

arts award

Explore
with the National
Justice Museum



Name

Your task is to take part in two arts activities, using the creative videos which can be downloaded and watched online.

Clay Hands

Your first activity is to create textured clay hands. The only special resource you will need is clay, which you can make.

[Ruth Singer's Criminal Quilts website](#) tells you more about her original project to produce the hands. [There's also a video you can watch](#) giving details of the petty criminals who inspired her work.

Equipment You Will Need

Clay A recipe can be found on the 'Make Your Own Clay' sheet which is on page 2, or you may have an arty family with a bag of clay stashed away in a cupboard that can be used.

Smooth cloth mats An old pillowcase or a J cloth will do the job.

Rolling pin This would preferably be wooden. a piece of dowel or a tough cardboard tube will work just as well if you don't have a rolling pin.

Knife A small kitchen knife used for eating your dinner with will work just fine.

Hand templates You can draw around your own hand or if you prefer you can print off and use the templates on the attached 'Hand Templates' sheet.

Scissors You will need these for cutting out the paper hand templates.

Selection of textured objects You will need buttons, lace, textured fabric scraps, broken zips, felt tip lids, lego bricks etc. The list is endless here and as long as you don't mind the object getting clay on it then you can use whatever you want to be imaginative as possible!

Damp cloth or sponge

Pencil

Straw

Baking tray

Baking parchment Please don't use greaseproof paper, as it may stick to the surface.

Ready? Let's Get Hands On

Follow the steps below alongside the artist Clare Taylor in the videos provided on our website.

Step One – Make Your Own Clay

[If you already have some at home you can skip this step]

This recipe is for salt dough. It is likely that you will have all of the ingredients in your kitchen cupboards already. It will be good to prepare your ingredients before you start.

Makes 1 ball

Prep time 10 minutes

Cook 3 hours

1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g)

half a cupful of table salt (about 125g)

half a cupful of water (about 125ml)

Method

1. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Slowly add the water and stir until it comes together into a ball.
2. Transfer the dough to your work surface or store in a plastic bag/container until you need to use it.

Step Two – Make Your Clay Hands

Find a suitable workspace with a flat surface and preferably in a room that has a wipeable floor such as wood or vinyl so that you can easily wipe up any dust afterwards. Gather your clay and equipment together.

Step Three

Place the cloth mat on your work surface taking care to make sure that the mat is as smooth and flat as possible.

Step Four

Take the clay out of the bag or container and place on the mat. ALWAYS use the clay on the fabric mat otherwise your creation will stick to your work surface.

Step Five

Cut a quarter of the clay off and roll out to 1cm thickness which is about the thickness of your thumb. There is no need to get a ruler out. If you roll it thicker it will take longer to dry. If you roll it any thinner, it has a greater chance of breaking and will need to be handled more carefully. Place any clay that you are not using back in the bag or container to stop it from drying out.

Step Six

Make sure that the mat is flat. Take the rest of the clay out, place it on the mat and roll to a thickness of 1cm. Use one of the templates at the end of this logbook, place the template on the clay cutting any excess clay off from the edge. Put to one side..

Step Seven

Using your selection of items, experiment with impressing textures onto the clay. Vary how much pressure you use as some items will look better with deep impressions and others may make holes in the clay, although this could be part of your design! Make a note of which ones you like and which ones you don't like as you will be using your favourite ones on your clay hand.

Step Eight

If you wish, you can place your previous experiments in one corner of the mat for inspiration. Next either place your hand on the clay you put on one side and draw around the template with a pencil, or use a blunt knife to trace an outline around the hand template. an outline around the template. Please ensure an adult is with you if you are using a knife.

Step Nine

Decorate the inside of the hand outline with your favourite textures. The hand shape may distort during this process, but you will be able to sort this out during the cutting stage. If you make any marks that you don't like, you can usually smooth them out using a damp cloth or sponge.

