

# Opening Out: Shells and Sketchbooks

By [Tobi Meuwissen](#)

*In this activity, learners experiment with a range of drawing tools and materials to create both observational and experimental mixed-media drawings.*

*In the session, they begin by making a concertina sketchbook using tracing paper, before experimenting with ink and a range of drawing materials, moving onto close observational drawing of shells, to fill their concertinas with drawings in inventive and creative ways.*

*The three drawing exercises, along with the warm-up activity, are carefully scaffolded to help children develop their skills step-by-step. Each activity builds on prior learning, reinforcing understanding of both the subject matter and the materials, while encouraging children to make connections and informed choices about their next steps.*

*This activity was facilitated with Year 4 learners at [Beaver Road Junior School](#) over a 1.5-hour session, but it can easily be extended or adapted, with opportunities to use the exercises as warm-ups across different sessions. It also comes with plenty of scope to adapt the exercises to the*

***needs or aims of your learners.***

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**Finding Kindness in Marks**

# Made by Artists

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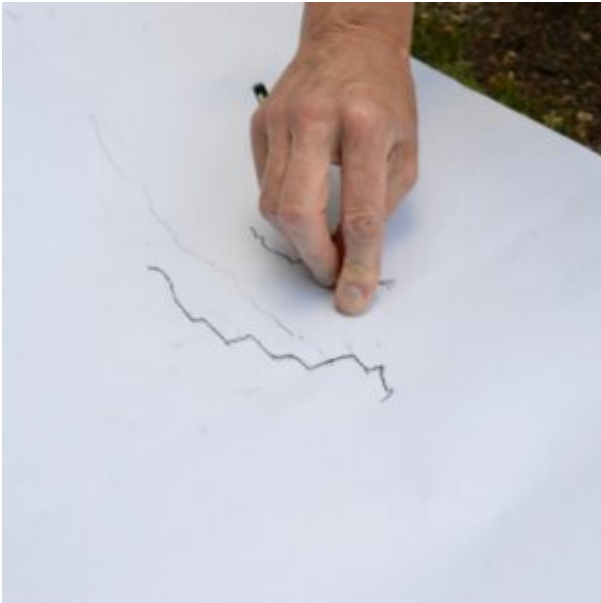
**explore other art week themes**



**Experimental mark-making tools**



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## **Finding Marks Through Drawings Made by Artists**



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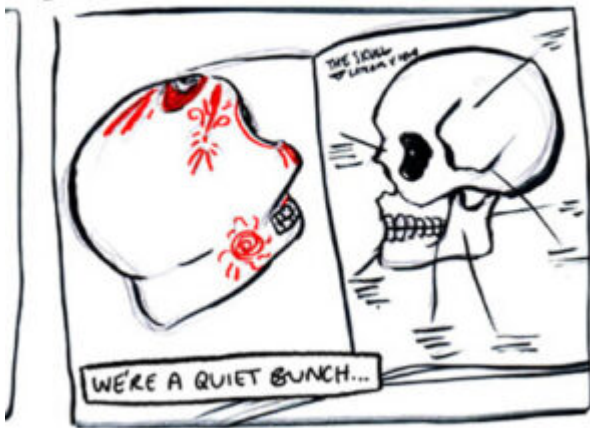
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3.



## Drawing Stories



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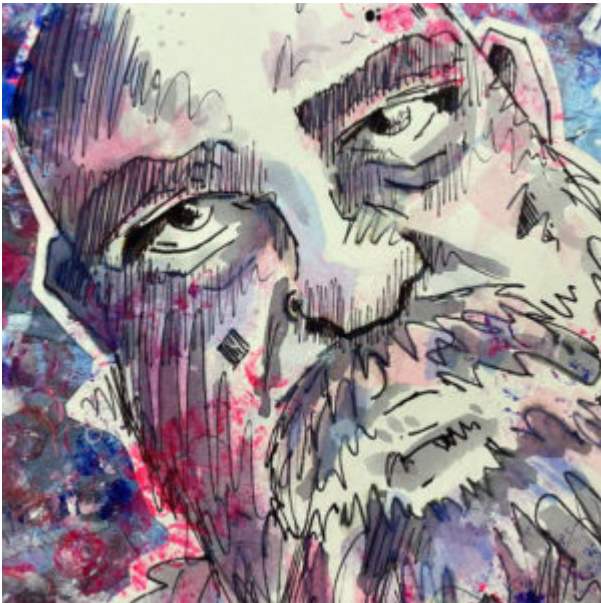
## Making a Ruler Drawing (of a Bag)

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Pathway: Exploring Identity



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## Adapting AccessArt: Colour and Composition



## Thoughtful Mark making



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# Pathway: Exploring Form Through Drawing

Pathway for Years 5 & 6

Disciplines:

**Drawing, Sketchbooks**

Key Concepts:

- That we use the word form to describe a three-dimensional shape.
- That when we draw on two-dimensional surfaces we can use line, mark making, value, shape, colour, pattern and composition to help us create an illusion of form, mass or volume.

