

## Welcome to the AccessArt Drawing Challenge!

The AccessArt Drawing Challenge consists of three warm up exercises and two drawing projects. We suggest you tackle the exercises and projects in the order presented, but feel free to make them your own, and to adapt them as you see fit.

The warm ups are designed to introduce you to new drawing skills and enable an exploration of drawing materials. The projects will then help you develop ideas further. Please use the exercises and projects as guidance, and if you or your students move on to your own interpretations then so much the better!

### ***Warm Up Exercises***

***Continuous Line Drawing Exercise***  
***Backwards Forwards Sketching Exercise***  
***Thoughtful Mark Making Exercise***

### ***Drawing Projects***

***Drawing Feathers Project***  
***Drawn & Collaged Birds Project***

Please explore The Drawing Challenge in your own time and space, perhaps as part of an exploration of drawing within school, or during an after school art club, or a gallery or museum education programme, or at home.

Once you have taken the Challenge, please let us know how you got on by emailing [info@accessart.org.uk](mailto:info@accessart.org.uk), and consider uploading your drawings to our Drawing Challenge Gallery at [http://www.accessart.org.uk/drawing\\_challenge\\_gallery](http://www.accessart.org.uk/drawing_challenge_gallery)

Be Inspired!

## AccessArt Drawing Resources

AccessArt is a UK Registered Charity that aims to inspire and enable high quality visual arts teaching and learning.

Find over 500 resources to inspire your practice at <http://www.accessart.org.uk/resources-by-subject/>

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## Drawing Projects for Children, Black Dog Publishing £11.50

The warm ups and projects featured in The Drawing Challenge are taken from a brand new book, **Drawing Projects for Children by Paula Briggs**, published by Black Dog Publishing London.

Find out more at <http://www.accessart.org.uk/drawing-projects-children-paula-briggs/>

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# CONTINUOUS LINE DRAWING

Continuous line drawing is an excellent way to practise your hand-eye coordination. Continuous line drawings are made by never taking the pen or pencil off the paper, and by drawing very slowly—moving your pen or pencil at the same speed that your eye looks at the subject matter. By drawing this slowly you will be able to control the drawing and observe the detail of your subject very carefully.

## Materials

- Handwriting pens
- Drawing paper

## Subject Matter

Choose small objects as subject matter, like keys, cutlery, tools, feathers or coins.

## Activity

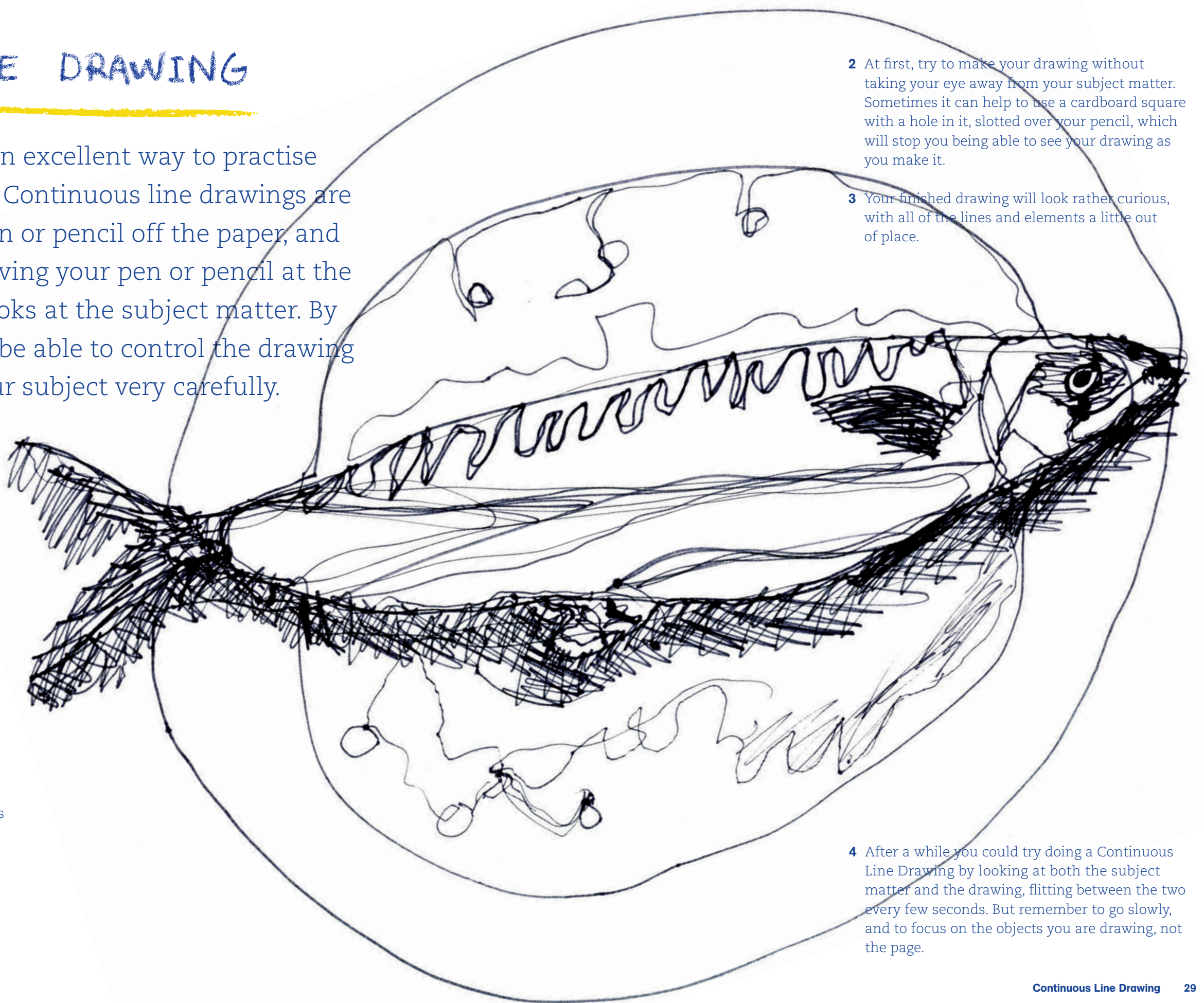
It is best to do continuous line drawings when you are quiet and concentrating.

