

Unesco: Celebrating the Power of Making!

By [Jan Miller](#)



Jan Miller

It's in Our Hands

Inspired by [Paula's recent rousing film](#), I was keen to put some images together to illustrate the things the children in my class do with their hands. It shows them in the process of making, the work in progress by showing the process or technique and some final pieces.

Art For All

Being creative, in any media, should be an essential part of everyone's leisure time and contributes to our well-being. Whether it is doodling, cutting, filming on your phone or

moulding plasticine, making time to recharge our creativity makes us feel better and therefore is an essential part of children's daily curriculum. It is appropriate for all ages and levels of ability.

Finding time to learn a new skill or craft, or nurture a hidden talent can be very rewarding. There are lots of short 1 day courses or have a look in the local library where shelves are dedicated to crafting with things found around the home. I have an upcoming workshop to forge a poker, make a clay tile and create a brooch.

Activities, held after school and at lunchtime, for my classes have included making props and signs for the school play, junk modelling, slow stitch, knitting and circus headdresses.

It is important that teachers refrain from telling their class that they can't draw themselves, as Art is much more than simply drawing with a sense of realism. The children should see teachers and adults engage as makers.

We make...



paper houses from our printed papers...

We draw...



...spontaneously on a large scale on painted paper, with no eraser.

We design...



...by sketching to visualise and think through our ideas.

We shape...





...or using our drawings as templates for clay work.

We paint...



... by mixing our own colours, using sgraffito to add textures.



...and love painting collaboratively on a large scale with bright colours.

We cut...



...textures and patterns from magazine to make fun people from collage; and using our own photographs considering the positive and negative shapes.



We build...



... our ideal home - by making a tree house with found materials.

We print...



... by layering printing techniques.

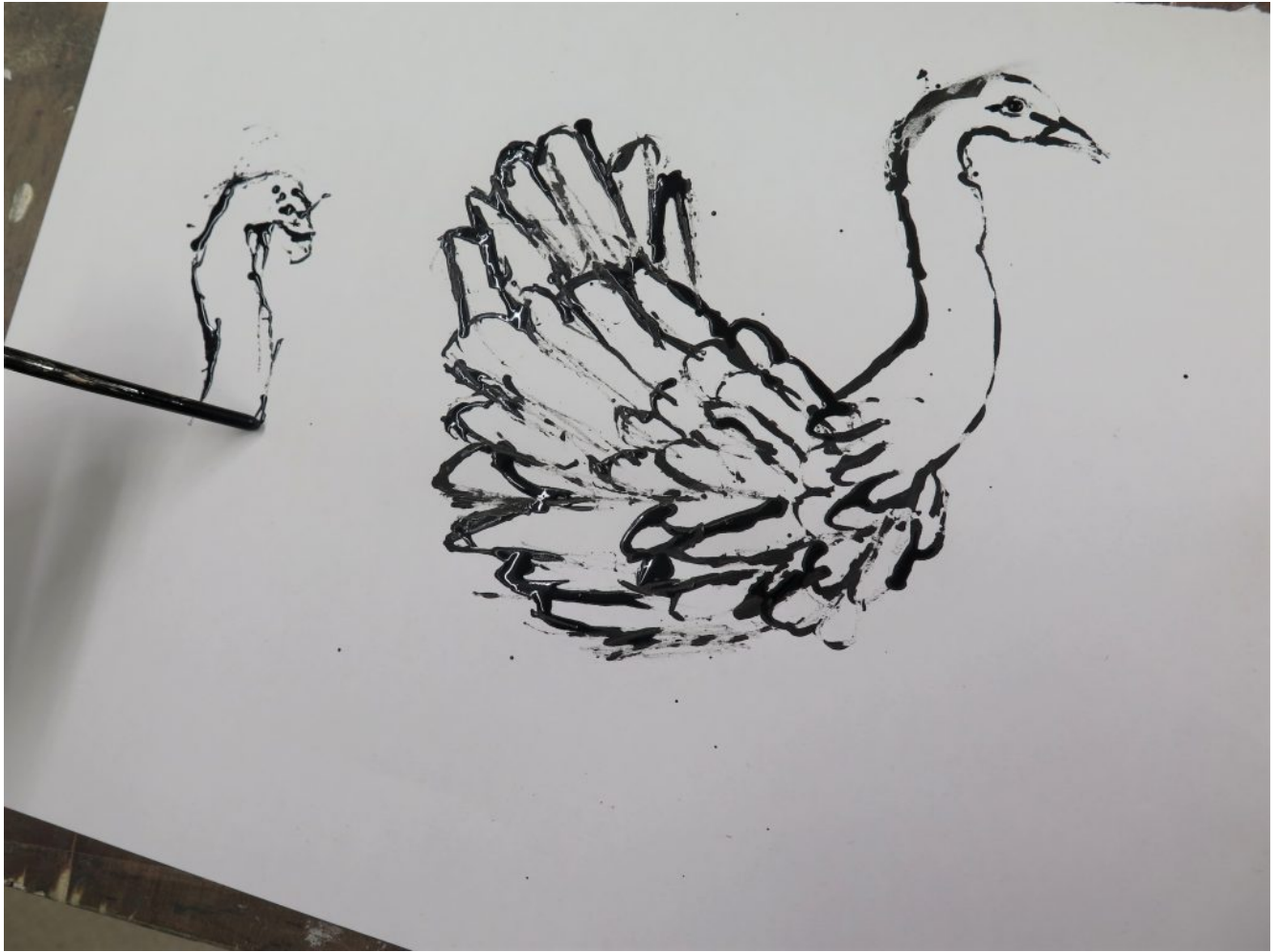


... and making mock-etching prints by exploring mark-making.

