

Creative Challenge:

INSIDE / OUTSIDE

A woven painting with colours from your cupboards and lines from your memories.

I'm Sam Owen Hull, an artist who makes abstract embroidered paintings. My work is about edges, where two things meet. The speed of painted brushstrokes against the slowness of embroidery. Other opposite states that inspire my work are light and dark, man made and natural.

This challenge is inspired by the idea of opposites, and the edges where these two things meet. We're all stuck inside and want to be outside, seeing people and doing the things we'd usually do.



Mark Corfield-Moore's beautiful ikat weavings, currently on display at Manchester Art Gallery in the Jerwood Makers Open, make me think about inside/outside.

The orange shapes look like fireworks exploding. They are based on 17th century prints of fireworks. They also remind me of palm trees, or weeping willows. These things remind me of being outside, celebrating, being with people, going to new places.

They are hand woven in cotton, reminding me also of the cosiness and safety of home, wanting to keep memories of experiences.

Your challenge is to make an art work using this idea of inside/outside, using what you already have at home.

You will need:

- 2 sheets of A4 white paper (or 1 cut into equal halves), backs of letters will do.
- A spare piece of white paper to try 'paints' out on (an old envelope will do)
- Stuff that might produce colours from your kitchen cupboards
- Glasses or cups to mix your 'paint' in
- A teaspoon
- A cotton bud, a paintbrush or a stick or peg with some sponge taped to it



INSIDE



Make your 'paint'. Stuff in your kitchen cupboards makes colours, see what you have! Make sure you ask before using things and you get help if you use boiling water. Coffee with a little boiled water to dissolve makes a strong brown. Turmeric mixed with a little cold water makes yellow. Use a very small amount of water to keep the colour strong. Lemon juice painted over your colours when they have dried will lighten them.



Try your colours out on a piece of white paper. These are the things I found in my house. The strawberry tea bag was red at first, but dried blue. Painting lemon juice on it when dry changed it to pink again.

Some things might not work so well. I tried paprika but it wasn't so good.

Beetroot, cherries and spinach are things that might work well too. Try whatever you think might work. See what happens when you use a bit more water (your colour should be lighter). Try lemon juice on everything when it's dry and see what happens.



Once you have your 'paints' mixed, find a corner that you like most in your home right now. Paint what you can see. Think about colours and shapes, but not detail. Fill your whole page. If you don't have the right colour, use the nearest colour available. Try making different marks with your cotton bud, like dots and dashes. Use more water on your cotton bud/brush to make lighter tones.



Felix (10) likes TV and his PlayStation most right now, so he painted where those things are.

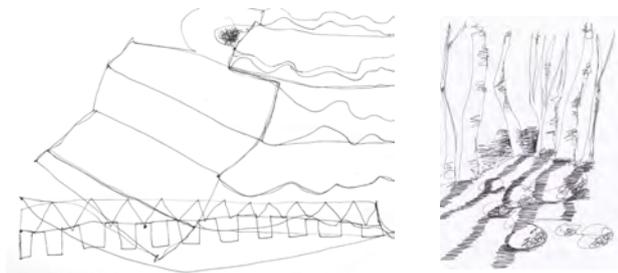
- Dark brown - cocoa
- Mid brown - coffee
- Light brown - marmite
- Purple/pink - defrosted mixed berries/lemon juice
- Yellow - Turmeric

Ruby (13) likes her bed with loads of cushions on it, so she painted that corner of her room.



Once your painting is dry, you can add lemon juice to change colours or make areas lighter.

OUTSIDE



For outside, we're going to do a drawing exercise called 'taking a line for a walk'. In these strange times, we're all missing things from our usual lives. What do you miss? Find a photo to draw from, maybe from your camera roll, maybe from google.

To 'take your line for a walk', you'll make your drawing without taking your pen off your paper for the WHOLE drawing. You can go back over lines to get to where you need to be, but the whole drawing should be one, continuous line. Try to use a black pen. If you don't have one whatever you've got will do!

Felix (10) Googled a photo of the BMX track (pictured above, left).

Ruby (13) found a photo of her and her friends.

I drew some woods (pictured above, right), because I'd like to go for a very long walk (my kids don't miss this!!!)

WEAVE



Take your INSIDE painting. Fold it in half. Cut lines into it from the FOLDED edge, but stop about 2cm from the edge. You need lines cut across the middle of your painting, but the paper needs to stay in one piece!

Open your painting out again.

Take your OUTSIDE drawing. Cut it into strips, they can be the same width or different widths.

Thread your strips through your painting. They can be woven into it as evenly or as loosely as you like, until unlike what you see from each of your two images.



PHOTOGRAPH



Ruby (13)

Take a photo of your finished woven painting.

Try and take it outside in daylight, with the camera above it so the edges line up with the edges of your phone/camera screen.



Felix (10)