

## Mark making - mark making on site

The mark-making exercise also frees people from the anxieties of 'getting it to look right' and "making it look like something". Marks have their own character dependent upon the materials and tools used and independent of any representational or pictorial properties they might be given by an artist. This activity helps groups to play freely with materials and to reconnect with the child in each of us.

### Guidelines

- Work out of doors with clip board and paper (A4)
- Use whatever materials and "tools" you find to make marks on the paper. Materials might include mud, earth, plants and berries, leaves, flowers, etc; tools could include twigs, moss, leaves, stones, fingers etc.
- Focus on making marks not on picture making.
- Alternatively take paper or sketch book and a bottle of ink outdoors.
- Make a variety of ink marks using found objects as the mark making tools, eg, twig, gorse, heather, stone, etc as mark making tools. The emphasis is on experiment, risk taking and having fun.

### Materials

Clip boards and A4 paper. Ink (if required). Facilities for washing hands afterwards!

## "Blind" mark making in the studio with found materials

Before the group starts work, give a brief relaxation exercise. The leader collects the objects beforehand and distributes to participants when their eyes are closed. The advantage of this being that students do not see what they are being given and, initially, are solely dependent on touch for learning about the object.

- With your eyes closed explore by touch the object which is placed in your hands.
- Notice surface textures. Is it hard, soft, rough, smooth, sharp, blunt, prickly etc?
- Use the object and some ink/paint to make marks.
- Try to convey visually how it felt.

### Materials

A collection of found materials from the project surroundings.  
Paper, ink, paint.

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