- 1 Make a drawing without taking your pen off the paper. A handwriting pen has less friction than a pencil, so it can 'scoot' more easily across the paper. Your eye should follow details and contours on the object you are drawing, and your hand should draw these details at the same time. The hand wanders wherever the eye sees. To draw some detail in the middle of the object, your pen should stay on the page, travelling to the bit of the paper that you want to draw on.

- 2 At first, try to make your drawing without taking your eye away from your subject matter. Sometimes it can help to use a cardboard square with a hole in it, slotted over your pencil, which will stop you being able to see your drawing as you make it.

- 3 Your finished drawing will look rather curious, with all of the lines and elements a little out of place.

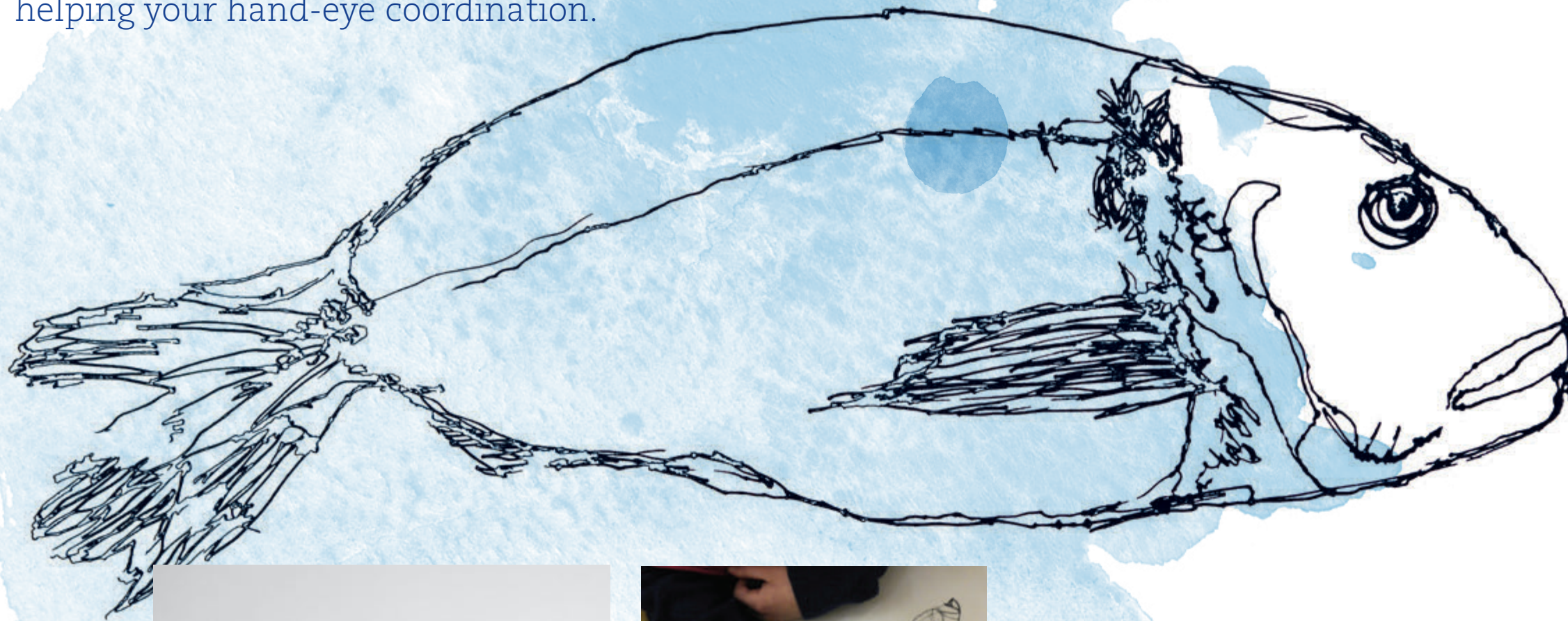
- 4 After a while you could try doing a Continuous Line Drawing by looking at both the subject matter and the drawing, flitting between the two every few seconds. But remember to go slowly, and to focus on the objects you are drawing, not the page.





