

storm in a teacup

Observational Drawing Project

Focus #1 - Getting started:

Looking at the photographic artwork of Christopher Boffoli pictured below for inspiration, start off thinking about how his unique photography tells stories using everyday objects, plus a little bit of imagination and added props.

Chat to your friends or family about what you like (or don't like) about Boffoli's work. Try to use art terminology (language) and avoid saying things like 'I like it because it looks cool'! Instead try conversation like 'I like the way Boffoli uses . . . (colour, texture, contrast, etc.) because . . .', or 'his work is powerful/ funny/ entertaining in the way he includes (tiny people, clever placement of objects, etc.)'.

Focus #2 – Check through the project brief & step by step processes:

Read through the project brief on the next page, then move on to the step by step processes. This material provides an outline of the work you will do over the week with step by step processes to support your learning. Read through the whole thing before getting started.



Bree Taylor
2020

Adapted from original concept published in School Arts Magazine.

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Project Brief



Sometimes, art is all about telling stories! Your brief for the Storm in a Teacup project is to create an illustrated story using an everyday object as the starting point.

We are focusing on observational drawing (drawing from a real object that you can observe in front of you).

Through this project, we will explore many different drawing techniques and build our drawing skills.



We will be adding made up imaginary elements to help complete the composition and tell a story!

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Step by Step Processes

For your major artwork, you will need to really think about your ideas and document them in your journal.

- ① Start by selecting an everyday, ordinary object available to you (glass jar, book, teacup, pencil case, etc.)
- ② Spend time really **EXPLORING & STUDYING** the object from many different viewpoints and positions. Note the form (3D shape), the texture, colour, and any unique features (does it reflect light, have unusual angles, is it partly cracked or imperfect?).
- ③ Brainstorm a variety of real or imagined props or settings you could include with your object to tell your story, add excitement, or add mystery! Imagine you have to tell your story without words so that the viewer can understand it just by looking at it.
- ④ Spend 15 - 20 minutes drawing 'thumbnail-sized' (small) sketches in your journal, imagining the ways that you could create your visual story.

Once this brainstorming and planning work is done, complete the Drawing Skills Focus exercises on the last page of this document.

You are now ready to start to draw your object and include the imaginary parts to complete your major artwork. Use colour, or pure black and white tones, use contour drawing to draw what you can really see and remember to add value (shading). Enjoy!

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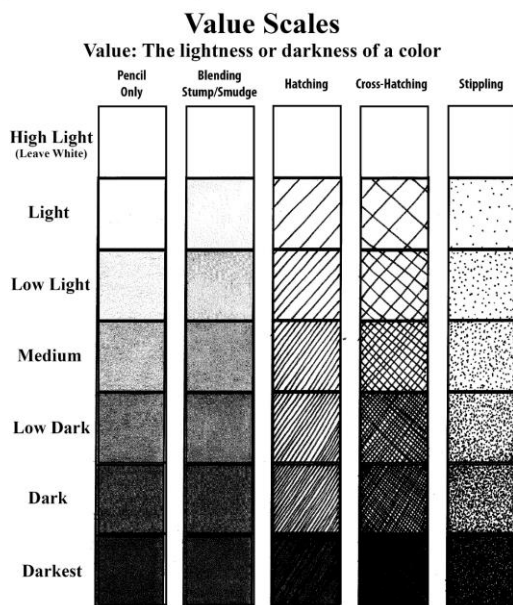
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Drawing skills focus

Before you get started on your major artwork, complete the following exercises to boost your drawing skills!

Name: _____

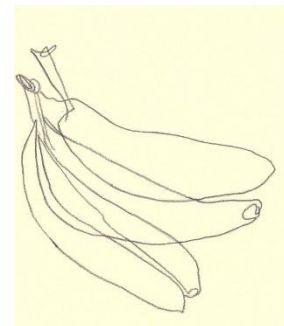
Class: _____



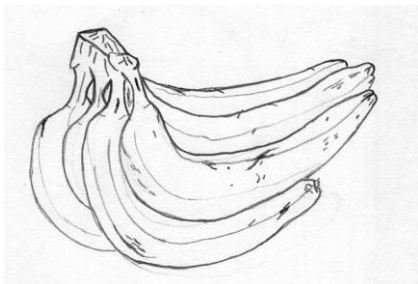
Complete a value scale using pencil & then fine-liner or pen to find out what your art materials can really do.

Value scales are super handy for understanding how to draw in the light and shade (the value) of an object and will help your drawings to look more 3 dimensional.

Complete a blind contour drawing of your still life object –



this means drawing your object using a CONTINUOUS line WITHOUT taking your pencil/pen off the page AND without looking at your page! Don't worry, it will look funny!
Practising drawing like this helps us to understand the edges of an object (the perception of edges). No peeking!!



Now, complete a contour drawing of your object using a CONTINUOUS line WITH your eyes flicking between looking at your object and the page you are drawing on. Imagine you are tracing the object with your pencil. ONLY draw what you can actually see, not what you think is there. *Practising drawing like this helps us to improve our observation skills & hand eye coordination.*

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