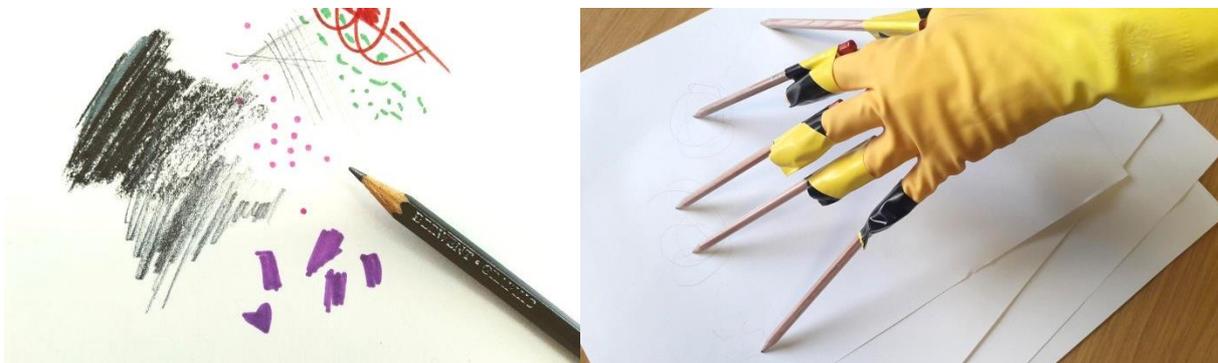


LEARNING RESOURCE

Experimental Drawing Workshops

These experiments are fun, fresh techniques for approaching drawing in a new way. They are designed to help your students relinquish control of their art work and their creative outcomes.



It can be difficult for students to let go of defined ideas about 'getting things right' when it comes to making art and especially making drawings. Therefore these sessions are designed to focus on process and not product, to create interesting results that allow the students to experiment and have fun with drawing and mark making.

Below are four different resources with a variety of drawing experiments that you can try with your students. They can be done as short individual lessons or warm up activities, or can be taken through from 1-4 as a full lesson.

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1 - One Minute Masterpieces

Begin any art session with these fun warm-up drawing exercises.

Take an A4 sheet of paper and fold in half and unfold creating 4 sections, 2 on the front and 2 on the back. These are quick fire using each section for each exercise; each one is timed to last only 1 minute:

Experiment 1 – Minute portrait

Draw the person opposite you in just 1 minute. As much information as possible, don't worry about tiny details, we want to see as much as you can draw. You don't have to show the person your drawing or even get it accurate, the main thing is that they are a fixed subject. *This activity begins to loosen up the students, and gets them working with more confident lines.*

Experiment 2 – Non dominant

Draw the person opposite you again, but this time, use the hand you wouldn't normally use, this is called your non-dominant hand. You may be surprised by the outcome! *This activity gets the connection between eye and hand operating at a higher level, breaking down learned patterns of drawing. Be sure to use the term 'non-dominant' rather than 'wrong hand'.*

Experiment 3 – Blind Drawing

Draw the person opposite you, but this time you cannot look at the paper. Place your pencil on the paper in a good place and then fix your eyes on the person opposite you, whatever you do don't look down! *This activity is surprisingly difficult and is a really fun challenge to help let go of control. Try and catch students who are looking down, and make it fun. Also get the students to reflect on their results; are their drawings more interesting/confident?*

Experiment 4 – Non Dominant Blind Drawing

This one is a real challenge; draw the person opposite you with your non-dominant hand, and without looking at the paper! Place your pencil in a good place, fix your eyes on your subject and then go! *As this will be a challenge you can extend the timing to 2 minutes for this one.*

Experiment 5 – Both hands at the same time

On a new sheet of paper fold in half and open again, and grab another pencil as you'll need two for this one. For this exercise you are going to draw the person opposite you again but this time you are going to draw two portraits at the same time, one with each hand. Note, this is not a little bit with one hand then a little bit with the other, both pencils have to be moving at the **same time**, producing two drawings together. *As this will be a challenge you can extend the timing to 2 minutes for this one.*

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Experiment 6 – Both hands crossed

Flip the paper over and you are going to do the same again but with your arms crossed over. The right hand on the left side of the paper and the left hand on the right side of the paper.

As this will be a challenge you can extend the timing to 2 minutes for this one.

2 – How do you look without looking? Drawing what's behind you.

For this experiment you need to gather a box of objects that can be held in one hand, make them as varied as possible. If you are able, choose objects that would not be easy to guess what they are without seeing them. Ask you students to have paper and pencil ready, and put their other hand behind their back, with palm open. You are going to walk round and place into their hand an object. They are not allowed to look at it, but just to feel it. Now the students have to draw their object without looking at it, but just by feeling it. Can they do it? Give students between 5-10 minutes to do this, depending on the complexity of the object chosen. Make sure to ask your students to place the object next to their drawing at the end and see how similar they are.

Encourage the students not to try and guess what the object is. Even if they think they know what it is, encourage them to draw what they can feel rather than draw what they think it is. We are focusing on touch as the lead guide, trying to get to grips with the exact shape and surface, rather than a remembered version of that object.

You will notice a lot of interesting things occurring with this activity that you can point out to your students. They will draw their object from a certain angle or viewpoint even though they are not looking at it which is amazing. Why does their brain see it from that particular side? Some will add shadow, and where the light is hitting the object even though then can't see it. You will also find that many of the drawings will be the same size as the object they are holding. There is also a lot of freedom here to look directly at the paper and your drawing without ever needing to look away.

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3 – *The Sound of Drawing. Drawing with Music.*

For this exercise choose 4-5 pieces of music from varied genres and styles, preferably without words in. You could use an electronic track, a classical piece, a heavy metal song, a hip hop beat and a folk song for example. Give your student's larger sheets of paper, and varied colours of pencils, chinks, pens and other drawing equipment. Ask them not to pick up anything yet as they will be guided into colour and material by what they hear. Play each track for around 3 minutes, or if the track finishes just under that then perfect. Allow your students to respond to whatever they hear in whatever way they like.

You can encourage students that they may want to draw things, objects, places and that is brilliant. They may also just want to draw lines, follow rhythms, or try and express their emotions with marks. Try not to direct too much or dismiss any type of response.

4 - *Edward Pencil Hands* **Drawing Gloves and Crazy Contraptions**

There are some very fun and unusual ways you can explore making marks. One way is to make your own fun drawing implements.

Examples:

- Using latex gloves the students can attach pencils or other mark making tools to the end of their fingers with masking tape and then try drawing with these 'drawing gloves'.
- Clip pegs onto pens, then attach the pegs together in a long line with masking tape or rubber bands. When you draw with one pen, all the others will draw too!
- Attach a long cable tie to a pen or pencil and then try and draw by holding the end of the tie furthest away from the pencil. A long wobbly pen will be very difficult to control.
- Take some old CD's and attach fat pens/pencils into the middle using blue tack or tape. Spin these to make spinning top pens that make beautiful circles.
- Attached chinks or charcoals on the end of the long sticks and see if you can draw from a distance.
- *With these kinds of tasks it's good to have large areas to play with to make marks. Buy cheap lining paper from a DIY store and cover whole walls, rooms or floors to allow for freedom of exploration.*