



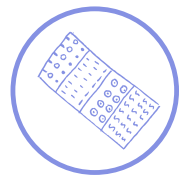
# Inspired by **FE McWilliam**

Foundation stage 1-2

KS1 3-4

KS2 5-7

**Lesson plans for Primary School  
by Artist, Deborah Malcomson**



# A4

210 x 297 mm  
8.3 x 11.7 inches

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## Introduction

The F.E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio celebrates the work of the sculptor, Frederick Edward McWilliam, who was born in Newry Street, Banbridge on 30 April 1909. A contemporary and friend of Henry Moore, McWilliam made his name in London and established a reputation as one of the most important sculptors of his generation.

The facility consists of a beautifully designed open exhibition space. A permanent collection of McWilliam Sculptures are always on view. The Studio is a replica of McWilliam's studio-workshop. Looking through the glass walls, the viewer can see the workshop just as F.E. McWilliam left it. The studio itself houses a large collection of maquettes which are preparatory works for sculpted bronzes. The works can be seen from the earliest stages of construction, from wire armature to sculpted plaster. Inspired by the work of FE McWilliam (1909-1992), this resource pack supports the development of creative skills for primary school children.

Follow these five stages to develop drawing skills, explore ideas through investigation of materials, learn techniques and process: (1) Line Drawing; (2) 3D Construction with Paper; (3) Wire Armature; (4) Malleable Materials; and (5) Clay Imprinting.



Line drawing



3D construction with paper



Wire armature



Malleable materials / clay



Clay imprinting

## About F.E. McWilliam

Born on 30th April 1909

McWilliam died in London, on 13 May 1992

Son of a local Doctor

Attended Banbridge Academy

Studied at Belfast College of Art between 1926 and 1928

Studied at Slade School of Art, London

He planned to be a painter but under the influence of A.H. Gerrard he left committed to sculpture

During World War II he served in India between 1944 – 1946

On his return to England he taught sculpture at the Slade School of Art until 1968

In 1950 he and his wife Beth moved to Holland Park, London, where they entertained many artistic friends including Henry Moore and William Scott.

1950s and 1960s he worked on public commissions

On 4 March 1972 a bomb exploded at the Abercorn Tea-Rooms in Belfast. Two women were killed, two more lost both legs. McWilliam, who had never before used his sculpture for direct comment, was moved by this tragedy to create a series of small bronzes known collectively as Women of Belfast.

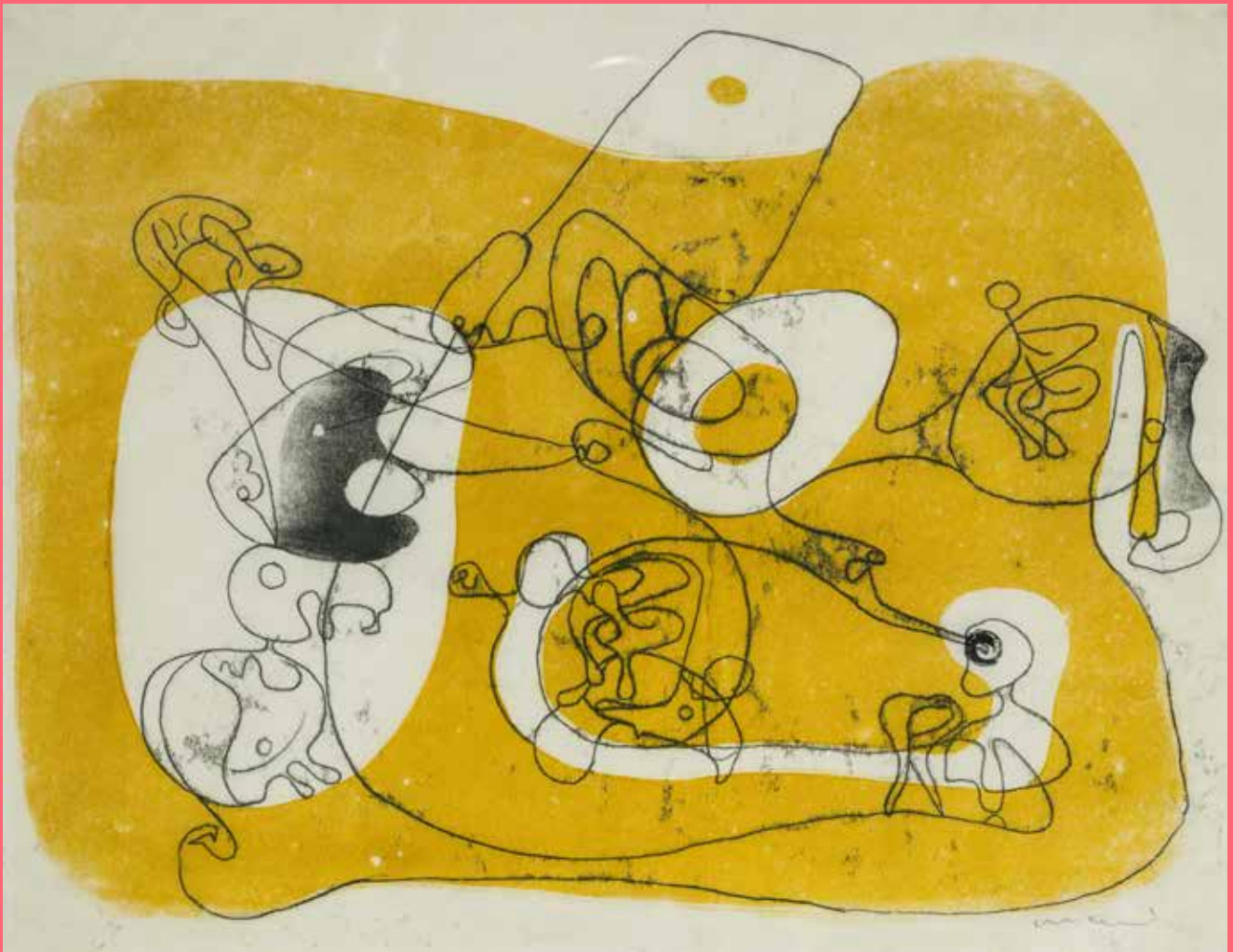
FE McWilliam sketch book

Examples of how FE McWilliam sketched his subjects before moving into 3D.



