

Education

Ropewalk Contemporary Art & Craft

News

April 2009

Keeping you up to date

Welcome to our April issue. Spring has well and truly sprung at last and we anticipate a fabulous summer term with plenty to offer by way of outdoor activity and fresh approaches to art making beyond the classroom.

Once upon a Twine

With a focus on creative literacy we are delighted to unveil the first of our book and story themed workshops for 2009. We asked children's writer Addy Farmer to design a brand new workshop for year 3 & 4 children and she has risen to the challenge! See below for more information.

Keeping in touch

Look out for our regular e-newsletter,

which offers up to date information on educational activity at The Ropewalk. If you are not receiving e-news email ellie@the-ropewalk.co.uk quoting "Please add me to e-news"

Your Views

Feedback from recent workshops has included the following:

"Creative, variety, practical, fun. Held children's attention"

"Great - and brought new ideas into school for working with textiles! Thanks"

"Already booked our next [workshop]!"

"Children gained a lot of cultural awareness from this experience"

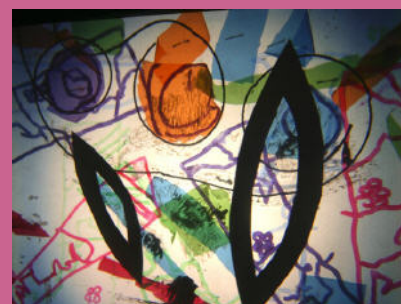
Feature Workshops

TWIST IN THE TALE with Addy Farmer

Focusing on the "who, what, where, why & when" of story telling and using familiar fairy tales, images and found objects for context and inspiration, children are encouraged to consider the many stories just waiting to be discovered at The Ropewalk. With links to far flung places where the raw material was grown and transported for thousands of miles on ships – to the experience of producing the rope here, children will identify a central character and imagine a day in the life of a boy or girl at the ropery. *Spinning a yarn* by weaving poetry words and actions together, the sounds, smells and sensations of the ropery are evoked to create a personal adventure to share at the close of the session. *Supports Year 3 & 4 Units within the Primary Literacy Framework*

SLIT / SLOT SCULPTURES with Suzanne Dring

This workshop examines sculptors who make work for specific locations including Anthony Gormley and Picasso. Children will visit the Ropewalk garden gallery to see examples of site specific commissioned sculptural work at first hand. Scale and the use of suitable materials will be explored and guidance offered in various techniques for forming 3D shapes out of wire and bonding materials, together with general assembly utilising "Slit /Slot" joining. "The Angel of the North" is a prime example of this method of assembly. Children will work in small groups to design and create a 3D maquette for an imaginary sculpture to be sited somewhere at school. Teachers may wish to bring photographs of their school grounds to add context to the children's ideas and help their themes develop. *NC Units: 3C Can we change places?*



Availability & Cost

Regular Workshops

VEHICLE VROOM... With Michael Scrimshaw

Children will explore the properties of materials and techniques in making by creating moving model vehicles. Throughout the session the vehicles are 'customised' to efficiently use various forces in order to produce independent forward motion. The vehicles are tested through a series of obstacles and races. Learners will develop an understanding of the construction of moving joints and how dynamic forces can affect movement.

NC units: D&T 2A vehicles, Science 2E forces and movement 4E Friction

PYRAMIDAL PURSES with Kirsty Champ

In this workshop children are encouraged to examine and discuss a number of different purses and money containers from different cultures, considering shape, materials and construction. Each child creates their own personalised 3D money container using felt, decorative and recycled materials including feathers, ribbon and buttons. The workshop concludes with a short plenary where we compare ideas and discuss our skills and learning.

NC Units: 5B containers, D&T 4B Money containers

BOUND TO POP-UP BOOKMAKING or ONE OF A KIND BOOKS with Geraldine Sinkie

Using a range of examples of the form children will be introduced to varied paper engineering techniques. They will work in groups producing pop-up pages which will be bound into a single hard cover book at the end of the session. The workshop is designed with a view to bringing together language, art, design and engineering work. **or** Taking a look at the design and use of books in different cultures, this workshop celebrates some of the more beautiful and unusual examples from around the world. Children will use various papercraft techniques such as folding, curling, crumpling and pop-up engineering in the production of their own artist's book.

*NC Unit D&T 5C Moving Toys / NC Units: D&T 4B Storybooks, Art 6A People in action **Suitable for KS2***

DRAWING IN ACTION with Marc Renshaw

Using a variety of drawing media and projection methods, children will be introduced to various ways of recording and expressing movement in visual art, producing large scale drawings to express actions that have been chosen through role-play and discussion. A critique will take place at the end of the workshop to evaluate what constitutes a successful and descriptive account of movement within the drawings.

