paper that is as absorbent as possible. Using a sponge or large brush, spread some water across the paper evenly. Try not to make it too wet at this stage or the paper will become too saturated once the colour is added.

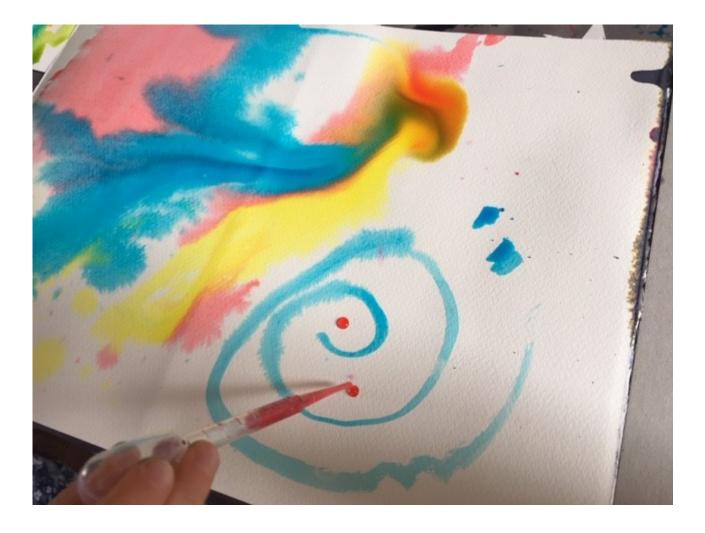


Next, use pippets (or brushes) to drop colour onto the dampened paper - and wait for the magic to happen!









Create patterns with brushes and drop colour in between.



After a few minutes I introduced an old ice cube box that was useful for playing with colour mixing. I also got out a set of water colour paints to add variety.



Spending a few minutes dropping colour into each ice cube section was an activity in itself!

Once the paper has been covered with colour, and is probably getting to the point where it can't hold much more water, set it aside to dry. If little puddles of coloured water are pooling on the paper, show your child how they can extract this using the pippet. This is a great technique to learn and encourages the child to make decisions about their painting and where sometimes, less is more! You can also do this with a dry paint brush, making sure you squeeze or blot the fluid out of it each time.

Once the painting is dry we moved on to looking at some space books, so some context was given for the next part of the activity.



Then, using a range of drawing materials (my daughter mainly used simple colouring pencils as they have a lovely chalky quality over the top of dried water colour paper) draw your space picture! This is really an opportunity to let your child use their imagination and explore the composition of the page. Allow them to draw what comes to mind, only steering them towards discussions about space rather than dictating what they draw. My daughter was particularly drawn to a photo of an astronaut in the book we looked at and so wanted to re create that.

She began drawing some planets, some with rings around them.





Next came a rocket!



And then the astronaut, he she decided was a girl astronaut called Sally.



Depending on your child's attention span, this could take up half an hour or so - or even more! They may leave the picture and come back to it. Above all, keep it relaxed and open ended - and have fun!



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.

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Drawing Large

See This Resource Used in Schools...









You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Gestural Drawing with Charcoal

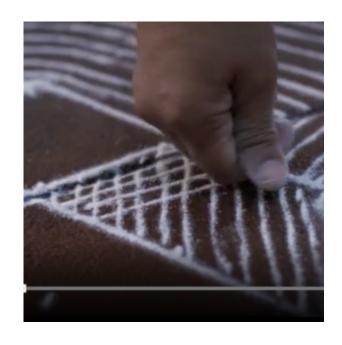


<u>Featured in the 'Gestural Drawing with</u>
<u>Charcoal Pathway'</u>

Session Recording: exploring Charcoal



The ancient art of konan



Molly Hausland



Drawing Source Material:

Nests

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

Please note that this page contains links to external websites and has videos from external websites embedded. At the time of creating, AccessArt checked all links to ensure content is appropriate for teachers to access. However external websites and videos are updated and that is beyond our control.

Please <u>let us know</u> if you find a 404 link, or if you feel content is no longer appropriate.

We strongly recommend as part of good teaching practice that teachers watch all videos and visit all websites before sharing with a class. On occasion there may be elements of a video you would prefer not to show to your class and it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure content is appropriate. Many thanks.

Nests

Use the film below to enable children to explore drawing nests. Try to create a sense of momentum — for example you might pause the video 4 times and ask the pupils to make a 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute and 4 minute drawing at each pause.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw — use your voice to attract their attention to qualities of the nest.

Try the same exercise using different materials, ie handwriting pen, ink and nib, pastel, watercolour...



Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Davis, United States. Original public domain image from Wikimedia Commons



Bird nest hanging on a tree. Free public domain CCO photo.



Birds nest in tree, nature photography. Free public domain CCO image.



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You May Also Like...

Pathway: Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness & determination



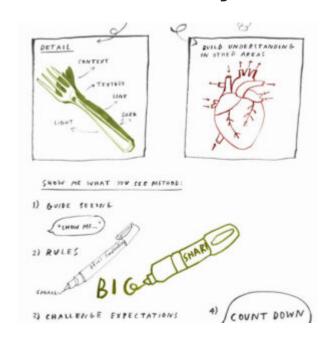
This is featured in the 'Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness & Determination' pathway

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

Drawing Source Material: Drone Footage over Natural Landscapes

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

Please note that this page contains links to external websites and has videos from external

websites embedded. At the time of creating, AccessArt checked all links to ensure content is appropriate for teachers to access. However external websites and videos are updated and that is beyond our control.

