



HLF Rebuilding Bodies and Souls

‘Molly’s Medical Drawings activity

Suitable for: 7-11 years

Time needed for set up and activity: 5-10 minutes: have equipment out and ready. Activity lasts approx. 45 minutes: suitable for whole class. 1 adult need for whole activity.

Context needed for the activity:

- Understanding of complex surgeries performed by McIndoe at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead during (and after) World War Two.
- Work completed by Molly Lentaigne (VAD nurse)

Activity Objectives:

- To explore a variety of experimental, creative and practical drawing techniques, learning about line, form, shading.
- To begin to understand and name parts of the human anatomy
- To produce some creative outcomes exploring self-portraiture and the human body

Materials and equipment:

Paper

Pens

Pencils

Mirrors

Tissue paper

Glue

National Curriculum Links

Art: to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials

History: gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

How to

Begin the session by talking about the work of McIndoe and how VAD nurse Molly Letaigne produced sketches of the surgical procedures. Pass round reproduction sketches of Molly Letaigne's work and discuss with the students why the drawings were important records.

Possible activities:

1. Students begin by ripping up tissue paper and sticking across some of their papers. Students can decide for which activity they will use plain or tissue papered pages.
2. Lay out the replica skulls.
3. Draw the skulls using one continuous line, without removing the pencil or pen from the paper.
4. Draw the skull from different angle and draw over the top of each other, rotating the paper.
5. Draw the skull using the hand you wouldn't normally use to draw with.
6. Use a black felt tip and choose a shape from the skull. Repeat this on your piece of paper as a pattern.
7. Draw the negative space of the skull rather than the skull itself.
8. Use a viewfinder to draw part of the skull
9. Give the students 15 minutes to complete a sustained drawing of the skull.
10. Use charcoal to draw your hands from different angles, rotating the paper.
11. Use mirror to complete a two minute self-portrait
12. Use mirror to complete a continuous line drawing self-portrait
13. Use mirror to complete a sustained self-portrait. What do you see?