- That contour marks can help to describe volume and form/mass.
- That we can mix colours and use a range of media to create atmosphere and meaning in drawings.
- That drawing and sculpture share a close relationship, and can inform each other.

This pathway enables pupils to consider how 2 dimensional drawing can convey a sense of form/mass and volume. By looking at the drawings of Sculptors' Henry Moore, and Christo and Jeanne-Claude we can explore the ways in which they portrayed an illusion of form and meaning in their drawings.

Pupils will explore a range of mark-making, taking inspiration from artists' work and will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of materials.

**Medium:**

Drawing materials, Loose sheets of paper varying in size, shape and quality.

**Artists:** Henry Moore, Christo and Jeanne-Claude

If you use this resource in your setting, please tag us on social media: #InspiredBy @accessart (facebook, twitter) @accessart.org.uk (instagram) and share the url. Thank you!



## Additional Pathway

This pathway is an additional pathway to help you extend, develop or further personalise the [AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum](#).

We suggest this pathway is used to replace a “Drawing and Sketchbooks” (Orange) Pathway “[Typography and Maps](#)” (Years 5 & 6) or “[2D Drawing to 3D Making](#)” (Years 5 & 6).

You may also like to use the activities in this pathway with a smaller group of children in an after school club or community context.



AGES 9-11

## Teaching Notes

Find the MTP for this pathway [here](#).

### Curriculum Links

**Maths:** 2D and 3D shapes, weight, symmetry, angles, mass, volume

**Science:** Properties of objects, shadows, rocks

**PSHE:** Collaboration, Peer Discussion

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**I Can...**

**I can describe the difference between shape (2d) and form (3d).**

- I can explore how artists use their skills to make drawings which capture form.**
- I can use my sketchbook to record and reflect, collecting the ideas and approaches I like which I see other artists use.**
- I can use line, mark making, tonal values, colour, shape and/or composition to give my drawings a feeling of form.**
- I can share my work with others, and talk about my intention and the outcome. I can listen to their response and take their feedback on board.**
- I can appreciate the work of my classmates. I can listen to their intentions and share my response to their work.**

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## **Time**

**This pathway takes 6 weeks, with an hour per week. Shorten or lengthen the suggested pathway according to time and experience. Follow the stages in green for a shorter pathway or less complex journey.**

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## Materials

Loose sheets of cartridge paper, Handwriting pens, Soft B pencils, Water-soluble graphite, Wax crayon, Watercolours, Ink

# Pathway: Exploring Form Through Drawing

A PDF of this pathway can be found [here](#).

## .The Aim of the Pathway

This pathway gives pupils the opportunity to explore how we can convey 3-dimensional form through drawing, conveying a sense of mass and volume. Inspired by the work of Sculptors Henry Moore and Christo and Jean-Claude, pupils will make creative responses through a series of drawing exercises on loose paper, resulting in a collection of drawings for a backwards sketchbook.

