

## I can't draw ...but am curious to try!

### Welcome

Sometimes whether we are adults or children we put limitations on what we think we can or cannot achieve.

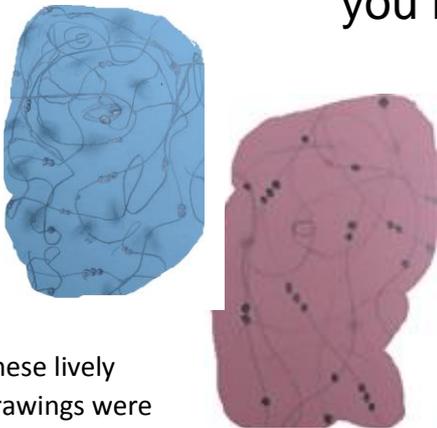
One of the refrains people sometimes say is 'I can't draw!' If drawing is something you would like to do we hope that here today you will be encouraged to take the first step and just give it a go. The first mark on a blank page can be the most daunting and the most exciting.

So just by trying, you have done something special.

### Experimenting with materials

Experiment with different drawing materials such as pencils, or an inky pen, a crayon or a piece of charcoal.

Drawing is essentially mark making so you could just enjoy exploring the effects of the drawing tools mentioned above or try organic forms such as mark making using twigs or having fun with dipping into cold tea or coffee and drawing with your fingers. Which do you like working best with? Why?



These lively drawings were made by children looking at the painting *Recoil* by Mark Francis.

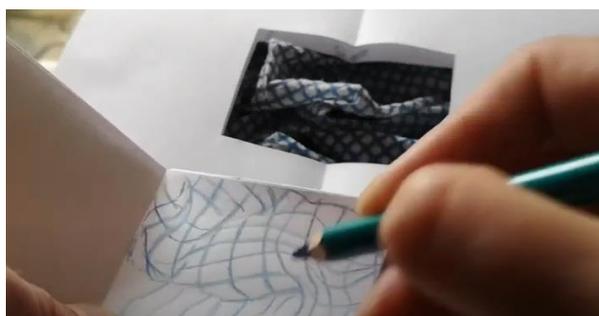
“An active line on a walk, moving freely, without goal.”  
– **Paul Klee**. Be inspired by the artist Paul Klee and take your line for a walk.

## Looking

Whether you are drawing on loose sheets of paper or in a sketchbook you could try blind drawing. This is a good way to help you look more closely at an object. Choose something to draw, perhaps your other hand or any object you like, and looking at the object rather than looking at your paper, follow your eyes as they look over the object making at the same time a line drawing of what you see. Only look at your drawing at the very end. It may look wobbly and abstract but this is the result of a good exercise in observation. You could hone in on some of the abstract forms you have made as the basis for creating a new work. Have fun doing this!

## Abstract Drawings

You could also have fun making abstract drawings by using a viewfinder to zoom in on something. You can make a view finder by cutting a small rectangle shape out of the centre of a larger piece of paper. Hold your viewfinder up to your window or a picture or a patterned surface like an outside wall or the bark of a tree and draw the shapes, patterns and colours that you see through the small viewfinder rather than making a representational view of the entire scene.



## **Having a sketchbook**

Having a small sketchbook to hand is a great way to record your ideas, to make marks or to draw from your imagination. Look for the beauty in imperfection and don't be too critical of your own work. Add drawings you may have made on loose sheets to your sketchbook and enjoy looking over all your working documents.



## **Looking at art**

Making a drawing of a painting or artwork or even a building you like is a great way to help you look more closely at it and perhaps notice details that you may have overlooked. You don't have to aim to make an exact copy. Your drawing reflects your observation of the artwork and has its own charm.

## Resources to help you

We have lots of short films for a variety of ages on the Hugh Lane Gallery's youtube channel to help you in your artistic endeavours. Artists show you how to make a [viewfinder](#), or [sketchbooks](#) in a variety of ways from [simple](#) to [concertina](#) to [micro sketchbooks](#), or make suggestions for having [fun with drawing](#), or being inspired by the philosophy of [wabi-sabi](#) in your [mark-making](#), or being inspired by the natural world around you for your sketches.

Have fun exploring these short art activity films [here](#).

"In drawing, nothing is better than the first attempt."

**Pablo Picasso**

"You can't do sketches enough. Sketch everything and keep your curiosity fresh." **John Singer Sargent**

Drawing by child after the painting *Malahide Sands, Stormy Weather* by Nathaniel Hone



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