

# Talking Points: What is Letterpress?

A collection of imagery and sources designed to introduce children to the process of letterpress.

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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.

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

AGES 5-8

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## Letterpress

### Teachers Notes

Letterpress is a relief printing technique. For hundreds of years letterpress was the only way to create reproductions of text. The invention of the letterpress in the mid 15th Century meant that information could be more accessible to the masses. Traditionally, the letters are arranged, a roll is inked and the raised surface of the letters are pressed against sheets or a continuous roll of paper.

Take a online tour of [Robert Smail's Printing Works in Scotland](#). Founded in 1866 and now part of the Scottish National Trust, the tour walks you through the rooms, different jobs and the machinery used in the victorian era.

A modern day letterpress process.



Alan Kitching, Letterpress artist, talking about his process and inspirations whilst working on a commission for English Heritage

Farewell Etain Shrdlu, a 30 minute documentary on the last day of typesetting at The New York Times in 1978, before the switch to computers.

Features interviews for and against the incoming technology, plus a look at the end showing the contrast between the old typesetting methods and the new computerised version.

## Talking Points

What sort of things was letterpress traditionally

used for?

What do people still use letterpress?

What differences are there between designing on a computer nowadays and using old methods such as letterpress?

Why do you think there is still an interest in using old technology today?

Can you think of any other old techniques used to make art that are still being used?

Why is (or is?) it important to understand old techniques and ways of making things?

How have computers changed how we make art?

What do you think is next for printing techniques?  
What comes after computers?

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## **Talking Points: What is Collagraph?**

A collection of imagery and sources designed to introduce children to the process of Collagraph.

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# Collagraph

A collagraph print is made from textured materials collaged together on a piece of card. Lots of materials can be used to make collagraphs including (but not limited to) sand, fabric, bubblewrap, string and cardboard.

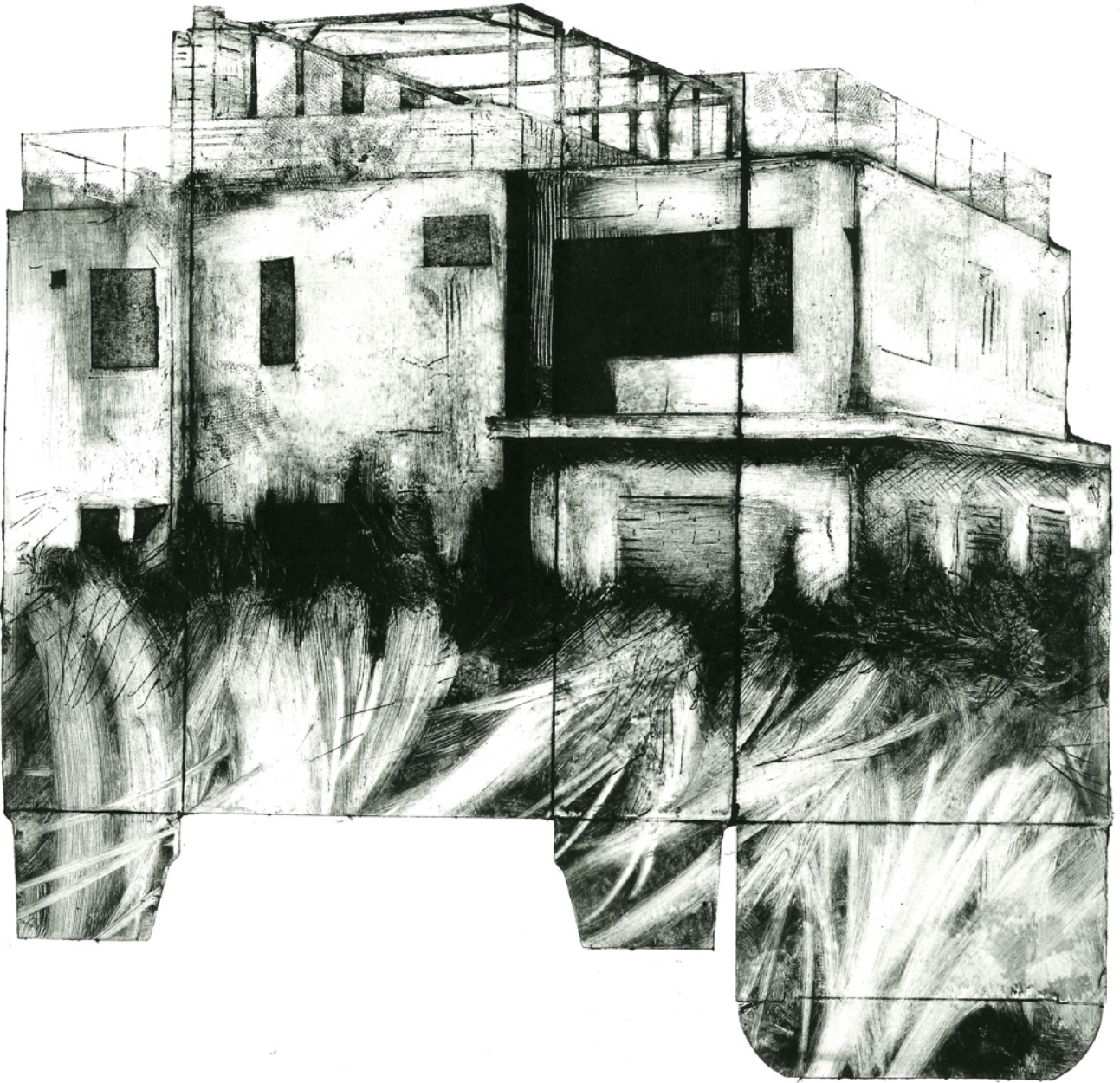
The surface of the plate can also be cut away at or into to create different marks.