We make marks...



...using brushes and pens to make thick and thin lines when drawing an imaginary village.



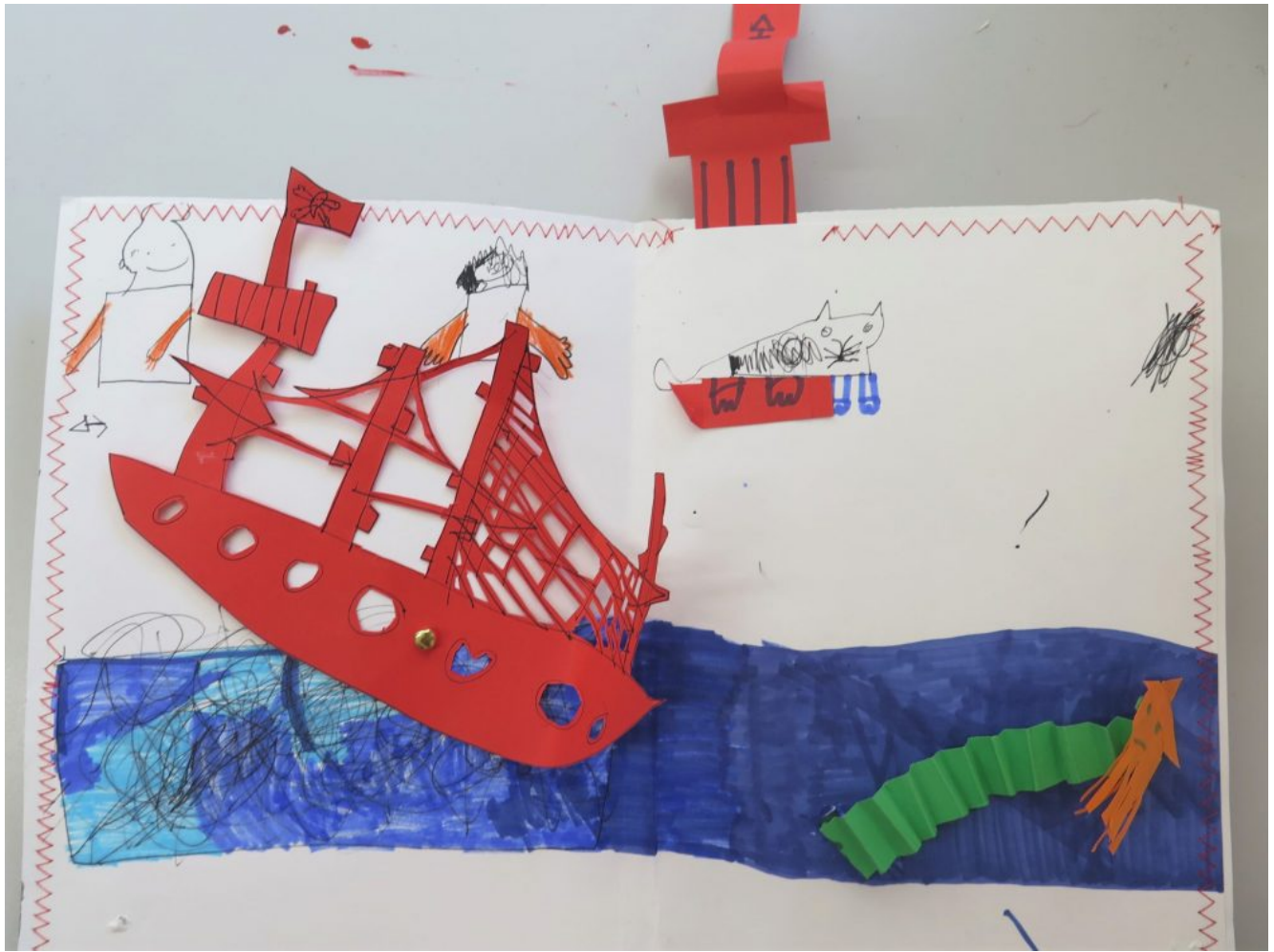
...make marks with any tools - using the wooden end of the brush to create a variety of lines.

We think...



... and learn about styles of Art in history and across different cultures through research.

We create...



... by making pictures that move and come to life when you interact with them, to make them slide, turn and pop up.

We produce...



... art that is colourful to surround us and celebrates our observations.

We share...



