



The Shape of Things: Thinking about Texture 17 - 24 April 2020

'Patterns which are so small that it is difficult to realise that they are patterns, are called textures. Any pattern may be turning into a texture by looking at it from a great distance; and in the same way, what we normally call texture may be seen as a pattern by looking at it from close quarters. The difference between a pattern and a texture is only one of size...'

Kurt Rowland, 'Looking and Seeing 2: The Development of Shape', p98

You are going to make a collage of textures and patterns. The activity will take a couple of hours or can be spread out over a couple of shorter sessions. You will need to first collect a catalogue of the different textures in your home. You will need:

- A couple of sheets of A4 plain paper, divided into four sections.
 - A crayon, pastel or charcoal
 - Black paint or ink
 - A selection of materials and surfaces to explore – for example; plastic and cardboard packaging, fabric scraps, out-of-date vegetables such as carrots or broccoli.
1. Experiment with the paint/ink by dipping different materials and surfaces into a small amount and filling each section of the page with a different texture. You should label the sections as you go, noting which material or surface was used to create the texture.
 2. Use your pastel/crayon/charcoal to create rubbings of larger surfaces, or objects you would like to keep clean, again filling a section of the plain paper with a single texture and noting the materials.
 3. Top tip: Fix charcoal or soft pastel rubbings with hairspray.
Once you have created 2-3 pages of textures put them safely to one side.

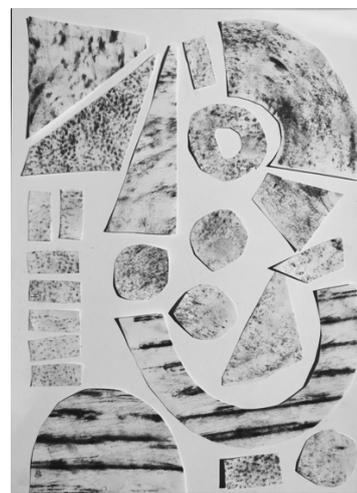
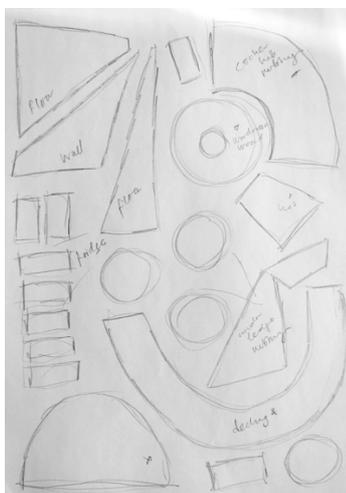
Before starting your collage, you should find some images as sources of inspiration. In this example, the inspiration was a frieze by William Mitchell, installed on The Turnpike Centre building in Leigh in 1972. William Mitchell created this artwork in concrete, so it contains the texture of that material. He has also created the impression of further texture by including abstract patterns.



Image source: <http://modernist-society.org/news-mcr/2017/8/5/turnpike>

To create your collage you will need:

- A single sheet of thicker paper or thin card for the final collage
 - A4 plain paper for sketches and designs
 - Pencil
 - Scissors or cutting knife/board
 - Glue (stick or PVA)
 - Tracing paper (optional)
1. First, create some sketches of your inspiration, exploring the textures and patterns that are within it.
 2. Secondly, sketch out your own design on plain paper – focusing just on the outline of the shapes that make up the image. Your design can be abstract - or you might decide to create a picture which includes a number of different textures, such as a landscape.
 3. Use your catalogue of rubbings and surfaces to assign textures to different sections of the design, referring to the patterns and textures in your source material. Use a pencil to make a note of which textures you would like to use in each area.
 4. Use your catalogue of textures to create the final collage, cutting the shapes to match your design. If you have tracing paper, you can trace your shapes onto the textures – otherwise, this can be done with careful copying. If you require a larger area of texture, refer to your catalogue notes to recreate a larger rubbing or print covering the area required.
 5. Top tip: Cut all of your shapes out first before pasting with the glue, to ensure that pieces align, and you are satisfied with the design.



6. Share your completed collages with us on social media #shapeofthings