

# Sensory Art News

Ropewalk Contemporary Art & Craft

January 2009

## Keeping you up to date

**Welcome** to the April issue of Sensory Art News. The last few months have flown by since we were awarded BBC Children in Need funding and reflecting on our first few months of concentrated delivery, we were pleased to note that 135 young people accessed our SEN programme during the past 6 months.

Most recently, students from New Options Barton School joined us in March, creating a giant dinosaur sculpture to grace their foyer and Cambridge Park School visited to explore all things architectural by designing their own "Brilliant Buildings".

Coming up soon, children from Northcott School will be learning a wide range of textile skills, including screen printing, felt making and weaving to produce an original colourful and tactile artwork to enrich their school environment.

### Consultation

Consultation plays a central part in informing our service and we welcome your views in shaping the development of future creative learning partnerships. After all, you know your students best and can play a key role in promoting the potential for creative excellence in them all.

**Ellie Collins**  
Education Officer.

### Your Views

Teacher and student feedback from recent SEN workshops has included the following:

*"I see our first session as the start of a long and fruitful partnership and look forward to future ventures"*

*"Every care and attention had been put in to providing my students with a stimulating, calm and safe environment to experience"*



## Workshops

### CLOTH "ME" BOOKS with Mags Bradley

Tailored to groups of up to four students, the principle of this workshop is to create a soft cloth book with pictures of identified objects, places or people that are pertinent to the individual. Reinforcing connectivity and ownership, the book can be used as a communication tool. Using digital photography to record important themes for each child, the collected images are ironed onto strong canvas 'pages' along with any appropriate signs or symbols and bound together with textured ribbon to create a book that is soft and tactile and invites interaction.

*Suitable for P level 1 - 4*

### PAPER FROM OLD ROPE! with Jonathan Korejko

This workshop explores rope making heritage through access to associated resources that invite handling and discussion. Children will create handmade paper using recycled rope, string and various plant fibres used in rope making. Experimentation and embellishment are encouraged and the silky feel of paper pulp and coarse rope fibres provide a lovely tactile contrast.

*Suitable for P level 1 - 8*

### FROM SHHHH TO BANG! with Michael Scrimshaw

A workshop that explores cause and effect, creating works of art that invite us to interact with them. These are things that do things...noise and movement things. Using a number of simple kinetic principles such as pendulums and levers, create ingenious moving sculptures that beg to be used so they can make a range of sounds.

*Suitable for P level 4 - 8*

Contact Ellie Collins on 01652 660380 or email [ellie@the-ropewalk.co.uk](mailto:ellie@the-ropewalk.co.uk)

## Workshops continued...

### **GIANT MULTI-SENSORY WEAVING with Janine Knight**

A collaborative activity focusing on the treatment and manipulation of different textiles and flexible materials to create a giant woven panel. Materials are categorised by their sensory qualities e.g. noisy, shiny, rough when handled and tonally and colourfully interesting when viewed. The large scale of the work makes it ideal for creating a wall hanging so that it invites touching and investigation by other children once displayed at the school.

*Suitable for P level 1 - 8*

### **TACTILES with Marilyn Oliver**

moulding, rolling, cutting and indenting to create textured and contoured surfaces, that once fired invite further touch and exploration. Natural clay has a range of qualities that make it is an extremely engaging material - compact weight, coolness, slippery, sticky and grainy texture and resistance. The finished tiles could be permanently installed on a wall or individually backed with felt as a classroom resource.

*Suitable for P level 1 - 8*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS with Ellie Collins and Suzanne Dring**

This workshop provides an arena for exploring a plethora of different materials with light, reflection and projection. Designed with autistic students in mind, this workshop is ideal for groups of up to five individuals, without the restrictions of a product led outcome. The role of the artists is to create an atmosphere conducive to experimentation, offering subtle suggestive cues such as mirroring and object placement. It is a gentle and non-invasive session.

*Suitable for P level 1 - 8*

## Availability & Cost

Workshops can be arranged for a time and duration to suit the specific requirements of children taking part. All workshops are priced at £4.00 per student for a half-day session and £7.50 per student for a full-day session.

## Getting the most out of your visit

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

With level access throughout, we are well equipped to accommodate the large numbers and varied requirements of the many people who visit. Our education spaces are generously proportioned and safely contained to afford concentration and freedom of movement during sessions.

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.

Overlooking the magnificent suspension bridge, our self-contained sculpture garden contains interesting sensory plants and hard landscaping features to explore and indulge the senses.

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.

We aim to be an inclusive facility and will be happy to accommodate any particular needs that you identify.

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