# BACKWARDS FORWARDS SKETCHING

Backwards forwards sketching is a simple activity that will help you develop understanding and knowledge of your subject matter through slow, careful observation. It will help you match the speed of looking with the speed of drawing, helping your hand-eye coordination.



## Materials

- Soft (B) and hard (H) pencils
- Drawing paper

## Subject Matter

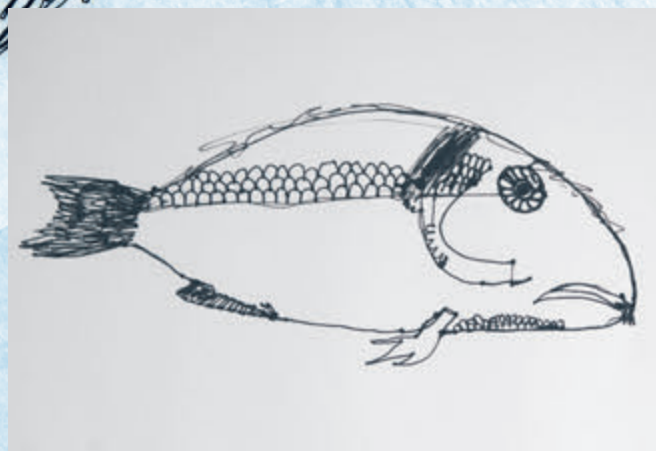
Any small still life object will work well for this warm up.

## Activity

- 1 Make a drawing of your subject matter using only one motion—in backwards forwards sketching you are only allowed to draw from left to right and right to left, from your wrist. This means that the pencil travels forwards, then backwards, forwards, then backwards again. Each line you make in your drawing is repeated as your hand travels backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards.

## Facilitator's Note

When children are challenged to only draw using a backwards forwards motion, their mark making is slowed down as the drawing line has to repeat (or reassert) itself. As the mark making is slowed down, the hand is less likely to run away with itself before the eye has really seen. In backwards forwards sketching the hand and eye has to check and check again each line as it is formed, helping to ensure the lines are intentional. This also gives children the opportunity to re-see their lines as they go. By nature, backwards forwards sketches should feel solid and intentional as the pencil 'feels' its way around the image.





# THOUGHTFUL MARK MAKING

Have you ever wondered how you might make your drawings more *interesting*? Varying the types of lines you use in your drawing can really help make your work sing. In this guided exercise, you will work with an adult to explore how you can create wonderfully varied marks.

For this warm up we took our inspiration from some wonderful fossils that provided the opportunity to make drawings that contained lots of observational detail. You will be able to explore how you can build a drawing through a series of guided, mark making acts.

## Materials

- Handwriting pens
- ▶ A4 drawing paper

## Subject Matter

Make sure you are near enough to the subject matter to easily observe small details. Choose small items such as rocks, fossils, brushes or feathers.



## Activity

Warm up with a Continuous Line Drawing (p 28).