▪ Week 1: Introduce an artist

# **Introduce Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings**



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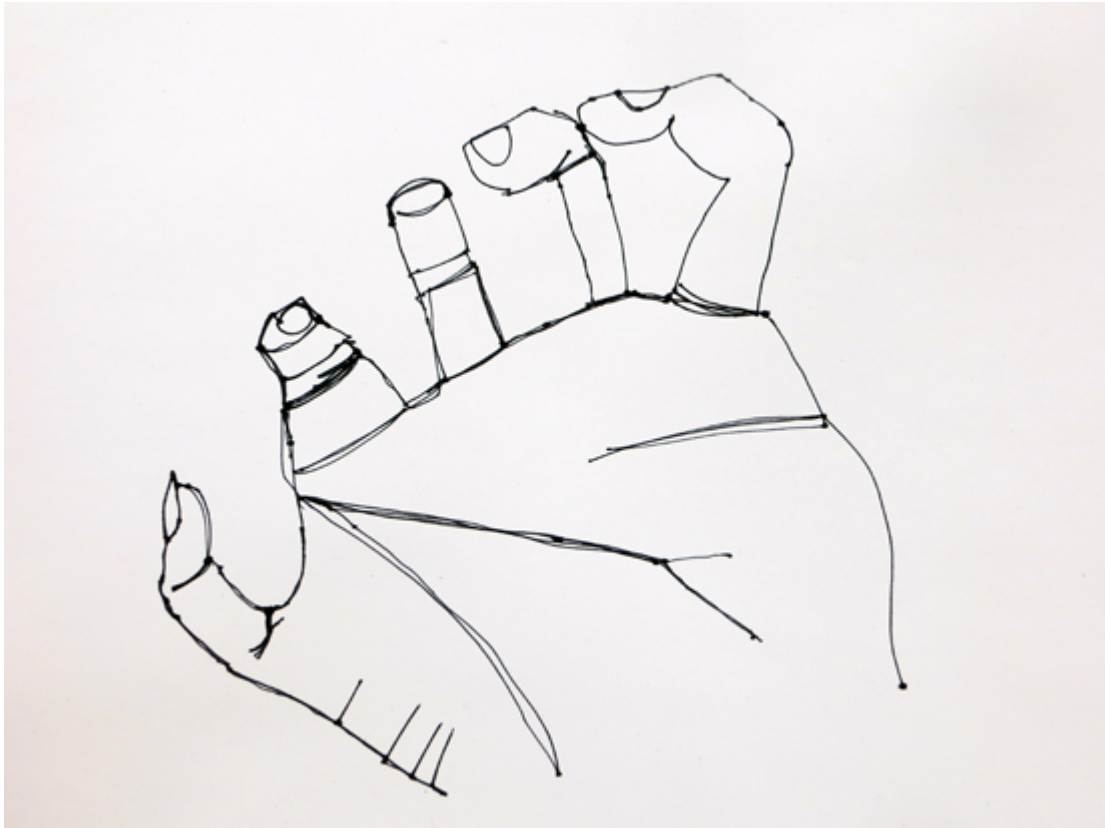
**Introduce students to the work of Henry Moore. Find out how Moore's practise as a sculptor impacted his drawing style in this resource exploring "[Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings](#)".**

**Use the "[Making Visual Notes](#)" resource to help record on loose paper.**

▪ Drawing

Exercise

# **Drawing Hands**



Create continuous line drawings of cupped hands to explore the word 'concave' and what this means in relation to form. Use the "[Drawing Hands](#)" resource to run this guided session. Create the drawings on loose sheets of paper.

▪ Week 2: Draw and Collage

**Explore 3 Dimensions using Lego**







Invite pupils to create simple drawings of lego blocks on sheets of paper, considering angle and perspective. Use the “[Explore 3 Dimensions using Lego](#)” resource to help you guide this session. Work on loose sheets.