...our experience by inviting other schools to join us and support each other to be creative and make Art.

We try...



... by helping each other to share and learn crafting skills - using our hands to explore new materials. Inviting visitors into school to demonstrate and show their talents.



We test...



... by using sketchbooks to trial materials, techniques and mix colours, before using this information in subsequent work.

We collaborate...



... by working jointly on a larger piece.

We communicate...



... by making Art a gift for someone special, to be shared and treasured, like this pom-pom keyring.

We contribute...

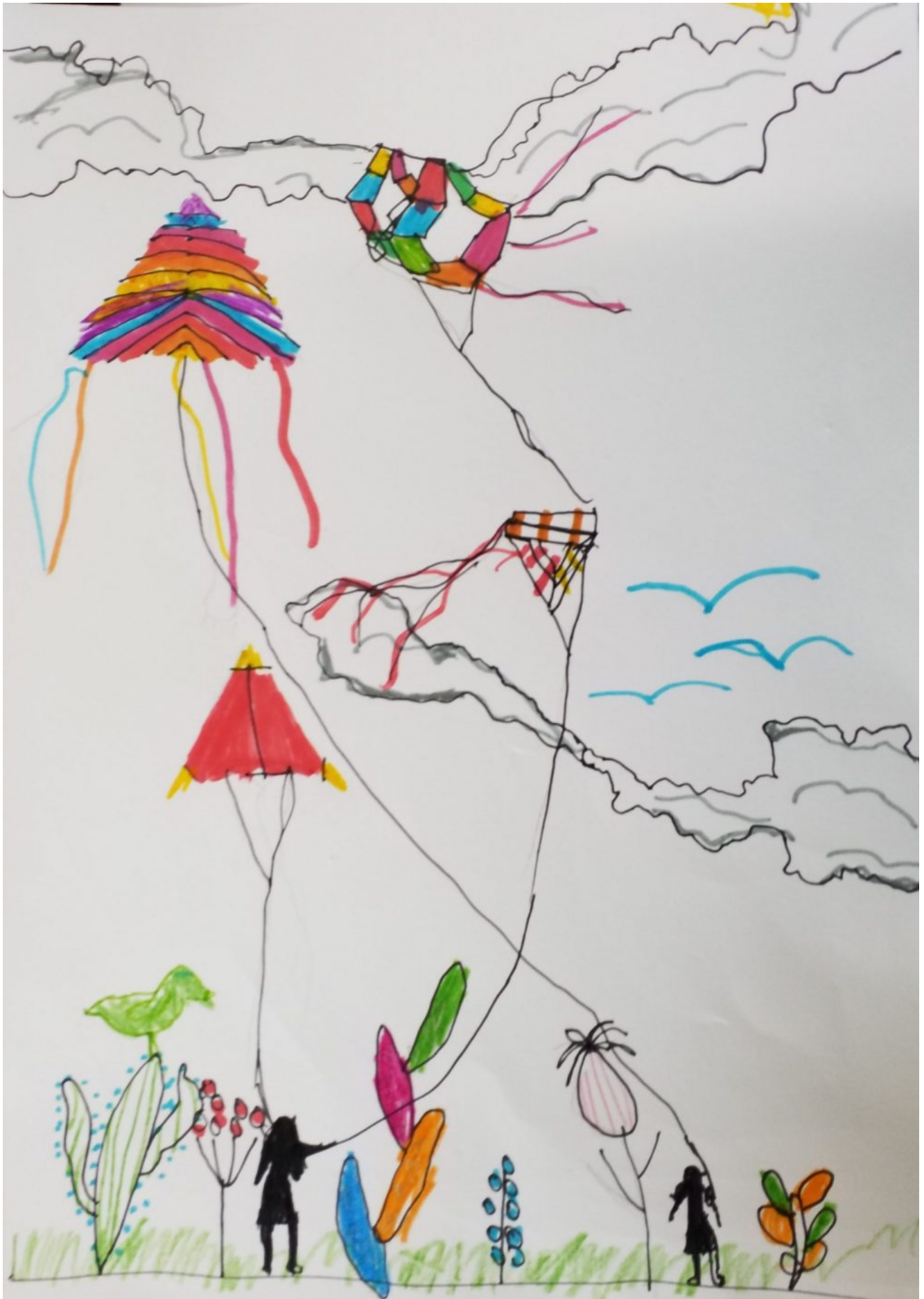
We celebrate...



We imagine...



... by recycling and making with found materials. Shaping, cutting and sticking to make models such as our circus wagons to create our ideas.



...drawing from memory, imagination and observation.



... working quickly and spontaneously with pens and scissors.

Set your hands free...



... by casting in plaster and adding colour.

See Related Resources Here

It Is Through Our Hands...

Brilliant Makers Resources



Brilliant Makers

See a selection of resources that support brilliant making in classroom settings and after school clubs.

Design Through Making



[Design Through Making](#)

Follow this link to see all AccessArt about designing through making and doing.

Make a pledge to Brilliant Makers



With thanks to Jan Miller for contributing this resource. You can find more of Jan'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.

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.