1 In this exercise you are going to build your drawings using the various types of marks shown on a series of cards.

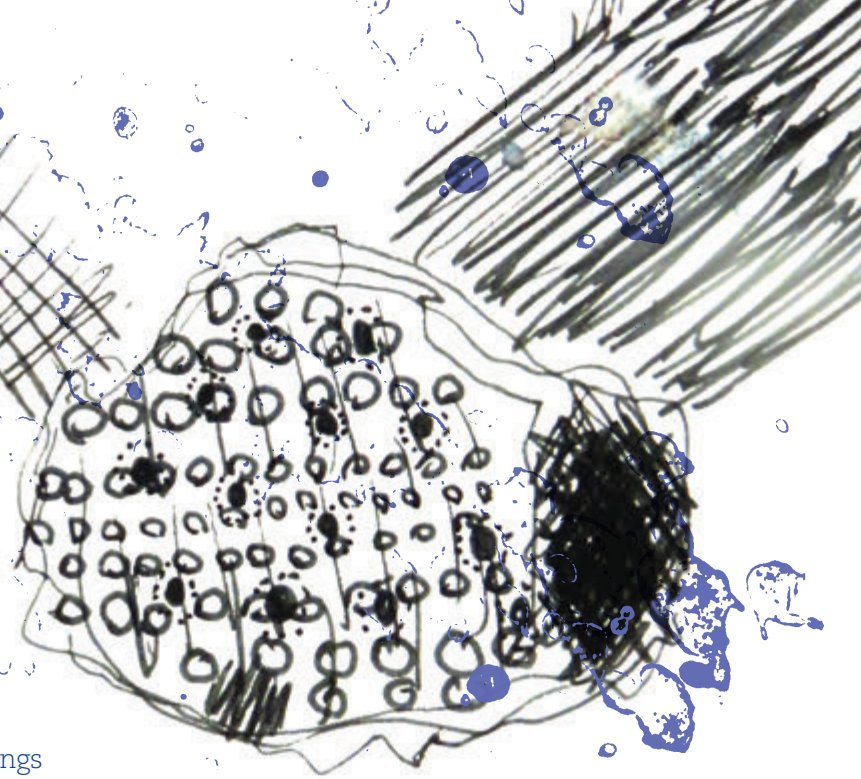
2 First make some small cards, each with a specific type of mark on it, made in handwriting pen. These might include:

- Dots
- ▶ Circles
- Hatches
- ▶ Cross hatches
- Dashes
- ▶ Dotted lines

3 Randomly pick a card, and think where that type of mark would work best in your drawing. If an adult is helping you then they can choose the card for you and hold it up for you to see. When you make your drawing, make sure you use careful looking and drawing, but add in an extra step: thinking.

It might help to make the first mark very lightly by holding the pen loosely—to help ease you into your drawing.

4 For the last card, pick whichever mark you feel you need to use to finish your drawings. Your drawing should take no longer than ten minutes to make.

