



GET CREATIVE AND PASS IT ON! Part 2

About Us: Hi there and welcome to this Teacher Training Course at The Art Hand. We are both full-time professional artists and tutors. We create challenging art courses for kids, adults and teachers at our custom built facility. We also run collaborative art projects in schools around the country. Below is a little bit more about each of us.



Sean Corcoran: As Artistic Director of The Art Hand I particularly enjoy making new contacts, developing exciting art projects, teaching, collaborating and making art. Over the years I have worked mainly in stained glass, mosaic and wood. I have also developed digital art skills and am a film-maker and map-maker. My work forms part of the Waterford Municipal Art Collection, the Waterford Institute of Technology Autobiographical Collection and the Waterford Teachers Centre Art Collection. I am the artistic director of The Promenade Festival in Tramore. It's a family friendly festival that attracted 31,000 visitors in 2014. I was also the co-founder and artistic director of The Salvage Shop in Waterford city.

Miranda Corcoran: As an artist I create vivid paintings of stars, moons, planets and flowers. I use gold, silver and copper leaf in my work as well as jewels, gems and buttons. I use many different application techniques and have had 3 successful solo exhibitions. I work currently on canvas but come from a background of working with silk, velvet and cotton using batik, tie dye, silk screen and patchwork. I studied at Grennan Mill Craft School where I also studied metalwork. My work forms part of the Waterford Municipal Art Collection, the Waterford Institute of Technology Autobiographical Collection and the Waterford Teachers Centre Art Collection. My work hangs on walls in every corner of Ireland and beyond.

Some of the topics that will be discussed or demonstrated during this course;

Coloured Tin Foil	Miro V Moore (Clay Sculpture)	Artist Trading Cards
Tactile and 3D objects	Clever Collage	Self Portraits
Don't Panic! Paint!	Pointillism	Safe Spray Painting
Art in the Outdoors	Process V Product	Creative Reuse

The Schedule for the day;

TIME	WHAT	MINUTES
9.30	Welcome + Sign in	15
9.45	Introduce Ourselves + Colour Game	15
10.00	Course Overview + Objective	5
10.05	Speed Circles	20
10.25	Group Spray	20
10.45	Don't Panic, Paint! + Pointillism Demo	15
11.00	Teabreak + View + Pick a piece of Art or a Material	15
11.15	View Chosen Art or Material + Discuss Tin Foil + Collage	20
11.35	ATC...Artists Trading Cards	30
12.05	CLAY...Snails, Mushrooms, Miro V Moore	40
12.45	CHALK drawing outside	15
1.00	LUNCH	45
1.45	Presentation; Process V Product, Creative Reuse, Outdoor Art	35
2.20	Self Portraits	40
3.00	Tips and Tricks	10
3.10	Questions	10
3.20	Evaluation Forms	10
3.30	END	

Note to Teachers; Every teacher has a unique approach to teaching. Bring your own skills to the table when it comes to school art projects. The methods described and opinions we make are from our own experience of working on art projects with our own kids, kids who attend our art school and kids we work with in schools.

We're looking forward to working with you here at The Art Hand and hope you enjoy the course.

ART SUPPLIES

Don't be fooled into thinking you need loads of art supplies to start some really exciting art projects with kids. Look at and be inspired by the materials and equipment you have available to you, sort it out and keep it tidy. Now you can start building up a collection of the most suitable items for the kind of projects you like doing. Support your local art supplies shop, get to know them, they're a font of information. If they don't have something in stock they can often get it in very quickly.

Please have a look at the art supplies on our shelves. You will see that the items are all fairly basic including pencils, pens, paint, brushes, glitter, oil pastels, twistables, matchsticks, lollipop sticks, buttons, feathers, scissors, erasers and containers.

Basic Art Supplies; Mark-making is the foundation of art. We use mainly HB pencils as they are the most versatile. We prefer Twistables and Oil Pastels rather than Crayons. Chalk Pastels are also great for fast and colourful results. In terms of paper, everyday A4 copier paper is fine for most drawings but it is also good to have some larger A3 paper and a selection of coloured card. PVA craft glue, Glue Sticks, Scissors, Paint and Brushes.

Basic Equipment; For preparation for many art projects you will need a Cutting mat, steel straight edge and craft knives. A Guillotine is useful for quickly cutting strips of paper, card and even foam. Give your kids a go with a guillotine, they will love it. The safety guards on these are very effective although supervision is essential. A paper punch and Stapler will come in handy. Access to a sink is useful to wash out brushes and hands!