## Stage 1: Line Drawing

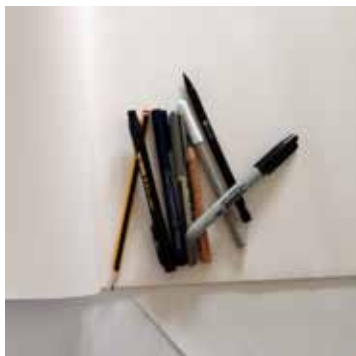
7



F.E McWilliam, Study of Sculpture, 1934. Monotype drawing.

## Sources

- FE McWilliam sketchbook image (see previous page)



## Materials & Tools

- Timer
- Lots of paper of any size
- Drawing tools: Pen, pencils, markers, crayons

**Have all your materials ready to start your exercises**

## Start with Doodling

Doodling is a great technique to develop external thought, aids concentration, focus, creative thinking and storytelling.

### Warm up exercise

Get the class to look at the FE McWilliam sketchbook image on the previous page. Get them thinking what the image is or what is happening in the picture, there is no right answer. You can give a few suggestions to help get creative juices going such as space or under the sea.

8

### 1 Continuous line

Get the timer set for 15 sec and doodle a continuous line all over the page.



### 2 Drawing with eyes closed

Get the timer set for 15 sec and draw with their eyes closed.



### 3 Fast, happy, slow and sad lines

Get the timer set for 15 sec and draw a fast line or happy line, then another 10 seconds to draw a slow line or a sad line.







# Lesson Plan

## Sources

- FE McWilliam sketchbook image (see page 7)



## Materials & Tools

- Paper of any size
- Drawing tools: Pen, pencils, markers or crayons

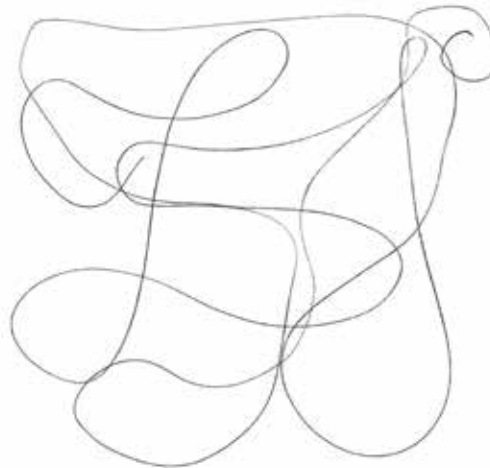
Have all your materials ready to start your exercises

## Create colourful patterns inside a doodle

Why not try creating your own doodle and colour or create an image from it.

Copies can be made from appendix 1.

### 1 Draw a pencil doodle outline



### 2 Create colourful patterns inside the doodle lines

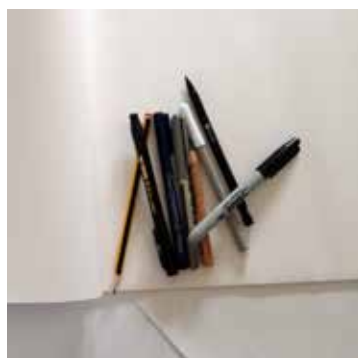




# Lesson Plan

## Sources

- FE McWilliam sketchbook image (see page 7)



## Materials & Tools

- Timer
- Lots of paper of all sizes
- Drawing tools: Pen, pencils, markers, crayons, or eraser

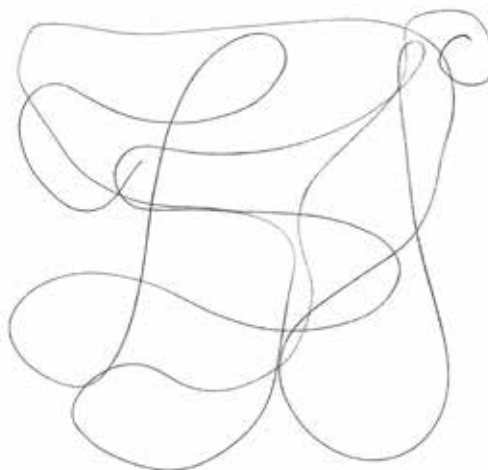
Have all your materials ready to start your exercises

## Create an image inside the doodle

Why not try creating your own doodle and passing it to a classmate for them to find an image inside the lines.

Copies can be made from appendix 1.

### 1 Draw a pencil doodle outline



### 2 Use a maker to outline images like fish. Create patterns in the other space.



Why not try find one image and remove unwanted lines to make your picture.



