

Drawing Small

Relax into this drawing exercise and don't put pressure on yourself to make an amazing drawing. Sometimes making a drawing can feel like a big ask, especially if you think that drawing is not your thing (we'll prove that wrong!). The aim of this exercise is to help you tune in to drawing as an activity. This exercise is suitable for children aged 4/5 and upwards through to adult.

So let's start small and take it one tiny drawing at a time!

You Will Need:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Collection of small objects (see below)



Selection of small objects



To Begin

Your challenge is to draw a collection of tiny objects – by tiny we mean things which are roughly the size of a five pence piece – things like small shells, pebbles, leaves, beads, screws. Popcorn also makes a good subject matter and even dead flies if you can find a few ☐

Start by scattering the objects over a large, clean sheet of paper. Take a pen or sharp pencil, and make sure you are near to the objects so that you can really see all their detail.

Begin by making sketches on the page, amongst the objects themselves. You should be making tiny movements with your fingers and hands – drawing from the wrist, but other than that draw however you feel most comfortable. This exercise is just to help you focus, relax, and begin to coordinate hand

and eye, so don't worry too much about results or technique.

Make as many sketches as you like, on as many sheets as you like.

As you draw, become aware of the relationship between looking and drawing. Let your eyes flit between looking at the object and looking at your sketch – it's easy to concentrate more on your sketch and to forget to keep looking at the object. Ideally you should look at the object for a few seconds, then your drawing for a few seconds, then the object, then the drawing...

Also begin to become aware of how you can change the the marks you make in response to what you see. For example experiment with how much pressure you use, in different parts of the drawing.

There will be no mistakes and you can't really go wrong. You are just making quick sketches. Each sketch should only take a couple of minutes.... Enjoy drawing small!

Repeat this exercise over a few days, each time choosing a different "small" object, and you'll soon see how the marks you make change and improve.



Small drawing by Zak

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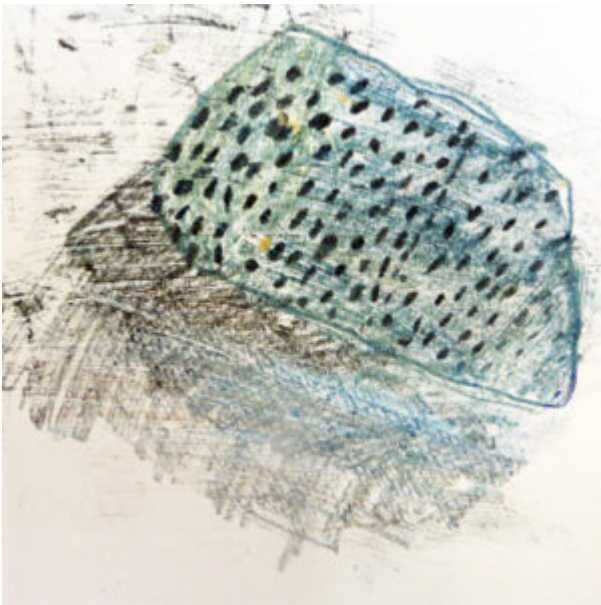
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We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and

sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

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Screen Printing T Shirts for the How To Be A Creative Producer Project

This post shares the process of screen printing t-shirts for the #BeACreativeProducer teenagers to wear to help them identify as a “team” for the animation project.

Project 13

AccessArt Artist Rowan Briggs Smith shares her ideas and outcomes behind Project 13, and AccessArt Artist Mitch composes music to accompany the paintings.

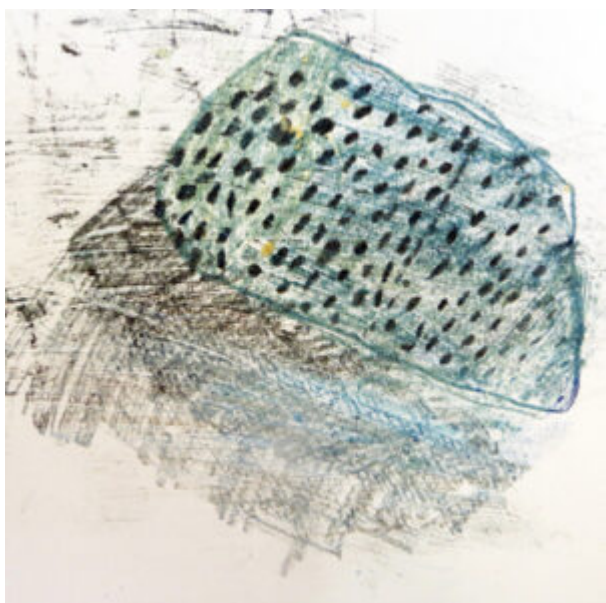
Continuous Line Drawing Exercise

Many thanks to AccessArt Young Artist Alex Tunstall for composing the music for the video in the Continuous Line Drawing Resource.