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This resource is free to access and is not a part of AccessArt membership.

FREE TO ACCESS

Drone Footage Over Natural Landscape

Use the film below as source material to enable an exploration of drawing natural landscapes. You can also try to find drone footage of your own environment, or that of areas relating to projects you are covering in school.

Pause the footage at points which catch your eye and invite the children to make timed drawings -

15 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 2 minutes or 1 minute.

Vary the drawing materials you use and work in sketchbooks or sheets of paper of different sizes and textures. You may also like to make multiple line drawings over one page — each with a different colour or line weight, to describe different pause points in the same film to capture a moving landscape.

Dixie National Forest, Utah

Howqua Hills, Australia

Reading, UK

The Netherlands

This Source Material Features in...

Pathway: Cloth, thread, paint



This is featured in the 'Cloth, Thread, Paint' pathway

Pathway: Mixed Media Land and city scapes

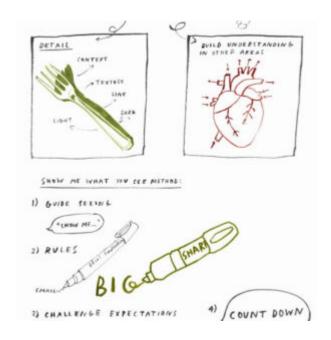


This is featured in the 'Mixed Media Land and City Scapes' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



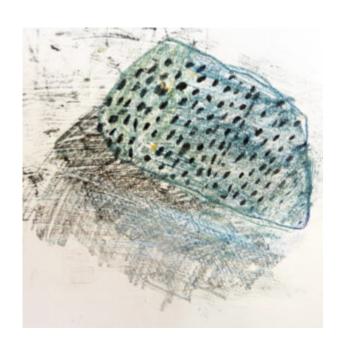
Show me what you see



Drawing Small

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring the world though mono print



This is featured in the 'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway

Drawing Large



Life Drawing Class: Visual Impressions

Foreshortened Sketches

Cupid and Psyche: How a Fifteenth-Century Renaissance Panel Became the Most Loved Painting in Cambridgeshire

Sheila Ceccarelli tells the story of how Cupid and Psyche, painted by Jacopo Del Sellaio, an Italian Renaissance artist, came to become the most loved painting in Cambridgeshire. Inspire is an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrates the creativity of our local schools. It champions the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for children and young people. A chance also to see Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche on display next to the children's work.

Bubble Drawings

Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings

Anthropomorphic Animal Paintings

This painting activity looks at giving human characteristics to animals. Anthropomorphism is making something which is not human, more human like for e.g Miss Piggy, Mickey Mouse and the characters created by Beatrix Potter. This activity was inspired by the paintings of two contemporary artists who use anthropomorphism in their work, Ken Hoffman and Svjetlan Junakovic.

Nib & Ink Mark Making Still Life

Many thanks to accessArt Young Artist Rowan Briggs Smith





Painting A Rainbow Forest

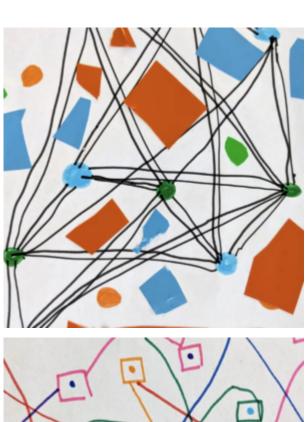
Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils paint their own large scale, colourful forest inspired by AccessArt's resource 'Painting A Bluebell Forest'. Rachel shares her process in this resource.

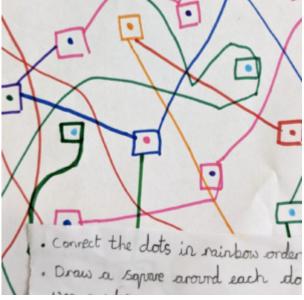
Layers

Teenagers draw on layers of acetate to make a palimpsest with Melissa Pierce Murray.

Rules and Resolutions

See This Resource Used In Schools...









You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring pattern

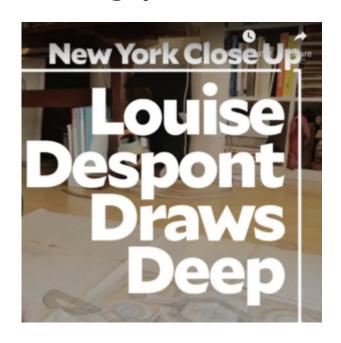


This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway

Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



Drawing in the Dark: Developing a Visual Language

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.

Japanese Sushi Inspires Our Art

Jan Miller leads a project enabling children to explore materials and learn from another culture by creating colourful, large-scale mixed media drawings inspired by food from Japan. This activity is suitable for older KS1 and KS2 children.

Spotting Potential and Nurturing a Young Talent

You May Also Like...

Visual Arts Planning Collections: Portraits



Assessment & Progression



Taking on the Inktober Challenge

Artist Morag Thompson Merriman taking on the Inktober Challenge and generously shares her process with AccessArt.