# Lesson Plan

## Sources

- FE McWilliam sketchbook image (see page 7)



## Materials & Tools

- Paper of any size
- Drawing tools: Pen, pencils, markers

Have all your materials ready to start your exercises

## Different types of line

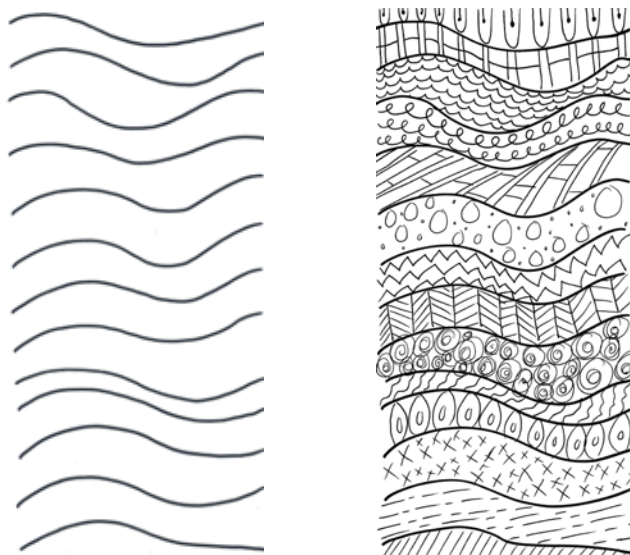
Create lots of doodles that fills all the space on the page, try using different types of lines.

Why not try different shapes, sizes and colour of paper?

### 1 Draw lines



### 2 Draw out an area to fill with different types of doodles to make a design



## Note

Try to create your own storyboard

## Stage 2: 3D Construction with Paper

12



Sitting up figure — FE McWilliam, 1962

### Getting started

13

Paper sculpture is a great way to make simple abstract forms 3D. Paper sculpture techniques include fringe, folding, chains, spirals, curling feather, spring, cones, cylinders and cutting or tearing shape edges.





### Materials & Tools

- Scissors
- Paper
- Pencil for drawing
- Glue or tape

Have all your materials ready to start your abstract figurative form

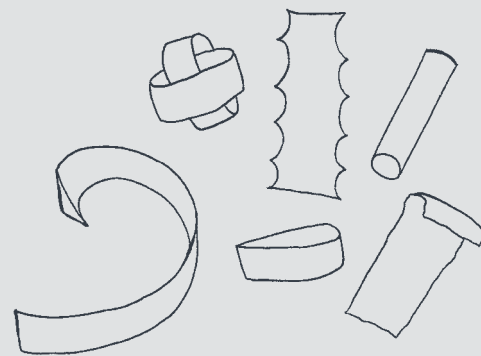


### Warm up exercise

Try to create as many different paper techniques as possible for one piece of paper.

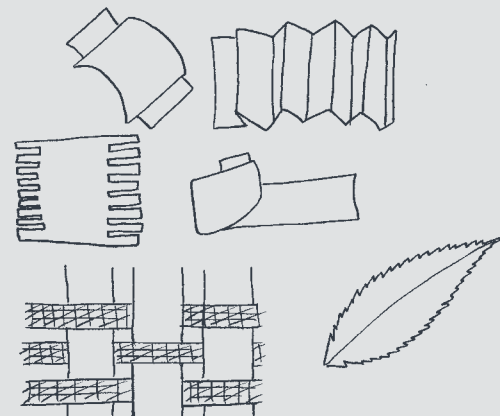
#### Foundation stage 1-2

Easy techniques: Roll/cylinder, tearing, wavy, petal, chain, loop.



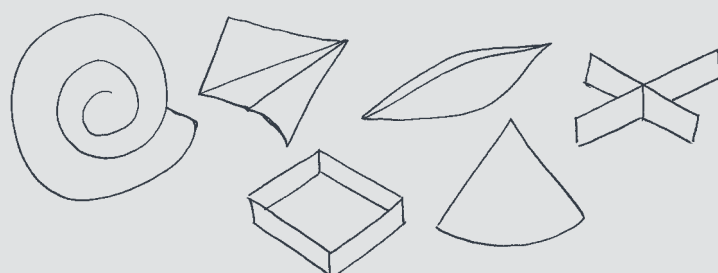
#### KS1 3-4

Medium techniques: Tabs, folding/pleating, fringe, curl, weaving.



#### KS2 5-7

Hard techniques: Spiral, folds, slots, score, cone, and shapes.





# Lesson Plan

## Source

- Sitting up figure – see page 12



## Materials & Tools

- Scissors
- A4 paper or light card
- Glue or tape

Have all your materials ready to start



Example paper techniques

## Make your paper sculpture

Use the image 'Sitting up figure' to inspire your paper sculpture.

- Cut out strips of paper.
- Fold, bend, tear and cut the strips to create shapes to make your abstract figure.
- Tape your figure to another sheet of card/ paper.

**Tip:** Start with the main body first then add the legs, arms and head.





# Lesson Plan

## Source

- Sitting up figure – see page 12



## Materials & Tools

- Scissors
- Pencil for drawing
- A4 paper or light card
- Glue or tape

Have all your materials ready to start



Example paper techniques

## Make your paper sculpture

Sketch out the shapes you can see in the figure 'Sitting up figure' to inspire your paper sculpture.

- Cut the paper into strips/sections.
- Use your drawing as a guide to create the main shape. Add more shapes to complete your own abstract figure.
- Tape the paper to another sheet of card/paper.

**Tip:** Start with the main body first then add the legs, arms and head.







# Lesson Plan

## Source

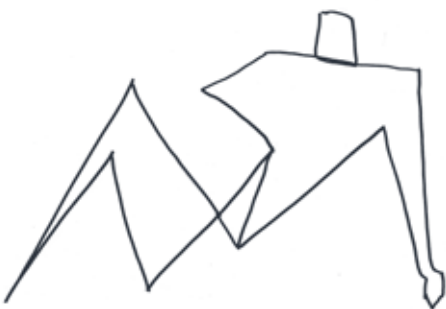
- Sitting up figure – see page 12



## Materials & Tools

- Scissors
- Pencil for drawing
- A4 paper or light card
- Glue or tape

**Have all your materials ready to start**



Example paper techniques

## Make your paper sculpture

Sketch out the shapes you can see in 'Sitting up figure'.

- Cut the paper into strips/sections.
- Use your drawing as a guide to create the main shape. Add more shapes to complete your own abstract figure.
- Tape the paper to another sheet of card/ paper.

