

VIVID Young Creatives: Susie Olczak at Swavesey Village College, Cambs

VIVID Young Creatives welcomes Susie Olczak at Swavesey Village College, Cambridgeshire

As part of the evaluation of the ACE funded, [40 Artist Educator resources](#), AccessArt has joined forces with Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University to bring a workshop programme of visiting visual artists or 'creative practitioners' into four Cambridgeshire schools.

The project is supported by [VIVID \(Value Increase by Visual Design\)](#) a "2 Seas" cross-border cooperation programme co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The project has been coordinated and managed by AccessArt.

Susie Olczak

Susie Olczak's work explores how the viewer experiences space, form and light. Susie uses materials such as perspex, steel, concrete and stone and combines them to change their perceived properties. Susie's work has been shown around the UK, Japan, the US, Singapore and Finland, in galleries and the public realm. She has shown at the BBC in Scotland, Cambridge Institute of Astronomy and for Charles Saatchi at the Big Chill Festival.



Susie introduces students at Swavesey Village College to her work and sculpture

Susie worked with two groups of 20, year eight (12 -13 years old) students at [Swavesey Village College](#), introducing them to ideas of sculpture and working in response to the built environment in mixed media.

"I wanted to make the day as non-prescriptive as possible, so that the students could really get a feel for sculpture and experimenting with materials. My aims for the day were for the students to get a sense of what it is like to use a range of different materials to make a 3D object.

I wanted them to have fun and to go away having learnt something about sculpture and feeling inspired. I also felt it important to use a mixture of different materials, so that the students wouldn't feel too precious about their work but also by using materials that are immediate and easy to manipulate they could really experiment without feeling prohibited.



Students work with mixed media - inspired by Susie Olczak

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VIVID Young Creatives – 40 Artist Educator Evaluation

Project

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VIVID Young Creatives set out to give year eight students the opportunity to meet and work with a practicing visual artist in a workshop session. AccessArt and VIVID aimed to use the workshops as a springboard for opening debate around approaches to facilitating creative opportunities for young people and broadening the ambition of projects and opportunities within the school curriculum.



5 artist educators worked in four schools in Cambridgeshire: Susie Olczak, Anne Harild, Betsy Dadd, and Hannah Webb & Anne Streubel. Please enjoy, share and comment on the resources below.



[Anne Harild at Chesterton Community College, Cambridge](#)



[Susie Olczak at Swavesey Village College, Cambs](#)



[Betsy Dadd at St Bede's Inter-Church School, Cambridge](#)



Hannah Webb and Anne Struebel at Witchford Village College

Many thanks to Hannah Kennard and students of [Swavesey Village College](#), Cambridgeshire,

Morgain Williams, Sian Kirkby and students of [Chesterton Community College](#), Cambridge,

Keith McPherson and students at [Witchford Village College](#), Cambridgeshire and

Katherine Woodard, Teresa Pollard and students at [St Bede's Inter-Church School](#), Cambridge for participating in the project.

"We were nervous when we started (the workshop) but we got into drawing as we experimented with drawing. Then we started to create a master piece and were very happy with our sculpture!"

"Thank you so much for all your hard work and the resulting dynamic workshop. The students were delighted and really appreciated the opportunity to meet a real artist and produce exciting and original artwork. The range of materials was particularly fabulous! It was also lovely to have so many artists in one room for once and a chance to show off what we are all capable of. Perfect!"

"What a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet and

work with a practicing artist. I feel students got so much out of being able to work on a large scale with materials we don't normally use. The iPads really helped students to document their work and make the wonderful animations. I am really proud of the way students were so open to these new ways of working and know they all really enjoyed it!"

"Many thanks for sharing the post about the workshop, it is really good and our senior management are very impressed with the whole initiative. The students and staff enjoyed the experience and to have a whole day of creative work is a real treat. Thank you for all your hard work and support in creating such an opportunity it has given the students ideas and a flying start to their GCSE courses starting in September."

Participating young creatives showed their work and were celebrated with AccessArt, Chris Owen, head of Cambridge School of Art, teachers and collaborating artists in the prestigious [Ruskin Gallery at Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University](#) in July 2014.

Many thanks to **Loren McCarthy** for documenting all the sessions and editing the images for the subsequent AccessArt posts and the event in the Ruskin Gallery on the 17th July.

The project is supported by **VIVID (Value Increase by Visual Design)** a "2 Seas" cross-border cooperation programme co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Thank you also to **Katherine Von Glos** for her help and support behind the scenes and making this project possible and **Chris Owen**, head of Cambridge School of Art for wanting to offer Cambridgeshire students a positive experience in the visual arts while they were still at school.

Many thanks to [Creative Front](#) and [Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University](#) for hosting this event.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Emerson and her colleagues at Olswang LLP for their generous support and help making this project happen.



Anglia Ruskin University

Cambridge Chelmsford Peterborough

Cambridge School of Art



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OLSWANG

Using a Folded Sketchbook to Get Drawing!

Hedgerow Art by Sara Dudman

See This Resource Used In Schools...









Looking, Talking and Celebrating

Teenagers from AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class for Teenagers enjoy reflecting on their work and sharing it with friends and family.

Drawing Materials Sample Cards

Drawing project to create sample drawing material cards which can be used for future reference and inspiration. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Found Poetry

Emily Wilkinson shares her visual and creative way of building a poem.

Colour Mixing with Cyan, Magenta and Yellow Colour Mixing

Teenagers enjoy drawing spring blossoms and colour mixing. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

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 to Music

Teenagers work on shared drawings to help each other along and push a drawing to the limit. [Full Access Art Members Only](#)

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 Access Art 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 Access Art Members Only](#)

Winter Still Life

Many thanks to students of AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class for sharing their process and finished results with AccessArt.

Many thanks to Pisces for generously supplying pastels, pens, charcoal and scissors used in this session to AccessArt.



Drawing Skulls in Candle Light

Teenagers learn about chiaroscuro drawing zoological skulls, on loan from University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, illuminated by candle light. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Drawing Skulls in Black Pen

Using black pen and line to explore skulls on loan from the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

Drawing Shells Big in Charcoal

A step by step approach to help teenagers draw shells in charcoal. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Drawing Shells On Loan From The University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

Teenagers experiment to make small marks in pencil or ink of shells on loan from the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

Asemic Writing: Expressive Mark Making through Invented Text

Asemic writing is an expressive form of writing that can only be interpreted by the viewer with the tools of instinct, empathy, intuition and emotion. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Drawing Bubbles

Teenagers explore drawing by blowing bubbles! [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

The IMPRESSABILITY Project