Step Ten

Once the clay hand is decorated you will be ready to cut around the hand outline that you drew in step eight. It is best to cut away larger sections of excess clay first before cutting out in between the fingers. Once the clay hand is cut out, let it dry for about 20 minutes. Then you can smooth the edges of the clay hand with a damp cloth, damp sponge, or even your fingers. Then make a small hole in the clay hand with the pencil, or a straw if you want to hang up it up once dry.

Step Eleven

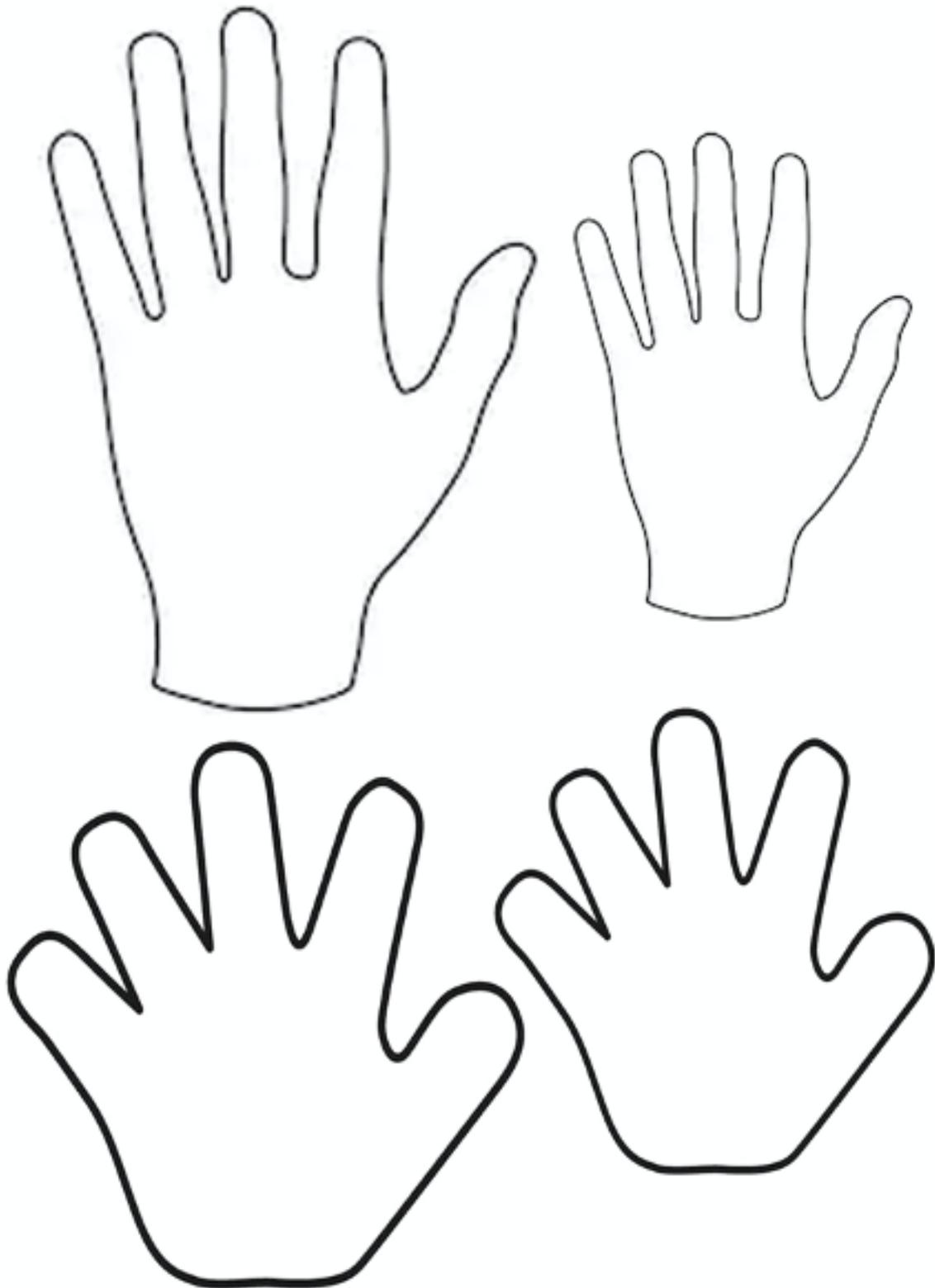
With an adult's supervision, switch on the oven to its lowest setting. Line the baking tray with a sheet of baking parchment. Transfer the finished clay hand to the baking tray and bake for three hours or until solid.