## Sinclair Ashman

Watch this video to find out about how printmaker [Sinclair Ashman](#) found his passion for collagraph.

## Karen Wicks





**RAF Tangmere by Karen Wicks Medium: Collagraph  
Paper Type: Fabriano Unica (250gsm) Year: 2022.**

**Explore this resource by Karen Wicks to find out  
how she makes her prints [here](#).**

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# **Talking Points: What is Etching?**

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## **Inspired! Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights**

Year Five teacher, Kirsty Webb, shares her pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and the benefits of having a full immersion into materials and working together as a class on a shared project.

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## **Inspired! Psyche's Resilience by The Fitzy Peters**

Natalie Bailey shares the pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as well as her reflections on the transformative impact that the project had on the children and how Art can support healing and wellbeing.



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# **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.

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## **The Story of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo del Sellaio (1442 – 1493)**

In this post, Kate Noble, Education Officer at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge shares the story of Cupid and Psyche as depicted in the 15th Century painting by Jacopo Del Sellaio. This is one of a series of posts from Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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# **Pastel and Rubber Chiaroscuro Drawings**

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## **Making Papier-Mache Marionette Puppets Inspired by Characters in a Historical Painting**

Year three children make marionette puppets to tell the story illustrated in of “Penelope with the Suitors” by Pintoricchio in 1509 with their teacher Jan Miller.

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## **Pop-Up Puppets Inspired by a Historical Painting**

Year three children design and make pop-up puppets inspired by the story in the painting “Penelope with the Suitors,” by Pintoricchio (1509), working with their teacher Jan Miller.

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# **Inspired by Edgar Degas: Printmaking, Drawing & Sculpture at the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge with AccessArt**

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## **Making Sculpture Inspired by Degas**

This resource explores sculpture by French artist Edgar Degas (1834-1917) and shows how hands-on sculptural processes can be facilitated in a classroom. This resource was created in collaboration with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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## **How to Make Beautiful, Liquid Drawings Inspired by Degas**

This resource looks at drawings by the French artist, Edgar Degas (1834-1917), and how to enable the production of beautiful, 'inky drawings' in the classroom. This resource was created in collaboration with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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# Making Monotypes Inspired by Degas

This resource shares how Edgar Degas made his 'inky drawings,' or monotypes, and how the process of mono-printing can be further explored in the classroom – In collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

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## Talking Points: Alvaro Naddeo

A collection of imagery and sources designed to stimulate conversation around the work of Alvaro Naddeo.