**Tip:** Start with the main body first then add the legs, arms and head.

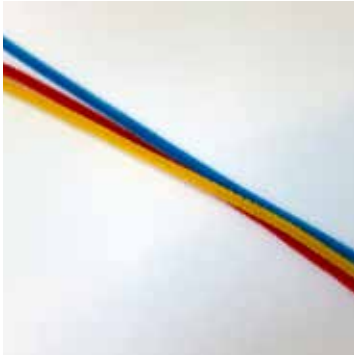


## Stage 3: Wire Figure

18



Banner Series — FE McWilliam, 1975



### Techniques for Armature

Pipe cleaners are great way to create simple wire armature. They are easy to bend and twist into shape. You can make them longer by twisting together or cut them smaller.

### Materials & Tools

- 12" pipe cleaners x 3 (any colour)

#### 1 Head and body

Take one pipe cleaner and create a loop for the head at the top.



Bend the pipe cleaner up to the top loop (head) and twist together



Side view



Squeeze together to close the body loop.

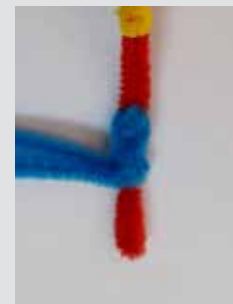
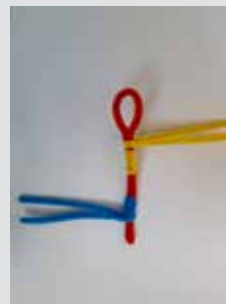


## 2 Arms and legs

Fold the other two pipe cleaners in half.



Twist these pipe cleaners onto the body (red pipe cleaner).



Yellow arms above midpoint twist up to the head. Blue legs below midpoint twist down to near the bottom.



Fold the red pipe cleaner upwards. Create the shoulders and hips by bending the pipe cleaner like this.



Bend the pipe cleaners to make hands and feet. The pipe cleaner figure will stand if you tape him to a piece of card. It may need a bit of bending to get it balanced.

**Why not try creating your own pipe cleaner figure with a different pose.**



# Lesson Plan

## Source

— Banner Series – see page 18



## Materials & Tools

3 Piper cleaners (12")

Foundation 1-2

Dry macaroni pasta or straw pieces

KS1 3-4

Tin foil

KS2 5-7

Tin foil and masking tape

**Use the Banner Series to inspire your own wire figure**

## 1 Make an armature

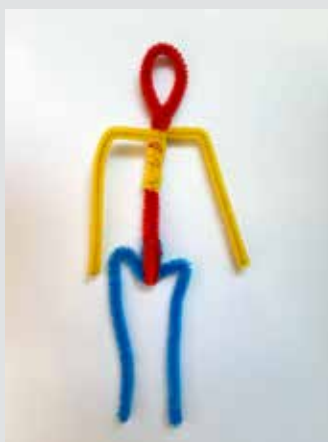
Start with the body.



Next, it's the arms and legs.



Complete the armature.





# Lesson Plan

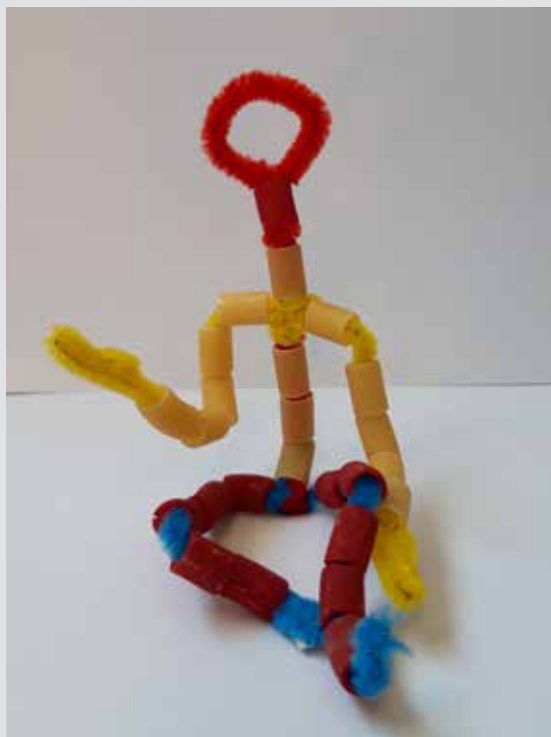
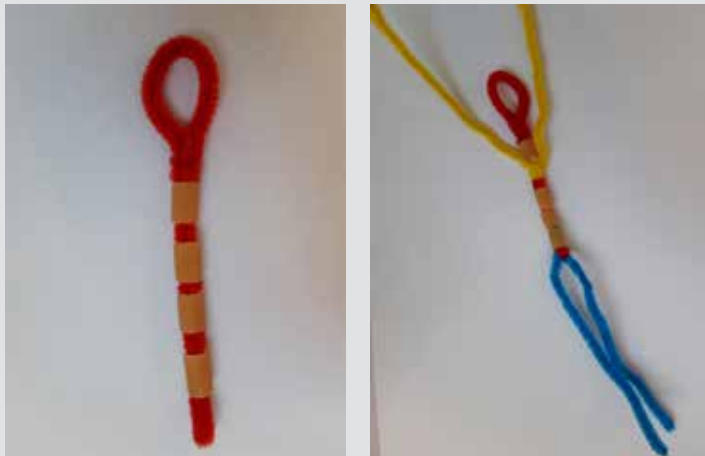
## Source

- Banner Series – see page 18

## 2 Finish your figure

To finish your figure you could use pasta or a straw cut up into pieces.

Add pasta to body part first then to the arms and legs. Allow room to fold the end to make hands and feet. The pasta figures best position is sitting.