▪ Week 3: Ink and Pen Drawings

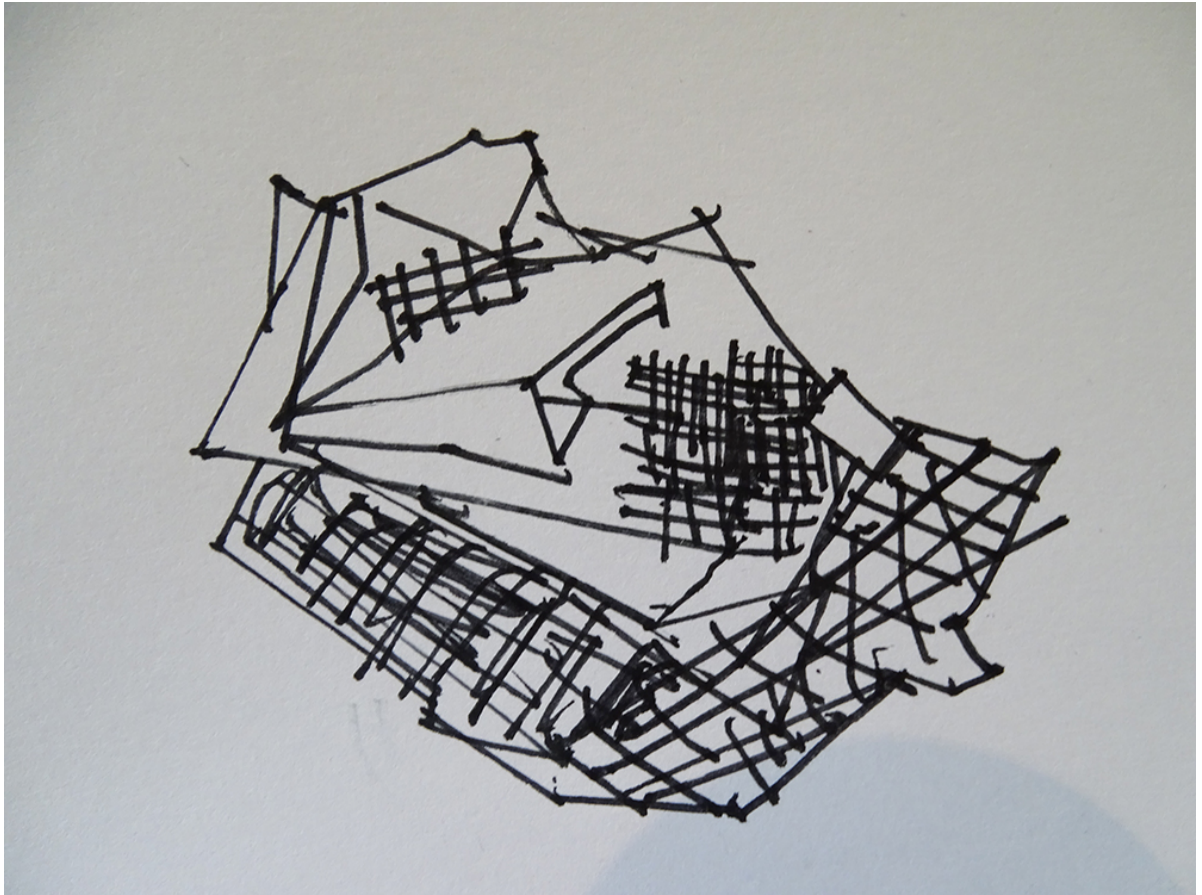
**See Three Shapes**



Explore outline, form and shadow using the simple “[See Three Shapes](#)” exercise. Create drawings on loose sheets of paper.

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## **Drawing with a Ruler**



Challenge children to create observational "[Drawings with a Ruler](#)". Consider how mark making can be used to contour, giving mass and form to the drawing. See "[Ruler Drawings](#)" created using more spherical subject matter and see how the drawings change.

Ask pupils to consider their favourite exercise from the session, which did they prefer and why?

▪ Week 4 & 5: Introduce an Artist

## Introduce Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Introduce pupils to the work of Christo and Jeanne-Claude using "[Talking Points: Christo and Jeanne-Claude](#)". Explore their drawings of wrapped monuments to see the first stages of their concepts.

▪ Drawing

and

Painting

# **Drawings With Mass**



Bring in a physical subject matter, in this case potatoes and pebbles, and combine with the mark-making skills learnt previously, to explore how we can create a sense of form and 3d shape through line. Use the "[Drawings with Mass](#)" resource here. Work on loose sheets of paper.

What kinds of lines might they use to make a drawing of an object which feels heavy and solid? Where is the shadow? Where is the light? How can they make it feel rounded?

• Week

6:

Sketchbook

# **Backwards Sketchbook**



Invite students to create a “[Backwards Sketchbook](#)” filled with loose works created throughout the pathway.

- Share & Celebrate

**Share, Reflect, Discuss**



Time to see the work which has been made, talk about intention and outcome.

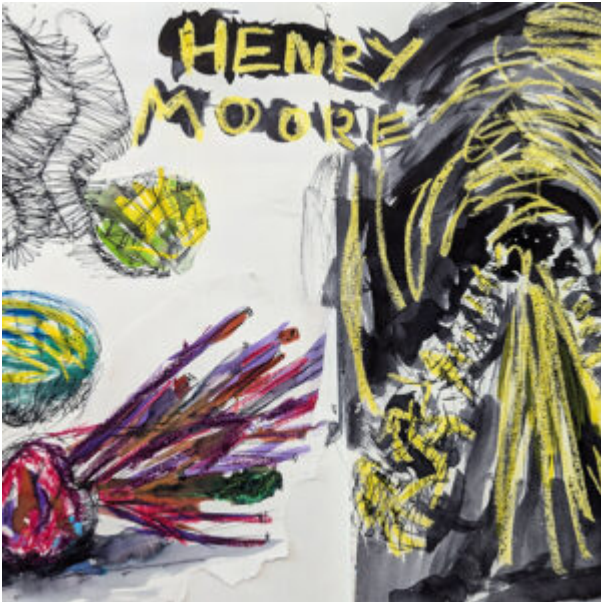
Invite children to display the work in a clear space and walk around the work as if they are in a gallery. Give the work the respect it deserves. Remind the children of their hard work.

