



ONLINE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS &

BRUSHES

WITH KYLIE WICKHAM

YEAR LEVELS: 3 - 8

OVERVIEW

In this unit we will be working in 2D and 3D projects using the motif Australian Birds!

Using new ideas in a creative way, Australian Birds is the perfect theme.

There are a great variety of beautiful shapes and colour.

Learn sculpting techniques, finger-painting skills and drawing with mixed media.

Also learn how to make your own brushes for mark making play, and then how to further transform these ideas into a sculpture using plastering techniques.

ART ELEMENTS & PRINCIPLES

Shape, Form, Colour, Texture

CROSS-CURRICULUM / CAPABILITIES LINKS

Science, Natural World, Botanical Studies, Mathematics

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Explore the tactile nature of mark-making using unconventional materials to create artwork.
- Use their sense of touch to explore the texture and sensory nature of materials.
- Explore the inherent nature of different materials and experiment with these to cause different outcomes in artwork.
- Understand how to break a subject or motif down into basic shapes.
- Discuss their artmaking process, individual choices and the outcomes achieved.

MAKE

Activity 1 - Bird Sculpture:

Explore working in 3D. Consider elements such as form, weight, height and balance. In this activity you will use aluminium foil to create an armature (basic structure/form) to use as a base to build on.

Explore the use of different media to create a balanced free standing bird (table sculpture). Now complete the Australian bird sculpture by using paint and other decorative materials to bring them to life.

Step 1: Take a handful of aluminium foil and gently scrunch in hand to create a free-standing shape. Start with something like an upside-down ice cream cone. This will be your base/armature for your bird.

*Older/advanced students may also add wings.

Step 2: Cut Modroc into a variety of strips and shapes, ensuring you have some larger pieces. Wet the Modroc, wrap it around your armature, rubbing the plaster to smooth. Repeat until your bird is completely covered.

Allow to fully dry (although you can paint wet/damp Modroc).

Step 3: Paint your bird!

You may like to keep it plain and simple, or play around with blending colours, flicking paint, and other painting techniques to create a feathery effect.

Allow to dry.

Step 4: Decorate your bird with fine details using a variety of materials.

Try using Magiclay for eyes, Craft Fun Foam shapes to create feathers, wings and tails – or use real feathers!

Apply with Supertac glue and allow to dry.

Activity 2 – Finger Painting:

Explore mark-making with the age-old technique of finger painting. Get in touch with your senses whilst learning to create a finished and sophisticated piece of work.

Step 1: Begin by researching Australian Birds. Find a photograph/photocopy of an Australian Bird you would like to focus on. Generally, a profile (side-on) picture is best. Study the picture, looking at the colour, shape and form.

For this example, we are looking at a Cockatoo.

Step 2: Decide on your base colour (we will be using white) and using your fingers, rub the basic bird shapes onto your Kraft Card. This will give you a sense of shape and composition.

Step 3: Now load your fingertips up with paint and dab on. Do not mix or rub paint together, instead you are aiming to place paint on top and next to paint, forming thick layering.

Step 4: Scratch back into your painting using a satay stick or similar. Continue to paint your subject, rubbing, dabbing and scratching the paint until you are happy with your final outcome.

Activity 3 - Magpies & Mark Making:

Embrace experimentation and explore materials, mark making and playful outcomes.

In this activity, you will construct your own brushes and use them to begin the artwork.

The scratchy nature of your handmade brushes will help you build a background that connects to your subject matter. Then use your Magpie image reference to add realism into the artwork to balance and resolve the work.

This charming and fun activity will have your students truly engaged.

Step 1: For this activity, let's create our own paint brushes. Doing so is immense fun and can be a whole lesson in itself.

Take a walk outside and collect some sticks, leaves and grasses. Use these collected natural materials to create a range of interesting paintbrushes.

Step 2: Start by taking one of your newly created brushes, dip it into food dye and start mark-making to fill your page. This will become your background.

Try tapping, rubbing, dragging, twisting, flicking, and mixing colours. Play and experiment!

Step 3: Research/study Magpies. Find a good reference image to use to help you paint your bird. Looking carefully, break the bird shape into three main shapes you can see, and draw them onto the paper.

Perhaps focus on the head, body & tail.

Step 4: Take a black and white oil pastel and block-in the black and white colours, overlapping to create some greys, and woohoo! You have a Maggie!

EXTENSION

Extension ideas will be discussed in the live Online Zoom Workshop Session.

We have left some space here for you to write your own notes:

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION

- How can apply these skills to other topics?
- What was my favourite part of a process?
- What is mark making?
- How do artists create different marks?
- Can you now break down other subjects into simple shapes?
Can you see the shapes within a subject?

MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

ML400 ArtRoc (Modroc) 10cm x 4.5m
ML265 Paper Magiclay 240g Black
ML285 Paper Magiclay 240g White - Canister
SP004 Craft Fun Foam Sheet 20's Asst

AA005 Supertac Glue 550mL
BR321 Zart Taklon Brush Dynamic Round # 6 (7.5mm)
FT102-AS Feathers 60g Assorted 240's
AT524 Masking Tape 50m x 24mm
CQ045 Jute String 15g Asst 7's
ML020-BK Plasticine 500g Black
PA108 Cartridge 130gsm A2 420 x 595mm
DY350-YE Eco Colour 500mL Bright Yellow
DY350-RE Eco Colour 500mL Brilliant Red
DY350-TB Eco Colour 500mL Turquoise (Brilliant) Blue
PS044 Basics Oil Pastels Black 48's
PS043 Basics Oil Pastels White 48's
PA305 Brown Kraft Paper 70gsm Ream 510 x 760mm
PT209-Kit Zart School Colours Kit - 5 x 250mL
CQ620 Art Swabs 100's
MB002 Satay Stick / Skewer 20cm 100's
Aluminium Foil

INSPIRATION

RELATED ARTWORK,
LINKS & SOURCES

BIRD IMAGE REFERENCES:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page.

<https://ccsearch-dev.creativecommons.org/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/policies-and-documents/image-resources>

Google, Pinterest

ARTIST INSPIRATION:

Painting/Drawing: Brett Whitely, William T Cooper

Illustration/Design: Peter Cromer, Grotti Lotti Designs

Photography: Bird Nerd Leila Jeffreys