



Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter

Session no. 32 (Summer Term): Playing with Scale



Introduction.

Scale is so important in art. This exercise will challenge you to maximise a tiny object and minimise a huge one. When you have had a go at doing these scaling up and scaling down exercises you can use what you have learned to play with perspective in a new composition.

What you will need:

Pencil, rubber, sharpener

Ruler useful but not essential

White paper. You can use any size paper you like to work on and whatever you have at hand but you will need at least 2 sheets ideally and A4 size works well to start with.

Scissors

Coloured pencils

Step 1 Find two pictures – one of something huge and one of something tiny. Something huge could be a building, a bridge, a recognizable mountain etc. Something tiny could be a small insect, a seed or grain, a tiny mechanical part/microchip etc.

Step 2 Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half and then half again and once more half again. You should end up with a small rectangle size 10.5cm X 7.5cm. If you feel confident you can draw within a still smaller scale then fold again and use this as your size to work from. On this piece of paper draw your huge object as small scale as you possibly can. It will help you to have your pencil really sharp when you start. Add colour with sharp pencil crayons.

Step 3 Take your other sheet of paper and look at the picture of the tiny object and scale it up to make it as big as possible on your page. It needs to look monumental so add lots of shading and detail.

Step 4 If you have time try a further exercise where you square off a section of your tiny object drawn large and then redraw it again on a new sheet of paper once again scaling it up.

Step 5 Playing with scale like this can give you great ideas for playing with perspective in your compositions. You could do a drawing from the perspective of an ant!