Step Twelve

Allow the clay hand to cool before removing from the tray. Once cool you can decorate with paint, or rub on shoe polish which highlights the textures and creates a stunning effect.

Safety Precautions

- Concentrate and take care when using scissors and the blunt edge knife.
- Ask an adult to supervise you when you switch the oven on or ask them to do this stage for you.
- Any clay dust should be wiped up as soon as possible with a damp cloth.
- Don't eat the clay, it will taste revolting and is not part of a human's diet!
- Wash your hands once you have finished using the clay, paints or shoe polish.



Now you can move on to your second activity!

Hexagon Accordion Book

This activity is inspired the hexagon shapes and the colours or textures found on the antique fabrics used by Ruth Singer.

We are going to create an accordion book made from hexagon shaped papers. All the resources for this activity are items typically found at home.

Equipment Needed

Hexagon templates You can draw your own hexagon or if you prefer you can print off and use the templates on the attached 'Templates for Hexagon Accordion Book' sheet.

Scissors These are for cutting out the paper.

Selection of papers Use magazines, leaflets, old envelopes, old books, stained or decorated papers. The list is endless here and you can be as imaginative as possible!

Thin card Cereal or food packaging card is perfect.

Pencil or pen

Pritt Stick glue

Tea, coffee or ink For staining paper.

Teaspoon

Salt

Bread bag or cling film For staining paper.

Emulsion or acrylic

Sponge or old cloth

Scrap paper or newspaper To protect your work surface.

Follow the following steps alongside the artist Clare Taylor in the videos provided on our website.

Step One

Find a suitable workspace with a flat surface. Gather your equipment together.

Step Two

Collect papers from around the house. You can recycle old leaflets, magazines, envelopes, old books or even use decorative paper if you have access to some.

Step Three

This step is optional. You can decorate or stain plain papers using tea, coffee or ink, acrylic or emulsion paint. Make sure that your tea and coffee has cooled down before you use it.

Place a teaspoon full of tea, coffee or ink onto some plain paper, spread it around using the back of the teaspoon before placing a bread bag or cling film on top. Then, scrunch up the plastic. Allow to dry and a streaky or vein like pattern will emerge.

Place a teaspoon full of tea, coffee or ink onto some plain paper, spread it around using the back of the teaspoon before sprinkling salt on top. The salt will suck up the liquid to create a speckled or freckly effect. Allow to dry before dusting the salt off.

Put a small dollop of acrylic or emulsion paint onto an old plate or lid. Dip a sponge into the paint and carefully wipe it onto the surface of an old book or magazine. You should still be able to see some of the text or image below. Allow to dry.

Step Four

Cut out both the hexagon templates – which provide the front/back cover and book pages.

Step Five

Place the front/back cover template on to the thin card, draw around twice and cut out. Select a piece of your decorative or stained paper and glue the shiny side of the hexagon (i.e. the side with the packaging imagery on) to the paper. Cut out right up to the card hexagon shape. Repeat. This will give you a front and back cover. Put both to one side for step ten.

Step Six

Cut out the 'pages of book' template. Take care to include the tab as this will allow you to join your book pages together. Place the template onto one of your preferred papers, draw around and cut out. Repeat until you have at least eight pages.

Step Seven

Fold the tab on each of the book pages. Glue the pages together, ensuring that the tab is on the back of the next page.

Step Eight

Once all the pages are glued together, take time to check that the hexagons line up and that the folds are flexible (ie easily fold backwards and forwards).

