

Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter
Autumn Term 2020 Session 3:

Autumn Forager drawing

Materials needed:

Pencil, rubber, sharpener

White paper to draw on (any size you like to work on and whatever you have at hand)

If you have some colour materials to hand such as coloured pencil crayons, watercolours, great, but if not, you can do this with just a pencil and paper.

Introduction: We're in autumn and the leaves are falling, as are tree seeds. This is a great time to gather a few things when you are walking home from school or wherever and keep your eyes open for a few fallen leaves, conkers and their outer shells and things like sycamore seeds and use them for a great seasonal drawing study.

Activity 1: Your first task is to do some foraging for something to draw. In the autumn we have a rich resource at our feet as we walk along so go for a walk with a small bag to put items in. Look for interesting leaves, seed heads like sycamore seeds that helicopter down, pine cones, conkers, acorns, bits of twigs and branches that may have been blown down in the wind. When you are foraging just be aware you are picking things off the ground and you will need to wash your hands really well after doing this and also after handling the items when you arrange them to draw.

Activity 2: Now you have got some items to draw at home, you need to arrange them and because they have been collected from the ground the first thing you need to do is put a piece of plain paper down on the table surface where you are going to arrange them. Take some time to arrange your items and try to look for a good selection of different shapes, colours and textures. The good thing about autumnal items is that you can usually gather a really good range of surface textures: e.g. a shiny conker, a spiky conker shell, a soft feather, a crinkly dry leaf, a piece of knobbly bark etc.

Activity 3: Now you can start drawing the arrangement in front of you and really focus on the details that you can see and with special reference to the textural surfaces. Think about your mark-making techniques and how to vary them depending on the shape and surface of the subject you are drawing. So for example if you are drawing the spiky outer of a conker shell use spiky marks with your pencil, whereas if you are drawing the softness of a feather use your marks in a different gentle way and use your blending techniques.

Activity 4: If you have colour materials by all means add colour too! The colours of autumn are a fantastic study of a harmonized earthy natural range.