# Lesson Plan

## Source

- Banner Series – see page 18

### 2 Finish your figure

To finish your figure, you can add tin foil piece to the body, as much as you want to create depth.

Stick the feet to a piece of card and pose into whatever shape you want.





# Lesson Plan

## Source

- Banner Series – see page 18

### 2 Finish your figure

To finish your figure, you can add masking tape all over the body to keep the foil in place and add more shape to the figure.



Why not try designing your own banner from card for your figure.



## Stage 4: Malleable Material Clay Heads

25



F.E. McWilliam Self Portrait, 1985



### Source

- F.E. McWilliam  
Self Portrait, 1985 –  
see page 25



### Materials & Tools

- Pencil and paper for sketching
- Clay or alternative
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Slip – Clay glue (water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric – to work on
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use

### Techniques for malleable materials

Air drying clay is great malleable material for creating sculptures and you don't need a kiln. If you don't have clay, you can use these techniques with salt dough. Recipe for salt dough in appendix.

### Warm up exercise

Clay techniques include roll donuts, folds, spiral braids, double spiral and simple shapes such as rainbows, hearts and flowers.



Foundation 1-2

Easy techniques roll, donuts, and shape rainbow

KS1 3-4

Medium techniques folds, spiral and shape heart

KS2 5-7

Hard techniques double spiral, braids, and shape flower



### Source

- F.E. McWilliam  
Self Portrait, 1985 –  
see page 25



### Materials & Tools

- Pencil and paper for sketching
- Clay or alternative
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Slip – Clay glue (water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric – to work on
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use

### Why not try these techniques to make a clay face

Roll out clay and cut out an oval shape for the face.

Use the techniques above to make the features of the face. Add slip and use it like glue to join the clay pieces together.

Allow to dry before painting – clay goes light grey when dry.





**Source**

- F.E. McWilliam  
Self Portrait, 1985 –  
see page 25



**Materials & Tools**

- Pencil and paper for sketching
- Clay or alternative
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Slip – Clay glue (water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric – to work on
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use

**Why not try these techniques to make a clay face**

Sketch the face using line drawing techniques

Roll out clay and cut out an oval shape for the face

Use the techniques above to make the features of the face. Add slip and use it like glue to join the clay pieces together.

Allow the clay to dry before painting- clay goes light grey when dry.





**Source**

- F.E. McWilliam  
Self Portrait, 1985 –  
see page 25



**Materials & Tools**

- Pencil and paper for sketching
- Clay or alternative
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Slip – Clay glue (water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric – to work on
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use

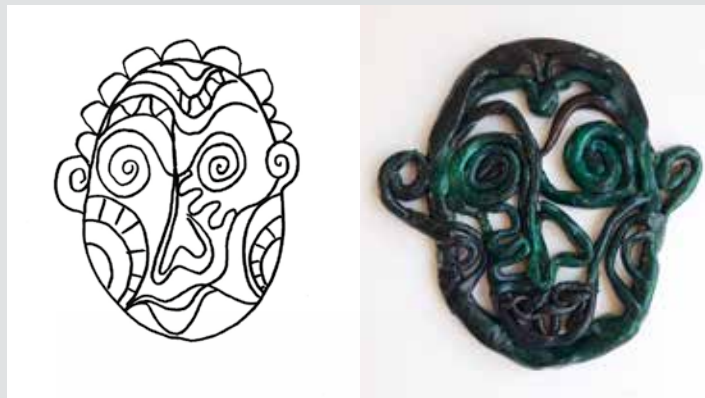
**Why not try these techniques to make a clay face**

Sketch the face using line drawing techniques.

Roll out long length of clay to create the outer shape of the face.

Use the techniques above to make the features of the face. Add slip and use it like glue to join the clay pieces together.

Allow to dry before painting – clay goes light grey when dry.





# Lesson Plan

30

## Source

- F.E. McWilliam  
Self Portrait, 1985 –  
see page 25



## Materials & Tools

- Clay or alternative
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Masking tape
- Lolly pop stick
- Tin foil
- Slip – Clay glue  
(water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric –  
to work on
- Damp cloth to cover  
clay when not in use
- Acrylic paint and  
brushes

### 1 Paper ball

Scrunch paper into an oval ball head shape and a small cylinder shape for the nose.



### 2 Add the lolly pop stick

Tape the lolly pop stick to the back of the head. Make sure its securely fixed.





# Lesson Plan

31

## Source

— F.E. McWilliam  
Self Portrait, 1985 –  
see page 25

## Tips

Keep clay in airtight container  
or covered with a damp cloth

### 3 Add nose using tape

Tape the nose on to your paper head.



### 4 Wrap it in tin foil

Get a piece of tin foil and wrap it around  
the paper head.

Tin foil makes it easy to mould the head into shape.





# Lesson Plan

32

## Tips

Use your fingers and thumbs as these are the best tools to use to create eye sockets and shape the nose.

You can use PVA glue to reattach clay

## 5 Paper ball

Cover the tin foil head with the clay.



## 6 Add the lolly pop stick

Use the clay to add features of the face. Don't forget to use the slip to stick the pieces on.



## Note

When the clay dries it shrinks and cracks may appear, add some more clay with a diluted PVA glue to the area. To reduce this from happening don't spread the clay to thin keep it all the same thickness approx.  $\frac{1}{4}$  thick.





# Lesson Plan

33

7

## Paper ball

Push the lolly pop stick into another lump of clay to allow it to stand up.



8

## Leave the clay to dry

Allow the clay head to dry before painting.



# Lesson Plan

## Tips

When painting clay can become weak as it soaks up the water from the paint.

Don't use too much water when painting your clay.

9

## Painting your Clay Head

Foundation 1-2

Example of how this head could look.