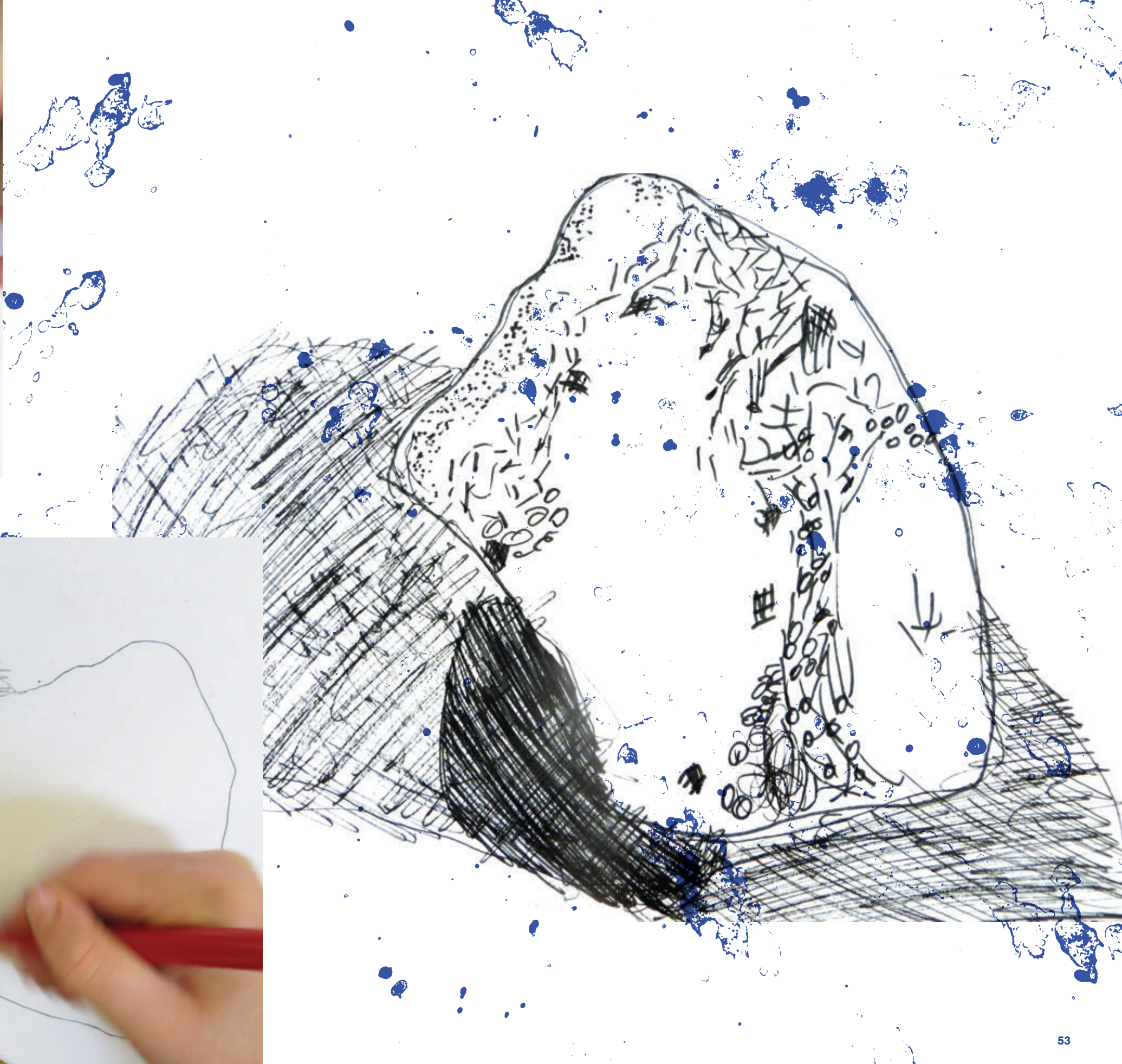
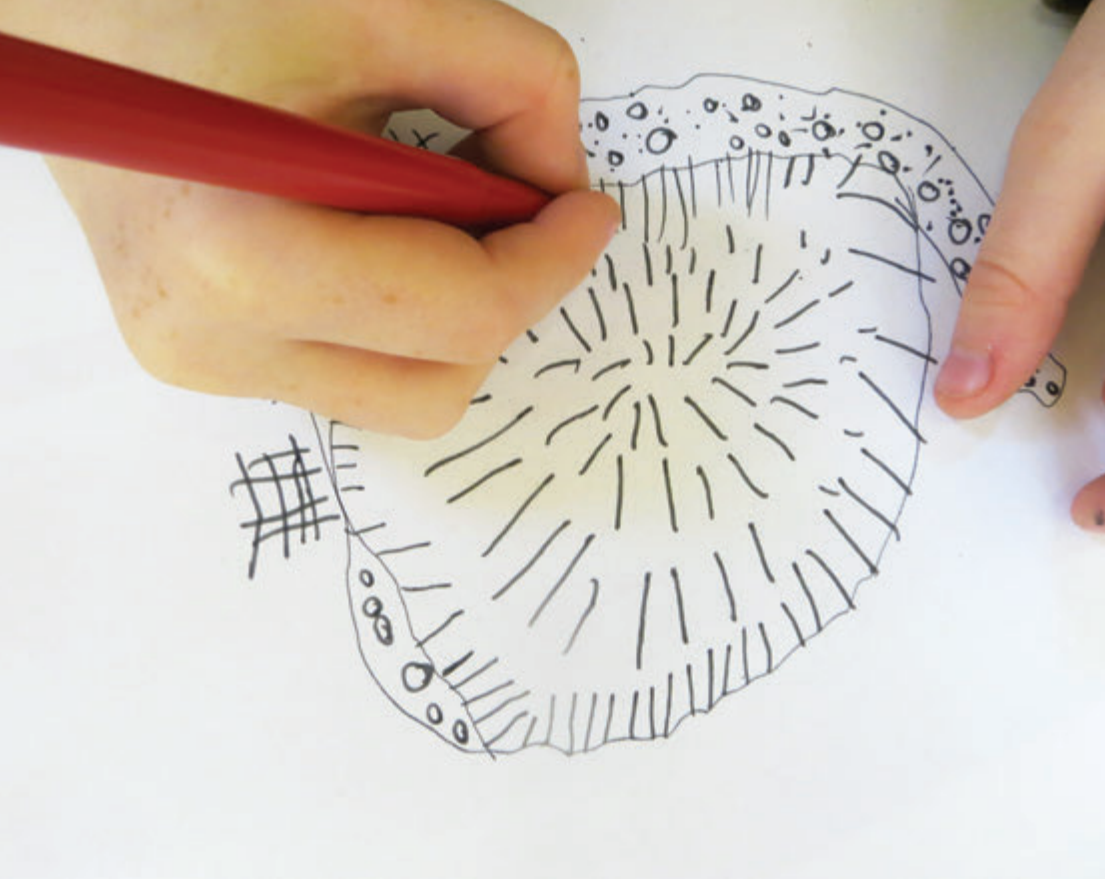


## Facilitator's Note

Children are usually most concerned with the act of making a drawing, but it is important to encourage them to talk about the act of looking, and to think about a drawing as a means of communication. This warm up exercise helps children think about how we can make our drawings more interesting by using a variety of marks within an image. Even using a single mark making tool such as a handwriting pen can produce drawings which the eye likes to linger over.

Sometimes when we draw we do so intuitively—other times we work more thoughtfully. This exercise also helps children to understand the importance of looking, thinking and acting when making a drawing.