Backwards Forwards Drawing Exercise

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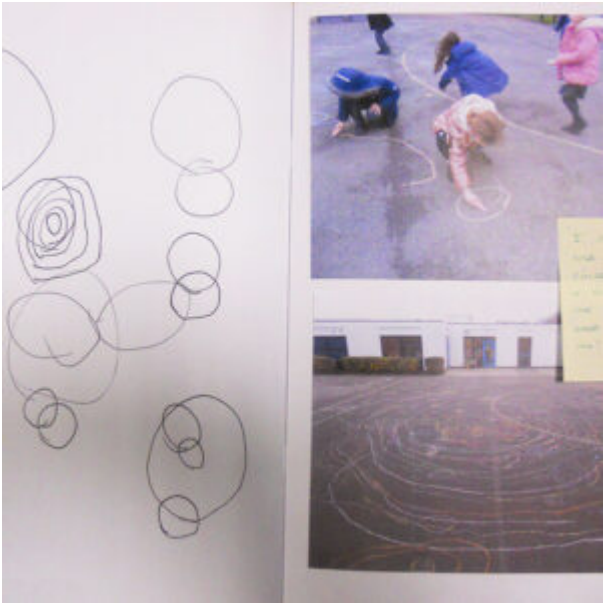


What Are Drawing Skills?

Drawing Spirals

See How This Resource Is Used
In Schools...









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Pathway: Spirals



[Featured in the 'Spirals Pathway'](#)

Talking Points: Molly Hausland



The ancient art of kolan



**Drawing Source Materials:
Athletes in Action**

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 [let us know](#) 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.

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FREE TO ACCESS

Athletes

Use this collection of films as source material

for pupils exploring the human form during sports. In the first instance you might want to pause the videos as suitable points to enable the children to carefully look at the main forms and details. 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 features of the athletes.

When pupils are more experienced, you can also try getting them to make their drawings as the videos play – making quick gestural sketches.

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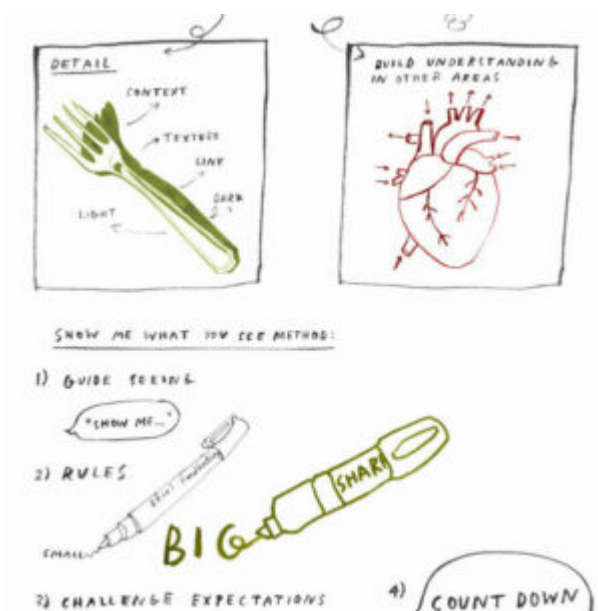
Explore projects to celebrate the 2024 Olympics

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](#)

See Three Shapes

A simple exercise with Indian ink to help children see and convey simple forms in drawing.

Monoprinting with Oil Pastel and Carbon Copy Paper

Making mono prints using carbon paper and oil pastel. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Thoughtful Mark Making

A drawing game to help children diversify their mark making and make their own “drawing decisions”.

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Warm-up Drawing Exercise: Making Stronger Drawings

Exercise to help children make stronger, more powerful drawings. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Elastic Band Sketchbook