NC Units: 6A People in action

COILED STORY BOWLS with Janine Knight

During this workshop children explore how stories have been represented in textiles in ancient and modern times by other cultures. Ancient Native American Pueblo mythology surrounding corn, the sun, moon, and the turtle is discussed via the medium of the modern story "Turtle and the Sky Bowl". Basket weaving and story telling are central to the Pueblo way of life and will provide the inspiration for creating individual coiled baskets. The session closes with a discussion about what special items of significance the bowls could be used to contain in our culture.

NC Units: 5C Talking textiles, 5B - Containers, Citizenship O5 Living in a diverse world

WIRE PORTRAITS with Kirsty Champ

This workshop takes a look at the work of the American artist Alexander Calder, famous for his fabulous bent wire mobiles and sculptures. Following an introduction to the subject children will begin practical work by drafting their ideas in a number of ink drawings. They will need to consider scale, proportion and line connectivity in order to later transcribe their drawn image into a representational bent wire sculpture.

*NC Units: 1A Self portraits, 3A Portraying relationships **Suitable for KS2***

DEFT WARP & WEFT with Janine Knight

This workshop focuses on using recycled materials to create individual woven pieces. Children will experiment with processes such as ripping, stitching and scrunching of materials as well as investigating dyes. The pieces may be stitched together following the workshop if preferred and made into a collaborative wall hanging for permanent display. Please ask for details of additional cost for this service.

NC Units: 1B Investigating materials.

BRILLIANT BUILDINGS with Kirsty Champ

Children will work in small groups to design and construct an imaginary house frontage or doorway in relief. The concept of quirky and innovative design in architecture is put into context by exploring the incredible buildings of Gaudi and Hundertwasser. The process will involve cutting and pasting a montage from colour copied architectural imagery and building their imagined frontage in layers to produce a representation in relief.

NC Units: 2C Can buildings speak?

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY? with Michael Scrimshaw

In this workshop children will design and construct chairs entirely from newspaper using a unique rolling system. The session introduction examines the role and design of chairs from historical and cultural perspectives. We will discuss how and why certain materials are selected along with scale, style and usage. Children must combine imagination with practicality and work together to make their own life sized chairs.

*NC Units: 4B Take a seat **Suitable for KS2***

CITIZENSHIP MASKS with Kirsty Champ

An opportunity to look at the way masks are used in different cultures to mark times of change and celebration. Using real masks as an inspiration, children will create masks in order to retell their own story. Leading into literacy or drama work in the classroom, this is also an opportunity for children to develop their group work and retell a story collectively.

NC Units: Citizenship 12 - Moving on, 05 Living in a diverse world, Art 6B - What a performance

UNRAVELLING THE ROPERY - With Jonathan Korejko

This workshop teaches relief printmaking techniques whilst investigating the heritage of the former rope factory, its ¼ mile construction in locally made bricks and tiles and many other notable features. The history and process of rope making will be discussed as well as the visual quality of rope and braid. Children will design printing blocks and print on paper and cloth to make an individual flag or mini banner.

NC Units: 2C Can buildings speak?, 1B Investigating materials

CLASS PORTRAIT with Ellie Collins

Tuition in the art of portrait painting with a strong emphasis on the use of observation and description. The children each produce their self portrait which will become part of a larger, collaborative wall piece depicting the whole class seated in rows as in a group photograph.

NC Units: 1A Self portrait, 3A Portraying relationships

Designs in Nature Workshops

PAPER FROM OLD ROPE! with Jonathan Korejko

This workshop explores rope making heritage through access to related information and materials. Children will create a variety of handmade papers using recycled rope, string and various plant fibres used in rope making. Experimentation and embellishment can be achieved by adding natural and man-made dyes, inclusions, embedding, embossing and pulp painting. Each child will produce a range of sample papers.

NC Units: 2B Mother nature designer, 1B Investigating materials

MINIBEASTS AND GIANT BUGS with Ann Flower and Kirsty Champ

The day begins with a minibeast hunt guided by an environment specialist around the different habitats at the Water's Edge nature reserve. On returning to the Ropewalk children will design and build their own giant bugs from an array of found materials, informed by what they have learnt about minibeasts during the morning session.

NC Units : Science 2B Plants and animals in the local environment & 4B Habitats. Art 1B investigating Materials

WEAVING NATURE'S SEASONS with Ann Flower and Janine Knight

An exploration of the Water's Edge habitats will be the scene for observation and discussion about the seasonal changes affecting the plants and animals that reside there. Upon returning to the gallery children will design a palette of colour and form inspired by collected samples of dried or fallen materials to create their own woven artwork using natural fibres and textiles selected for their textures and colours.