# Lesson Plan

## Tips

When painting clay can become weak as it soaks up the water from the paint.

Don't use too much water when painting your clay.

9

## Painting your Clay Head

KS1 3-4

Example of how this head could look.





# Lesson Plan

## Tips

When painting clay can become weak as it soaks up the water from the paint.

Don't use too much water when painting your clay.

9

## Painting your Clay Head

KS2 5-7

Example of how this head could look.



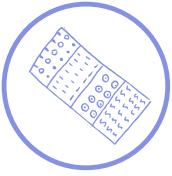
## Stage 5: Clay imprinting / Relief printing

37



Chocolate Soldier — FE McWilliam, 1977

## Stage 5: Clay imprinting techniques



### Source

- **Chocolate Soldier** – see page 37



### Materials & Tools

- Clay or alternative
- Rolling pin
- Objects for printing with pen lids, pasta
- Piece of fabric to work on or board
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use
- Acrylic paint and brushes

### Tip

Keep clay covered with damp cloth to prevent the clay drying out. Roll out a piece of clay and cut into a rectangle shape/ slab.

Press the objects into the clay to see what imprints you can make.

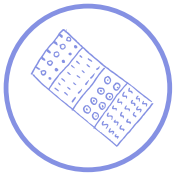
### Techniques for clay imprinting

Air drying clay is great to make imprints from and you don't need a kiln. If you don't have clay you can use these techniques with salt dough. Recipe for salt dough in appendix.

Types of printing objects to try: Pencil, pen lid and pasta.



Why not try creating a tile image with your printing objects. Paint your tile when dry.



# Lesson Plan

## Source

- Chocolate Soldier – see page 37



## Materials & Tools

- Clay or alternative
- Pencil
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Objects for printing with pen lids, pasta
- Plastic knife
- Slip – Clay glue (water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric-to work on or board
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use
- Acrylic paint and brushes

### 1 Roll the clay

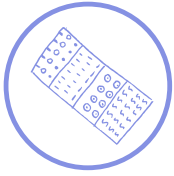
Roll out the clay 1 cm thick.



### 2 Make a hand shape

Draw around your closed hand with a pencil.





# Lesson Plan

## 3 Cut out the shape

Cut the hand shape out with a plastic knife.

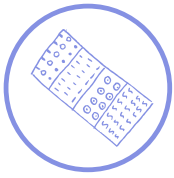


## 4 Decorate the hand

Decorate the hand by printing a pattern into the clay.







# Lesson Plan

## 5 Allow the clay to dry

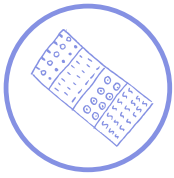
Dry your hand in a dessert bowl or plate.



## 6 Paint when dry

Remove from bowl when dry.  
When it's a light grey you can paint it.





# Lesson Plan

## Source

- Chocolate Soldier



## Materials & Tools

- Clay or alterative
- Pencil
- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Objects for printing with pen lids, pasta
- Plastic knife
- Slip – Clay glue (water and clay mixed)
- Old paint brush for slip
- Piece of fabric-to work on or board
- Damp cloth to cover clay when not in use
- Acrylic paint and brushes

### 1 Roll the clay

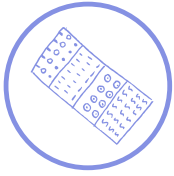
Roll out the clay 1 cm thick.



### 2 Make a hand shape

Slightly open your hand draw down around your fingers. Cut out the hand shape out with the knife.





# Lesson Plan

## 3 Create your design

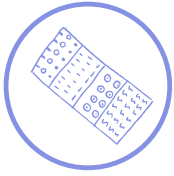
Design your hand with printing objects.



## 4 Allow the clay to dry

Dry your hand in an egg box carton or something similar.



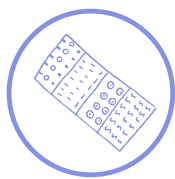


# Lesson Plan

## 5 Paint the hand

Remove from egg carton when dry. When it's a light grey you can paint it.





# Lesson Plan

## 1 Roll the clay

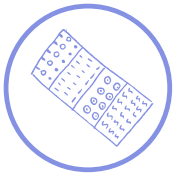
Roll out the clay 1 cm thick.



## 2 Draw around your hand

Open your hand draw around your whole hand.  
Cut the hand shape out with the knife.





# Lesson Plan

## 3 Design your hand

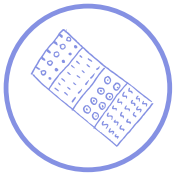
Design your hand with printing objects.



## 4 Pose your hand and allow it to dry

Pose your hand in a position you want it to dry use any container that suits your pose. Paper can also be used to help support your hand until it dries.





# Lesson Plan

## 5 Remove when clay is dry

Remove the hand from the container when the clay is dry.



## 6 Paint your clay hand

When it's a light grey you can paint it.



