

Sound Drawing

estuary

Kings Manor Farm
through the seasons
a combined arts
project 2011-2012

Just as there are ways to visually record what is seen, so sounds can also have their visual equivalents. Participants are encouraged to think about the expressive quality of their mark making as they respond to different sounds.

Open questions to stimulate the drawing process include:

- What kind of mark could stand for this sound?
- Has the sound rhythm? Is it harsh, loud, soft or gentle?
- Does it vary in intensity? Does the sound have a colour?

Guidelines:

- Be still and quiet with eyes closed to focus attention on the sounds of the place.
- Make marks which represent to the sounds you hear, using whatever media are available.
- You can draw with eyes closed and then open. Compare the results.

Materials

The exercise can be done with basic drawing media – pencil and A4 paper, or using charcoal, paint, inks, etc on larger paper. Circumstances will determine the convenience or otherwise of carrying a variety of media to a particular location.

Working to music:

- Listen to a piece of music. (Preferably with eyes closed so that the focus is on listening).
- Listen to the music again and draw/paint what you hear.

Materials

Drawing and painting media are available.

In the context of the Estuary project the music played was Vaughan Williams' *"Norfolk Rhapsody No 1"* and *"In the Fen Country"* as these evoked the estuary landscape. Other suitable pieces include Benjamin Britten's *"Four Sea Interludes"*, Debussy's *"La Mer"*, the thunder storm from Beethoven's 6th Symphony (*The Pastoral*).

Colin Riches