# DRAWING FEATHERS

Drawing feathers is a great way to explore making marks with lots of different materials. You can keep these as pictures in themselves, or you could use them as collage materials for the Drawn and Collaged Birds project (p 122).

## Materials

- A2 drawing paper
- Soft (B) and hard (H) pencils
- Oil pastels
- Watercolours
- Erasers
- Handwriting pens
- Charcoal
- Graphite
- Chalk pastels
- Brushes and water

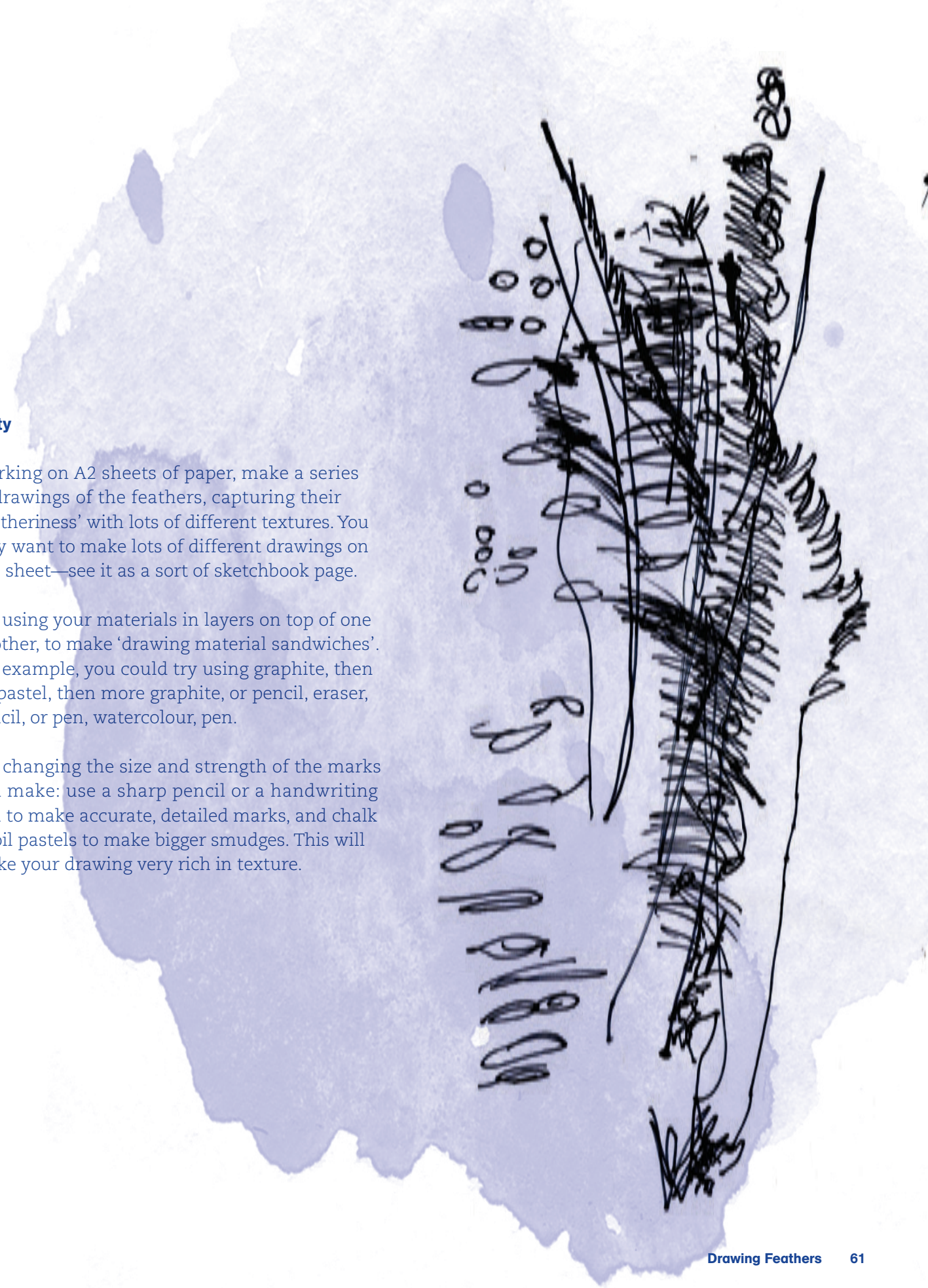
## Subject Matter

For this project you will need a selection of feathers (you can buy these online or in craft shops, or collect your own).

