

Annabel Dover

The guide takes you through the processes Annabel uses when creating both her own work and preparing her public workshops.

From collecting a treasure trove of household objects to thinking about how the activity makes you feel, the Guide draws on many of the examples you will find in the MORAG website, and is intended to give you an easy, downloadable resource to inspire and support your own creative work.



Think about it

Word, lists and phrases

Walk through your house and make a word drawing of all the things that catch your eye.

Treasure Hunt - things around you

Inspire your drawing and painting, use your home as a treasure trove of images and objects.

Collect pictures from magazines, newspapers, postcards, etc. Collect images things that are beautiful, exciting, which 'say' something to you.

Make a scrapbook of favorite pictures.

Make a collection of objects from around your home. This might include:-

- A piece of your best china
- An ornament you love
- A Christmas present
- Your favorite flower vase
- A pebble from the beach
- A feather
- Your best party shoes

How will you display your collection so that you can begin to draw and paint it?

Materials, patterns and textures

You may want to theme your collection, for example, could you collect only objects, which are decorated with a pattern? Or objects, which are a particular, shape or colour? Gather together:-

- Pens
- Paper
- Postcards
- Paints
- Brushes

- Clippings from magazines, leaflets, etc.
- Paper table cloths
- Leftover wallpaper
- Lining paper
- Rolls of greaseproof paper
- Glue
- Scissors

Make yourself at home

Find a place where you feel comfortable drawing and painting.

- In the garden?
- At the kitchen table?
- In your bedroom?

Perhaps you'd like a nice scent in the air, lemon or orange for example?

Do you want this to be a quiet or private activity? Or would you like to work with other people?

Do you want to listen to music as you work? Or perhaps you'd like to work sitting in front of the TV?

The last thing you did

Think about other times you've drawn and painted – what did you enjoy most about that experience?

Feelings

Think about how you'd like to feel having done something creative:

- Calm
- Energised
- Thoughtful
- Relaxed

Sometimes wearing an energising colour, such as orange, can change how you feel.



Get going

Warm up

Explore some drawing techniques that help counteract self-consciousness. For example:

Put your paper under a table on a firm surface like a stool or seat. Draw with your hands under the table. Don't look at the drawing or the paper.

Make a mark

Select the materials you'd like to draw with.

Perhaps choose one material you've used before and one that's unfamiliar.

Experiment and try out different marks you can make.

Vary the amount of pressure you use, the speed at which you make marks and the density of the marks.

Play

Experiment and play with materials as you go along. Try to avoid getting too precious about a particular drawing and try to focus on the process rather than the outcome. If you make lots of work then you'll have plenty of opportunity to achieve something special.

Begin to work from your object collection. Draw what you see using line only.

Start anywhere

Start anywhere on a large piece of paper and draw a continuous line.

Keep going. Don't stop or take your pen/pencil off the paper.

Change the line – make a quicker line, a smudgier line, make a jagged line, a lazy line.

Try using bigger pieces of paper for example you could use:-

- Paper tablecloths
- Leftover wallpaper
- Lining paper
- Rolls of greaseproof paper

What's in your space?

As you work become more aware of the space you're working in.

Is the radio on or off? Is the space private enough? Or would you like to work alongside other people?

Don't know?

It can be frustrating not knowing what you'll end up with. However, you might start with an idea of what you'd like to create but actually end up with something better than you imagined.



Keep going

Add in and take away

Where are the darkest parts of the object? And the lightest? Add shading and start to investigate tone (light and dark). Then introduce colour. If you're worried about spoiling your drawing, perhaps you could make a separate tonal or colour drawing?

Chop & change

Record your collection in other ways, perhaps you could use collage, or photograph the collection?

Questions?

Imagine your own personal art collection – what would you include?

Don't stop

What would happen if you made this piece of work into a series?

Emergency restart

Have a cup of tea, stare out of the window, focus on something else, and then come back to your work.



How did it go?

How do you know when it's over?

- When you feel saturated by it?
- When you feel ready to do something else?
- When your head feel like mashed potato and you know you can no longer concentrate?
- When you feel satisfied?

Any surprises?

Did you do anything new, or anything you thought you couldn't do?

Did you enjoy it?

How did the activity make you feel? Is there anything you could do that would make the activity more enjoyable?

What were the best bits?

Collecting objects? Drawing? Seeing your work develop? Enjoying the environment you created? Not knowing how things would turn out?



What next?

Choose another starting point

If you enjoyed the experience of working with a collection perhaps you could visit your local museum and work from the collections they have on display there? If it's not possible to visit you can view many collections online (links below).

Give yourself a challenge

If you were to exhibit this work, what other pieces would be with it?

Start to investigate opportunities for you to show your work.

Find out about local artist's groups; sign up to mailing lists that advertise exhibition opportunities.

Do your research and ask yourself, "Where would my work fit in?" "How would I like it to be presented?"

Tell a friend

Do you have friends who paint and draw? Perhaps you could discuss exhibiting opportunities with them?

External links

<http://www.annabeldover.com/index.htm>

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/t/the-collections/>

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore.aspx>

<http://www.cimuseums.org.uk/collections.html>

<http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/index.htm>