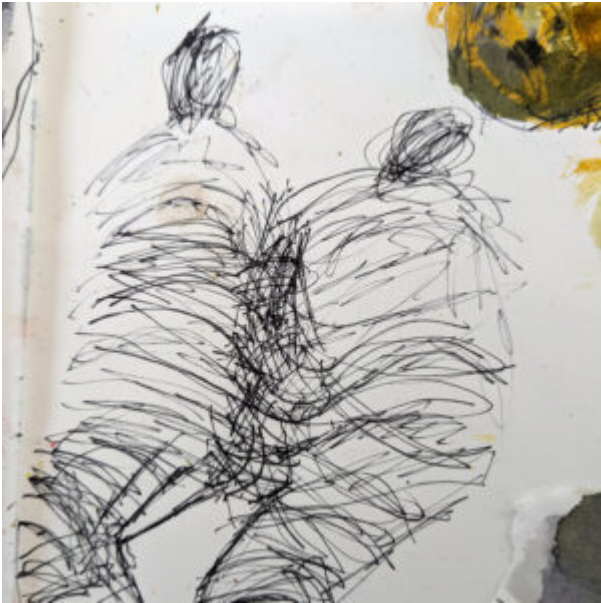
If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.

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

**See the Pathway Used in**

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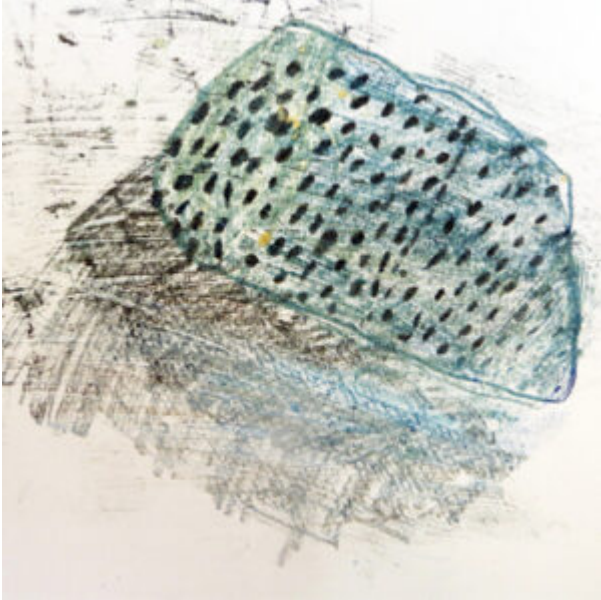


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**the geometry of chickens**



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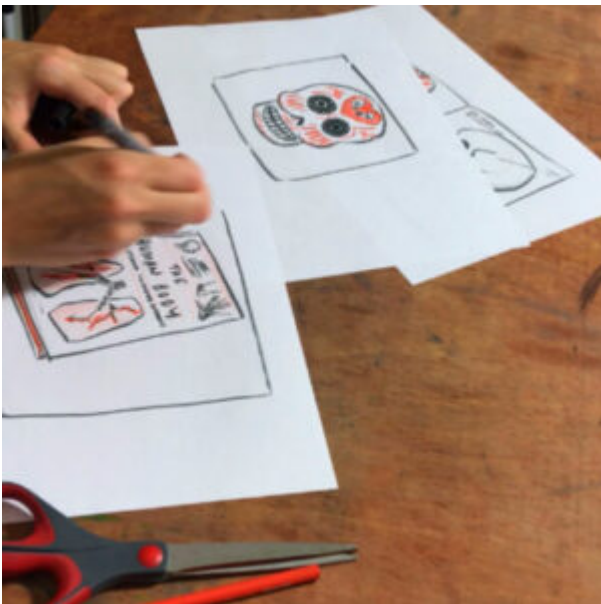
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### 3 panel challenge



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# Painted and Sculptural Plant Pots

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## Alternative Fashion

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# Deconstructing to Help You See

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ten minutes, five times a week



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