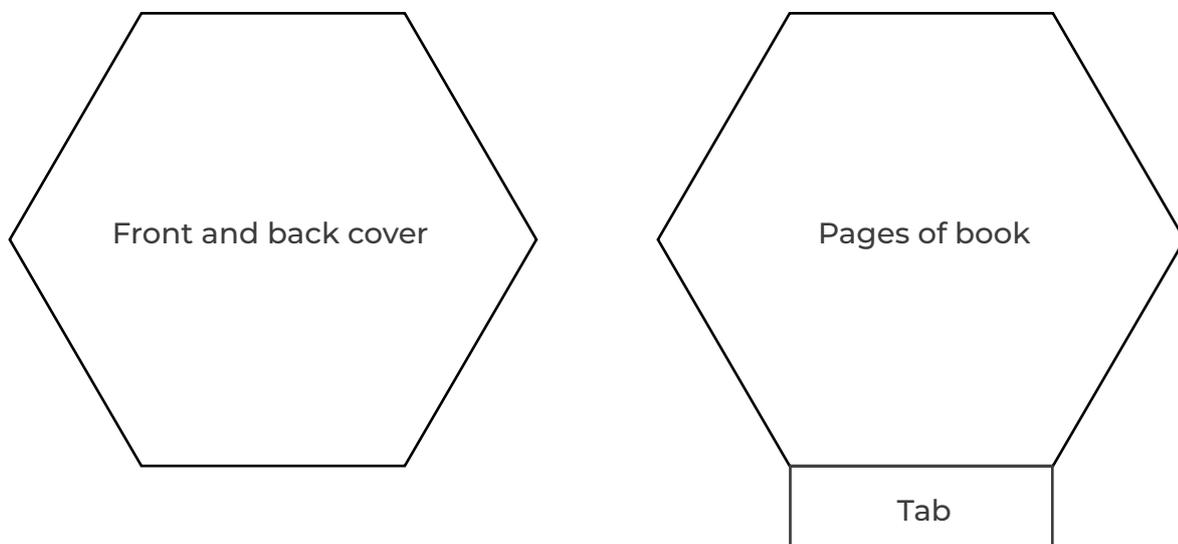
Step Nine

Take the first hexagon of the book pages (i.e. the one that does not have the tab on show), spread glue on the back and place in the middle of the cover hexagon (i.e. one of the two larger hexagons). Glue it on the side that is not decorated with paper. Take the last hexagon of the book pages and cut off the tab. Spread glue on the back of it and place in the middle of the cover hexagon.

Safety Precautions

- Concentrate and take care when using scissors
- Any spillages should be wiped up as soon as possible with a damp cloth.
- Wash your hands once you have finished using the paints, glue or ink.

Templates for Hexagon Accordion Book



Once you have taken part in the two different activities, record what you liked and found inspirational.

You can use photos, drawings, writing and any other creative you can think of to record this.

Record your first arts activity here

What did you find inspirational?

Record your second arts activity here

What did you find inspirational?

Part B: Explore!

Your task is to explore artists and arts organisations.

What artists are you going to explore?

Tip Arts organisations can be galleries, museums, libraries and theatres.

Hints Check out the National Justice Museum, Nottingham Contemporary, Backlit Gallery, Nottingham Playhouse and Lakeside Arts.

Artists you may want to explore Clare Taylor or Bus and Bird Arts (from the video!), Susie Macmurray, Picasso, Banksy, Frida Kahlo...just to name a few!

How are you going to explore?

There are different ways you can explore including interviewing, reading, searching online, visiting, filming, drawing and more...

What did you find out about the artist you explored?

What did you find out about the organisation you explored?

Part C: Create

Your task is to create a piece of art that demonstrates your art skills and creativity. You can work on your own or with others, and use any art form you want.

Which artists have inspired your piece of art?

What do you need?

How long will it take?

Make a record of how you created your arts piece below

Your Final Arts Piece

Part D: Present

How did it go? What skills did you learn or improve?

What are you going to present?

How will you record what you present?

Your Presentation!

What did you share and how?

How did it go?

What could be better next time?

What did other people say, write and think?

Congratulations! You have now completed all parts of Arts Award Explore.

If you send us your name and address, we will get a certificate sent to you once your log book has been moderated!