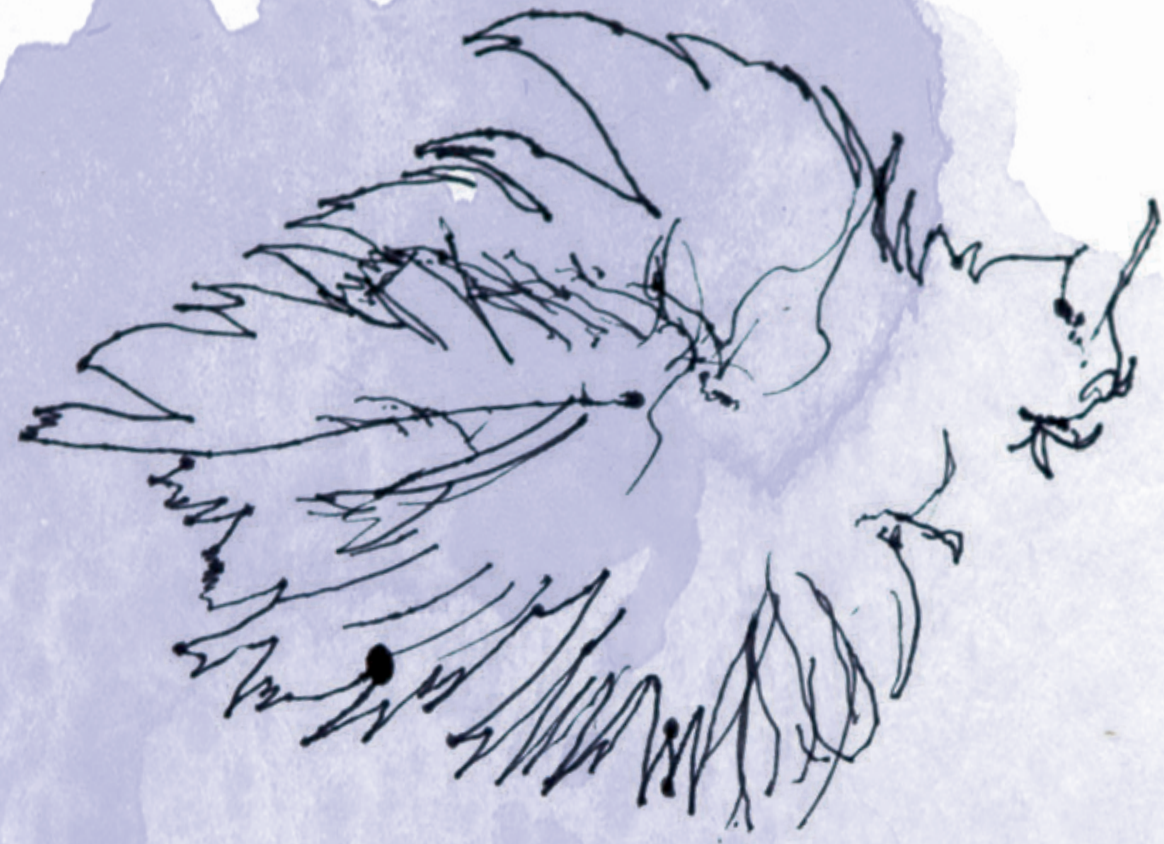


## Activity

- 1** Working on A2 sheets of paper, make a series of drawings of the feathers, capturing their 'featheriness' with lots of different textures. You may want to make lots of different drawings on one sheet—see it as a sort of sketchbook page.
- 2** Try using your materials in layers on top of one another, to make 'drawing material sandwiches'. For example, you could try using graphite, then oil pastel, then more graphite, or pencil, eraser, pencil, or pen, watercolour, pen.
- 3** Try changing the size and strength of the marks you make: use a sharp pencil or a handwriting pen to make accurate, detailed marks, and chalk or oil pastels to make bigger smudges. This will make your drawing very rich in texture.







### Facilitator's Note

Drawing feathers provides a great opportunity to explore material-based mark making. It is relatively easy for children to achieve some degree of 'featheriness' in their work, which will boost their confidence.

Start the session with a Continuous Line Drawing (p 28) to encourage children to focus and look closely at their subject matter. This helps in gathering the information they need, before they go on to explore materials and mark making. If they are not familiar with the materials, demonstrate the potential of each one, and of materials used in combination.

It is interesting to note that many children often make their biggest leaps and discoveries near the very end of sessions like these, so it is worth pushing on. Energy levels often increase towards the end of a session, rather than decrease, which highlights the importance of giving children the space and time in which to develop and discover. At the very end of the session, leave time for the children to share their favourite discoveries and successes.





# DRAWN AND COLLAGED BIRDS

These striking birds are easy to make and combine drawing and making skills. Make one as a pet, or make a whole flock as a piece of sculpture or art installation. You could even make the birds a house to live in, or a tree to perch in!

## Materials

- Corrugated cardboard or foam board
- Drawing paper or sugar paper
- Drawing materials (pencils, charcoal, oil pastels, chalk pastels, watercolours, pencil crayons, wax crayons, felt pens, inks)
- Wire
- Tape
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pliers

## Subject Matter

You will need a selection of feathers, and some pictures of birds to see the shape of their bodies and feathers.