### More ideas

Why not try other objects like egg boxes, chocolate boxes and plastic trays



### More ideas

Use the chocolate soldier as inspiration to create your art work

## Experiment more

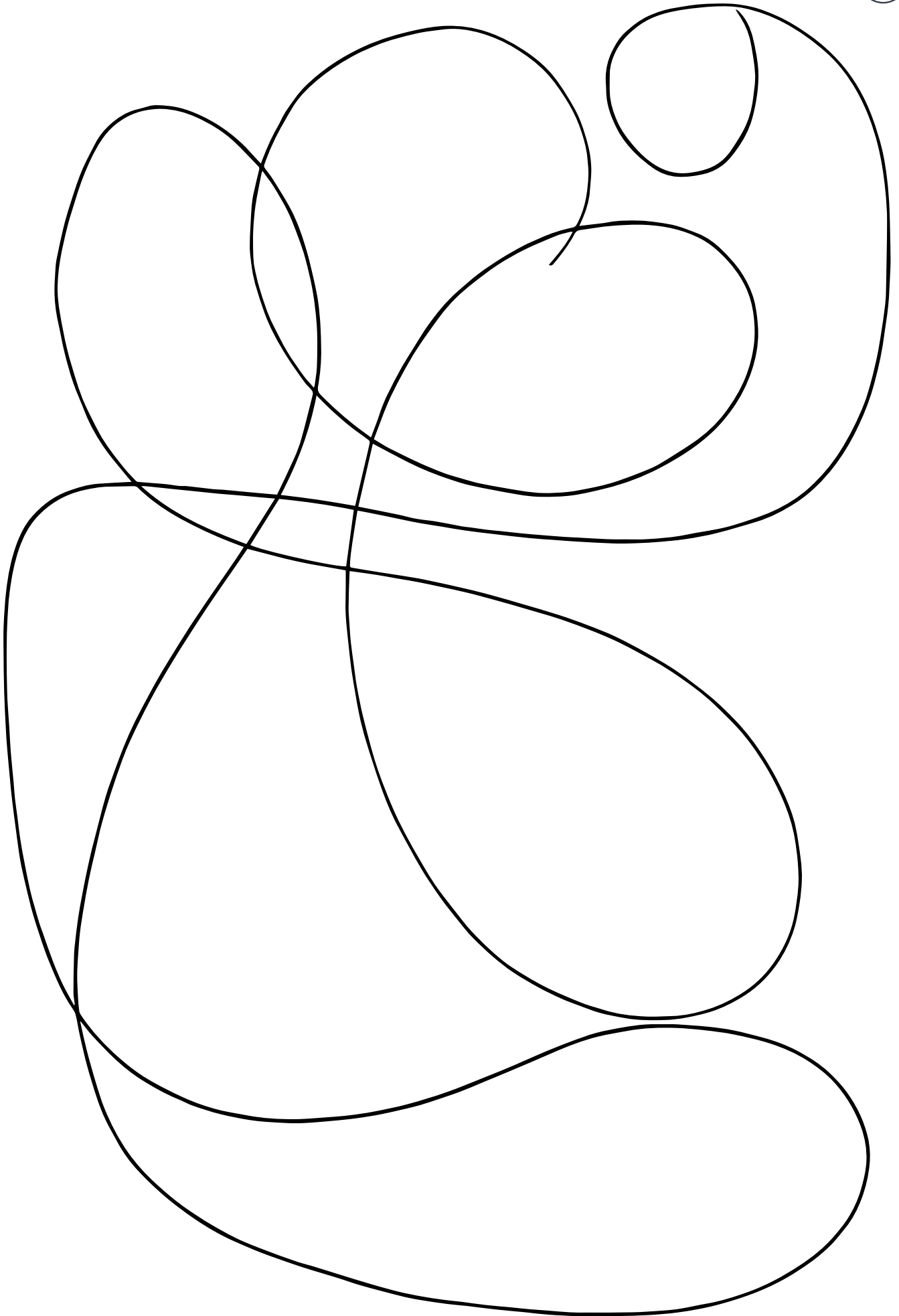
Why not try creating more sculptures from found or recyclable objects, like this FE McWilliam sculpture.