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Alvaro Naddeo

*“Art has a political role. I believe we as artists can and should put subjects to be discussed, to be reflected upon, and to be talked about.”*

Alvaro Naddeo is originally from São Paulo, Brazil and currently in Los Angeles, USA.

Alvaro's father was an illustrator and Alvaro



spent much of his childhood drawing, however he moved into advertising as a profession. Recently he returned to make his own artwork.

Alvaro wears contact lenses or glasses to correct his “bad eyesight” but he doesn’t like to wear glasses when he paints. When he takes his glasses off, the world is blurry, except when he is very close up to his work, at which point it is focussed. He thinks this is why he enjoys creating so much detail in his paintings.

In terms of subject matter, Alvaro credits his years working in advertising as being an influence. He paints recognisable brands and disposable objects which are both attractive to us and also remind us of our tendency towards wasting resources.

[Visit Alvaro's website to see more of his wonderful work.](#)



***"The subject matter of my work is waste,  
overconsumption and social inequality"  
Alvaro Naddeo***

***Please note in the video below there is a small  
and brief detail of a woman's torso. As teacher  
pls decide if you want to show the video.***

***Apologies if you cannot view the video below on***

*Youtube if your school has blocked Youtube.*

## Questions to Ask Children

Take a really close look at Alvaro's work on his [website](#). Notice how his work changes over time.

What do you think Alvaro's main interest are? How many different elements / objects does he bring into one piece? How does he connect them? Does he play with scale?

How do you think Alvaro uses his skill as a painter to draw attention to issues which he thinks are important?

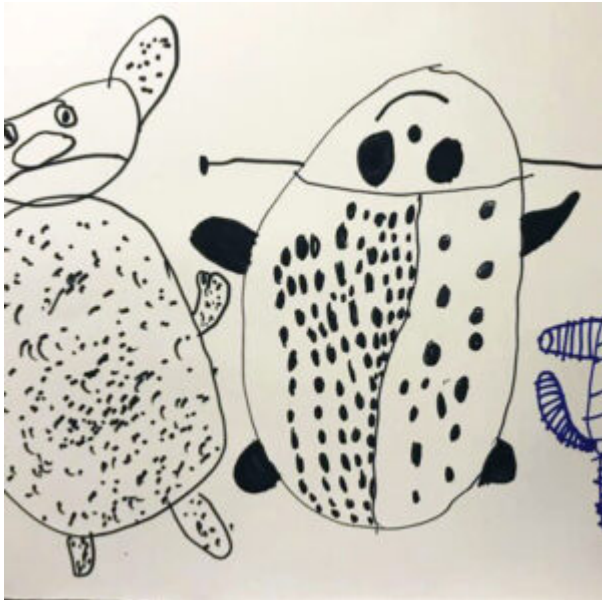
How long do you spend looking at each painting? Do you understand more about the work the longer you spend looking?

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## **Drawing Soft Toys Inspired by "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak**

## **See This Resource Used In**

# Schools...





## You May Also Like...

**Pathway: Drawing and Making Inspired by Maurice Sendak**





[This resource is featured in the 'Drawing and Making Inspired by Maurice Sendak' pathway](#)

**Visual Arts Planning Collections: Toys, puppets, dolls**



**talking points: maurice sendak**



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## Mayan Tabletop Eraser Printing Project

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### Gathering Marks and Tearing Paper to Appreciate Prints by Goya, Turner and Cornelius at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to enter into the intricacies of

prints made by Turner, Goya and Cornelius in a Temporary Exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in summer 2016: 1816: Prints by Turner, Goya and Cornelius.

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## **Making Sculptural Interpretations of 18th Century Portraits at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, enabled teachers to explore making three dimensional interpretations of two dimensional 18th Century portraits.

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## **Using Drawing to Get Closer to 18th Century Portraits at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**

This post shares how Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli from AccessArt and Kate Noble from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, used drawing exercises to take a closer look at 18th Century portraits