## Activity

### Making the Body and Legs:

- 1 Take a piece of cardboard or foam board and cut out an egg shape about the size of your hand. This single shape will become the body and head of the bird. The egg shape does not have to be perfect: cut a few and see which one you like best.
- 2 Next make the legs. Twist some wire into a rough foot shape, leaving a long bit for the leg. An uncurled and twisted paperclip may work well too. You will need two of these for your bird.
- 3 Finally, you need to attach the legs to the egg shaped body. This stage is all about balance! The legs are easy to attach to the bird, but it is slightly harder to make it balance. Push the long bit of wire into the edge of the egg-shaped body. The bird should stand on two legs, but if it does not stand at first, try the legs in a slightly different place, or try spreading the claws of the feet further apart. Once the bird balances, wrap a bit of tape around the part where the wire and the body meet, just to help keep it in place.
- 4 Take a moment to look at the standing bird. Get to know it! What kind of personality or character should it have? Will it be sweet and cute, or fierce and scary? Will it be cheeky or beautiful?

## Mark Making:

- 1 For now, put the bird to one side. Instead, work on some drawings that you can use as collage material. These will be inspired by the textures and shapes of feathers, and will soon be torn up to form pieces with which you can decorate your bird.
- 2 Do not feel too worried about the end result of your drawing. You should experiment with lots of mark making, trying to cover a sheet of paper with 'featheriness'. Look at the selection of feathers for inspiration, and draw several feathers on the same sheet of paper. Try using a variety of drawing materials in combination. For example, what happens when you use wax as a resist and apply watercolour over the top?
- 3 You may want to take a photograph of your final drawing before you tear it up for your collage material.

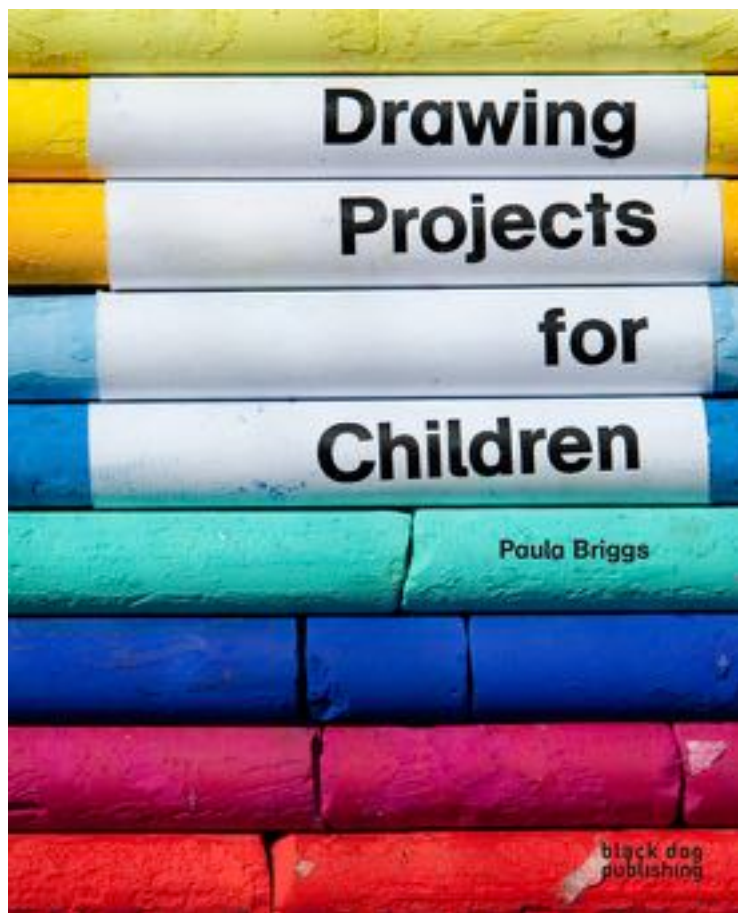
## Collage:

- 1 Cut or tear your feather drawing to create collage pieces. Think carefully about how you can use these pieces to add not just colour to the bird, but also texture and form. For example, you might crush or fold a piece of paper to make it into a three-dimensional shape. The collage does not have to be glued flat to the bird: it can also be glued at right angles to form wings or tail feathers.

You might like to try the Drawing Feathers project before you make these birds (p 60).







Many thanks to **Black Dog Publishing London** for permission to preview pages from **Drawing Projects for Children** in the Drawing Challenge PDF.

To find out more about **Drawing Projects for Children**, Published by Black Dog Publishing in December 2014, please visit

<http://www.accessart.org.uk/drawing-projects-children-paula-briggs/>

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