

Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter
Autumn Term 2020 Session 11:

Drawing with Scissors

Materials needed:

- Coloured paper if you have it but if you don't you can use some papers and cards that would normally throw in the recycling so things like packaging from food and so on are all great. Even newspaper and silver foil can be used. Get a selection of papers and card ready.
- Glue – ideally a glue stick
- One sheet of normal paper or card to stick your collage on to.
- Some inspiration for your picture. You might want to do a wintery Christmas scene for example. Or it could be a fantastic underwater scene, an interior, a still life, or something quite abstract, really the choice is yours.

Introduction: Late in his life the celebrated artist Henri Matisse developed a method of making pictures he called 'drawing with scissors'. Sheets of paper that were painted with vivid colours were then used by him to cut shapes from without drawing them on the paper first, so, in effect he was drawing with his scissors. This is a great exercise to try to help make you think about the shape of objects and how to 'draw' them in a different way and it is also great fun to do.

Activity 1: If you have time look up Henri Matisse's work and in particular his cut-outs. They will hopefully inspire you and his life and work is an interesting one to research. Think about what you would like your overall design to look like and which colour of paper/card you are going to choose from the selection you have to hand. Think carefully about the shapes you want to 'draw with scissors' and remember you are **not** drawing them with pencil first, you are just going to go for it with the scissors. The key thing is to cut out carefully and with as much precision as possible. Keep doing this for all the shapes you want for your collage.

Activity 2: When you have a selection of shapes cut out then arrange them on your paper and have a look at what you have got. Take your time to arrange them and tweak where you put them. Do you need to add some more? If you do, now is the time to do so.

Activity 3: When, and only when, you are happy with what you have done, stick your collage down. Sticking a collage down is a bit of an art form in itself as some shapes are on top of others so the ones on the very top of your design will need sticking down last of all.