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# miffy & friends

Carla McRae



The artist Carla McRae in Dick Bruna's studio in the Centraal Museum, Utrecht

## 3D drawing activity

Created by exhibiting artist Carla McRae

**Drawing is a way to observe, appreciate and honour the things in our daily life. We are surrounded by shapes, lines and colours every day, and when we take the time to really look for them we learn to see and appreciate our world in a different way.**

There are lots of ways we can draw with a line. In this activity we will be drawing nature using 3D material. You will need some form of clay or dough; salt dough or polymer or oven bake clay for a permanent artwork, or plasticine and play dough for a temporary artwork. There is a recipe to make your own salt dough overleaf.

## About me

I'm an artist and illustrator, living and working in Melbourne. Ever since I was little, I've used drawing as a way to process and understand what I see and feel. I like to use bold shapes, bright colour and fine lines to translate my world into graphic and sometimes abstracted images.

## How I'm inspired by Bruna

Dick Bruna inspires me in the way he used simple graphic elements to tell stories and emotions with depth and clarity. He felt it was important to leave lots of room for the viewer to fill in the blanks with their imagination, and I think this makes his artwork very generous and powerful despite its minimalist style.



Carla MCRAE  
*Dick Bruna's shelf (detail) 2020*  
plywood, acrylic paint, synthetic polymer filler, polymer clay  
Courtesy the artist

**QUT Art Museum**

[www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au](http://www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au)  
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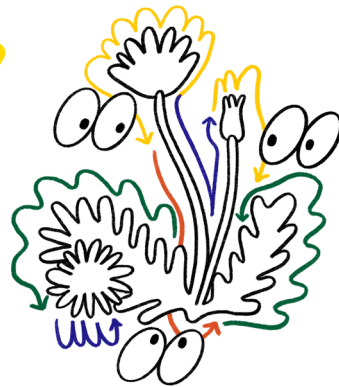
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# ACTIVITY

1. First, step outside and collect 5 pieces of nature. Leaves, branches, flowers, stones, blades of grass — anything that looks beautiful to you. If you're stuck inside, you can look at your house plants or look out the window!



2. Place your pieces of nature in front of you.



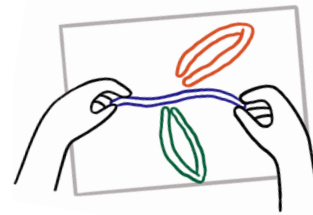
3. Take a deep breath, put your mind to rest and spend a moment looking at your subjects. Let your eyes trace their shapes and forms.

*What shape is the outline of your subject? Is it made up of lots of long lines, or lots of short lines? Are they curvy or straight? If you could draw it as simply as possible, what would that look like?*

4. Now, roll out your dough or clay into long skinny lines, like spaghetti (if you're hardening your clay in the oven, make sure you work on a lined baking tray!).



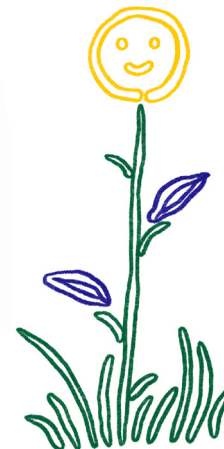
5. Use the long skinny rolls to draw out the shapes and lines of your subjects, creating a line drawing out of your clay or dough. You can focus on one element, or draw out a composition with multiple subjects.



6. See how many ways you can use the lines to portray your subject. What happens when you use thick or thin lines? Think about what kind of details are important to include, and what you can leave out.



7. Look back at your beautiful creation!



## Salt dough recipe



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all-purpose flour or gluten free flour
- ½ cup salt
- ½ cup cold water

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large mixing bowl stir together the flour and salt.
2. Gradually add the water to form a dough.
3. Form the dough into a ball and knead on a floured surface for approximately 5-10 minutes. Add more flour if the dough is sticky and more water if it is too dry.
4. Make your shapes and arrange on a baking sheet to prevent sticking to the tray.
5. Bake in a pre-heated oven on its lowest temperature for approximately 2-3 hours until dry and hard, times vary depending on size and thickness so keep an eye on them! Allow to cool completely before painting or decorating further.

**TIPS:** Put dough in the fridge for 5 minutes first to make it easier to work with. Add food colouring when kneading the dough to change the colour and wear gloves to protect your hands. Note salt dough is not edible and is toxic for dogs.