NC Units: Science 2B Plants and animals in the local environment & 4B Habitats. Art 1B Investigating Materials, 2B Mother Nature Designer

TRANSLATING JOURNEYS with Ellie Collins and Ann Flower

Children will be introduced to the work of land artists Richard Long and Andy Goldsworthy and will explore making temporary artworks to describe a journey using natural materials. Such as stone, clay and bark. During the afternoon, a walk around the nearby nature reserve includes several stops to investigate the wildlife, geology and plant life

NC Units: 4C Journeys, 2B Mother Nature Designer, 6C A Sense of Place, 3C Can We Change Places?

SEEING THROUGH NATURE with Gill Hobson

This workshop takes a look at the fabulous variety of forms found in nature and uses transparent and opaque media to express ideas around order, pattern and shape, overlapping colour and light. Following a visual presentation referencing how nature has inspired contemporary artists, children will create a range of designs using drawing and collage techniques, then collaboratively draft out their own design for a finished work exploring how small components in nature combine and build to produce a larger whole.

NC Units: 1C What is sculpture? 2B Mother nature designer

COST

TWIST IN THE TALE

Available from 18 May

£4.50 per child
Half day workshop

SLIT / SLOT SCULPTURE

VEHICLE VROOM

BRILLIANT BUILDINGS

£4.00 / £7.50 per child
Full / Half day workshop

MINIBEASTS & GIANT BUGS

TRANSLATING JOURNEYS

PAPER FROM OLD ROPE

UNRAVELLING THE ROPERY

PYRAMIDAL PURSES

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

COILED STORY BOWLS

WIRE PORTRAITS

CITIZENSHIP MASKS

SEEING THROUGH NATURE

WEAVING NATURE'S SEASONS

BOUND TO POP-UP

ONE OF A KIND BOOKS

£7.50 per child
Full day workshop

CLASS PORTRAIT

DRAWING IN ACTION

DEFT WARP & WEFT

£4.50 per child
Half day workshop

All prices are VAT exclusive



Facilities & Self Guided Visits

Self guided visits to the exhibition and galleries are available throughout the year and are priced at £20 per group. We can provide a room for lunch for an additional £10.

A comprehensive education pack supports interpretation of the Ropewalk by schools . It is available to download from our website www.the-ropewalk.co.uk

We offer a space for lunch if requested, with no additional cost when booking an artist led workshop and there is plenty of room along our promenade, with play facilities nearby, to safely stretch legs and take a break from activities.

The Ropewalk houses two art galleries, a craft gallery, sculpture garden and shop as well as a heritage display containing articles and information relating to the building's former purpose as a rope making factory.

The Ropewalk has level access throughout and is well equipped to accommodate the large numbers and varied requirements of the many people who visit.

Overlooking the magnificent suspension bridge, the local area boasts a rich and interesting history and natural wetland habitats for wildlife as well as evidence of coastal industries including a working Boatyard.

Getting the most out of your visit

All of our artist led and self guided activities can accommodate up to around 35 children per session.

The Ropewalk is an independent centre for the arts and attracts many visitors. We cannot guarantee exclusive access to our facilities during self guided visits and break times, however we do restrict public access to education spaces during organised sessional times.

You are welcome to come and view our facilities prior to booking a workshop or in preparation for your visit. Ropewalk staff will be happy to answer any queries you have.

If you are interested in a workshop not listed on our newsletter or would like a session tailored to suit your curriculum studies we will be happy to discuss how we can meet your requirements. We aim to be an inclusive facility and will be happy to accommodate any particular needs that you identify.

If you would like further detail about any of our workshops, please call to discuss.

We value our links with other education providers in the the area and can now boast a wide choice of activities for visiting school parties within the town. Our "Designs in Nature" workshops utilise the services of a specialist environmental education officer within the neighbouring Water's Edge nature reserve. We are also developing our plans for the provision of a full day of activities in conjunction with Wilderspin National School.

Wilderspin National School

The first phase of the Wilderspin National School education programme includes workshops for Key Stage One and Two. Pupils can examine school and family life in the past in the Wilderspin Schoolroom, faithfully restored to the way it looked in 1845 when the National School opened in Barton. The popular Victorian school experience, "Eyes to the Front" has now rtransferred from Normanby Hall and is available in our 1890's classroom.

Later this year the Wartime Evacuation Experience will examine school life and the home front during the 1940s and there are facilities for geography and history fieldwork studies in the town centre.

To find out more about the School and its Wilderspin connection please visit www.queenstreetschool.org or contact the Development Officer, Ian Wolseley on 01652 635172.

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Contact Ellie Collins on 01652 660380 or email ellie@the-ropewalk.co.uk