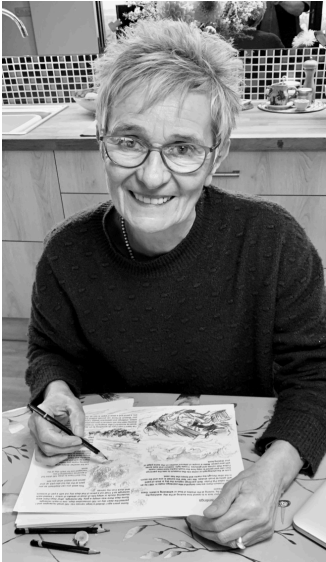


Museum at Home - Drawing

In conversation with curious things

A creative project for wellbeing and pleasure



Hello and welcome to our ten week drawing and writing project. My name is Christine Allison. I am an artist with a passion for drawing. My aim is to inspire you to enjoy drawing and poet Sarah Acton aims to inspire you to enjoy writing.

2021 is the centenary of our own unique Lyme Regis museum by the sea. The museum is bursting with curious artefacts and creatures. We would like to help you draw and write from these curiosities and then encourage you to look around your home and draw and write from your own 'Museum at Home'.

You might be thinking, 'but I can't draw very well, I haven't drawn since I was a child.' Well I believe everyone can draw.

Drawing isn't just about making a masterpiece; it is about finding pleasure in the quiet act of looking. Then making marks on paper about the thing you are looking at or from your memory or imagination.

You could say drawing is a bit like knitting; some people can knit fancy patterns, whilst others knit humble squares but those simple squares are just as creative and satisfying to make and just as beautiful as all the fancy stuff. So too with drawing, it is the making of the drawing that holds the magic. It is an absorbing, challenging and pleasurable thing to do.

To draw can make you feel calm, thoughtful, quiet and pleased with yourself. You can pick up your pencil like you would your knitting and before you know it hours have passed absorbed in creativity. (By the way, some of the best knitters and artists are men so this isn't just for the ladies!) There are as many styles of drawing as there are hot dinners. Your handwriting is individual to you and so are your drawings. Don't fret that you can't draw like Leonardo da Vinci, very few can! Just be proud of the marks you make, they are yours. Let's get drawing!

Here are some simple explanations of drawing terms.

BLEND To merge marks together smoothly.

BUILD Creating a line from a series of small marks rather than by using one continuous line. This can help when you are gradually working out the shape of an object.

CONTRAST The use of light and dark tones or colours next to each other so that each will appear emphasised.

COMPOSITION This refers to how you arrange your drawings on the paper.

GRAPHITE PENCILS These are the most common types of pencil, and are usually encased in wood. Their darkness varies from light grey (hard) to black (soft). Pencils are given grades, hard pencils are graded F to HB. Soft pencils are graded using B and a number. 2B pencils are good general drawing pencils.

HATCHING Groups of small parallel marks, which produce the effect of tone or density in a drawing. Cross-hatching is when these parallel lines are crossed with more parallel lines in a criss-cross pattern.

SHADING Close pencil marks, which blend together to create lighter and darker tones, especially useful when trying to make an object look round.

STONE The degree of light or dark on the grey scale (from white to black).

Christine Allison trained at St. Martin's School of Art, London, The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture USA and Exeter University. She was Head of Art at Colyton Grammar School until 2001 and was co-leader of Lyme Regis ArtsFest for 11 years. Christine has worked with the Jurassic Coast team and The Fossil Festival on various 'Blue Lias Clay' drawing projects and with Lyme Regis Museum. In 2017 she was commissioned by the Guild of Master Craftsmen to write a book called 'Drawing'. In 2019 Christine was appointed Artist in Residence at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery for the 'Leonardo da Vinci: A life in drawing' exhibition. Christine is an experienced tutor, artist/author and painter. Her oil paintings hang in palaces and corporate buildings in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Bahrain. See Christine's work at www.christineallison.com