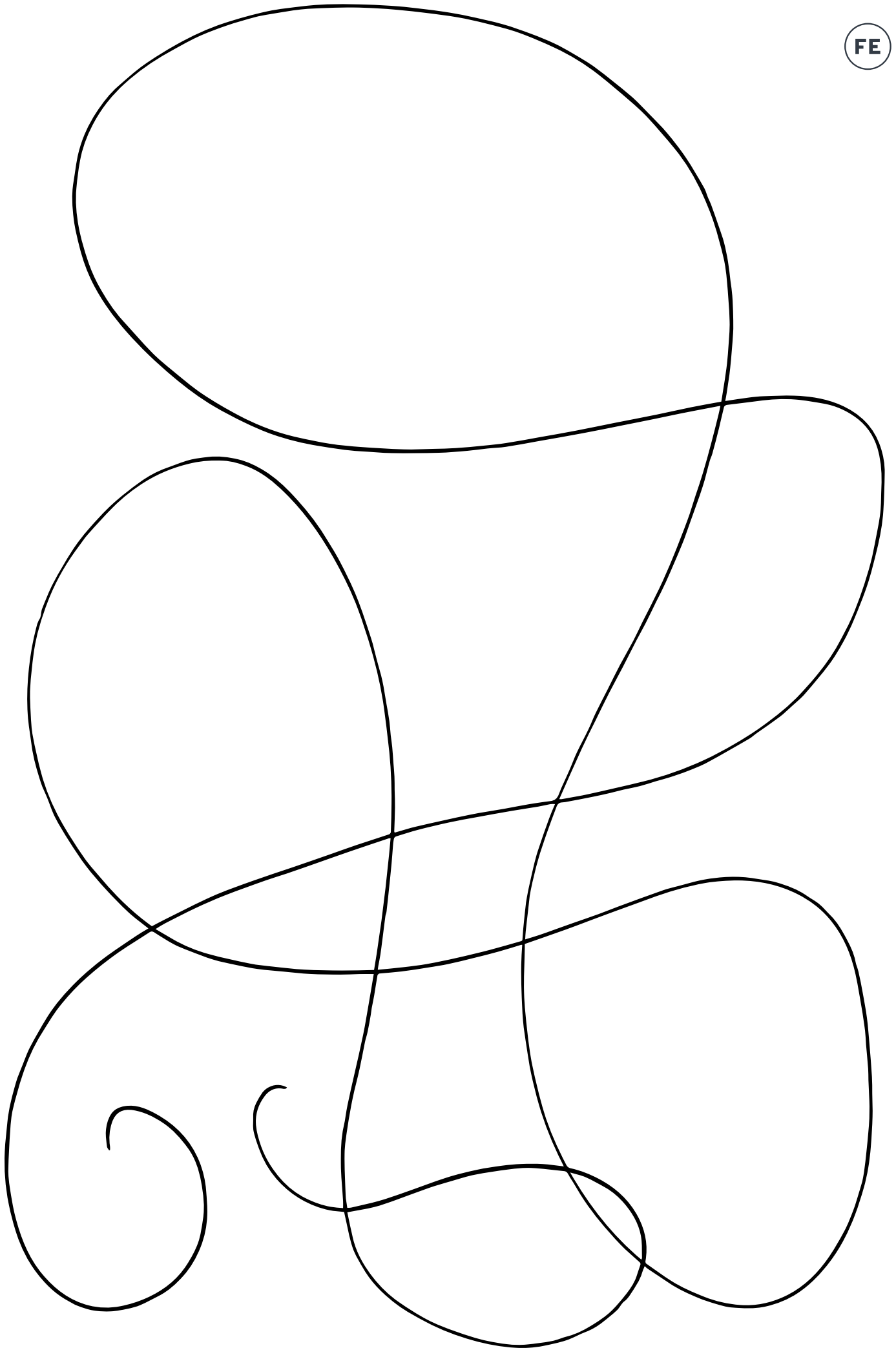
48

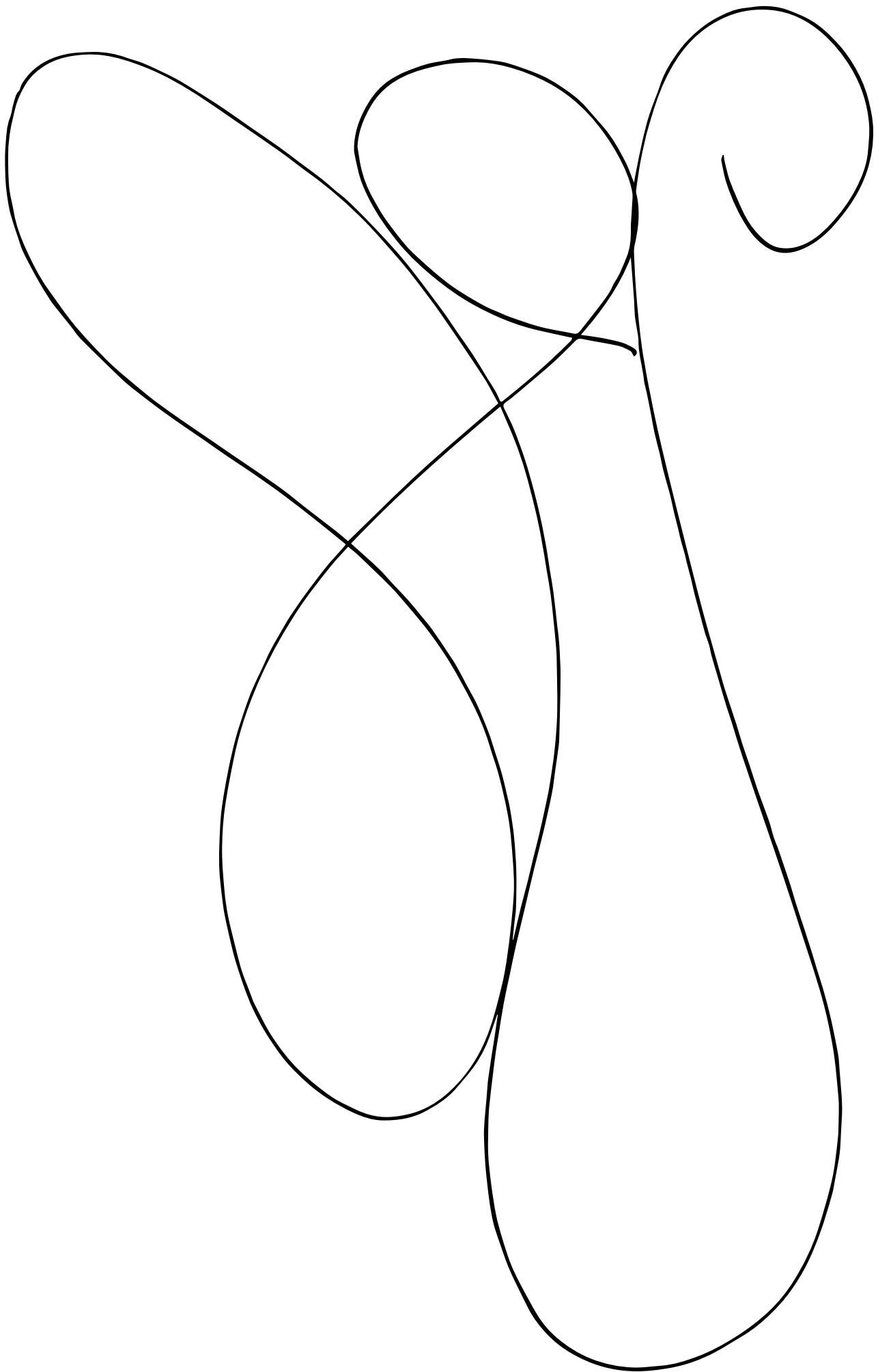




# Appendix







## Salt Dough Playdough Recipe

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### You will need:

2 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
1 cup water  
Food colouring (optional)

### Method:

1. Mix together the flour and salt in a large mixing bowl.
2. If desired, add 5-10 drops of food colouring to 1 cup of water.
3. Stir the water into the flour and salt in the large bowl.
4. Roll out the dough on a flat surface and knead it together. It should be soft and pliable.