Alternative Materials; Cake bases are an inexpensive backing board for mosaics and are available square and round. Try some Tin Foil, it's a very versatile art material. Rolls of brown packing paper or blank newsprint are not expensive and are ideal for large collages. Wallpaper lining paper is inexpensive and there are often special clearance prices on ends of line wallpaper. Coloured sugar paper is a lot cheaper than coloured card. The quality of paper and card varies enormously, always compare the thickness measured in gm/in.

A bag of air drying clay is not too expensive as long as you don't let it dry out. But that's all it is, Clay. Enquire in your local area if there is a suitable clay that would work. Make a couple of test pieces with it and leave them to dry for a day or two. Collect things, old keys, shells, pebbles and broken crockery. The Internet is a great source for free designs, patterns, templates, clip art and stencils. Cotton Buds are a great alternative to paint brushes..

Recycled Materials; Recycle Cardboard from packaging boxes and cereal packs. Look in your own recycle bins, what's there that could be used? Collect clear containers with lids, Take-away food cartons are ideal. Pick up colourful flyers from the supermarket for collage. Someone in a store might even be able to save you some of the large cardboard advert hoardings that are changed every couple of weeks. Don't be shy, just ask, most people are delighted to know that something is being recycled into art. Check surplus stores and secondhand shops where you will often find something that can be adapted into artworks. Perhaps a batch of Tiles and some 1970's saucers might make a nice mosaic. Carpenters and joinery shops often have off cuts of wood, pieces as short as 3 or 4 inches can be of great use.

PLANNING ART PROJECTS

Be Prepared; Most art projects require an amount of preparation. We find that our most successful art classes are the ones that we have fully planned rather than the ones that require fancy supplies. Preparation often includes making sample artworks to help guide the kids. With a group of kids it is advisable to get them to put their name on their art, before they start if possible. This is particularly important before any drawing or painting projects as this avoids any confusion later. If we are dealing with larger groups of kids we like where possible to have all the necessary items laid out in front of each kid rather than trying to hand them out during a workshop. With smaller groups ask some young volunteers to hand out the items required or ask everyone to pass the items along to the next person. They love doing this! Also consider the following questions; Will pencils need to be sharpened during the workshop? Will they need erasers? What other things might they need? Will the project be completed in one session? If not, will you need to store the incomplete artworks?

Warm up; Before starting any of these projects make sure that the kids are at ease with their surroundings and each other. Do they know each other? Is it their first time in the space? Perhaps do a quick warm up with them first like *What's your Favourite Colour* or some *Speed Circles*. Both these projects will make the kids comfortable and engaged with what you're telling them.

Demonstration; With many art projects you will need to do a demonstration. Capturing kids attention at this stage is crucial. Give simple and clear step by step instructions throughout a practical demonstration. Now repeat the main points once more making sure that everyone is paying attention. With a large group we will often gather all the kids around us so they can all see what we are doing if the demonstration involves something on a table.

Safety; If the art project you are doing requires safety guidelines to be discussed then we suggest you do it during the demonstration as this will be when you have their attention most. Make things fun but make sure that the kids aren't too excited as that is when an accident can happen. With larger groups we sometimes use small pieces of card to write bullet points on or even little doodles. It's a good talking point and helps them to understand each point.

During the Art Project; If everything is going along smoothly we like to get involved ourselves with some creative endeavours. However usually in a group setting we will find ourselves going from one kid to the next. Some kids will need help with the techniques involved. Avoid the temptation to work directly on a kids artwork. Show them on a separate piece and let them do it for themselves. It's their art, they need to feel ownership of what they have created. Try to be fair with your time and not leave anyone out.

Clean Up Time; It is usually easier to clean up straight away after an art project. Don't leave your brushes or containers covered in glue or paint and clean off the table tops and floor before things set fully.

What's your favourite colour?

Materials needed; None

Age suitability; From 4 to 12

This is a group exercise we use to help participants to get to know each other. Some kids are shy to introduce themselves to a group so this is a fun way of involving everyone in a group conversation. Before a workshop when everyone is settled in their chairs with no distractions on the table we ask each person in turn to tell us their name and their favourite colour. Start by example; "My name is Sean and my favourite colour is Purple" and so on.

Encourage discussion on the chosen colours and ask everyone to remember each others colours. Once everyone has taken their turn ask the group some questions about who picked which colours. While the emphasis appears to be on remembering and discussing the colours we as the facilitators are also verbalising each kids names, for example "Does anyone remember what colour Mary picked?" Other interesting conversations can also be approached like "Why don't boys like Pink!?" and "What two colours when mixed together make blue paint?"

Speed Circles...

Materials;

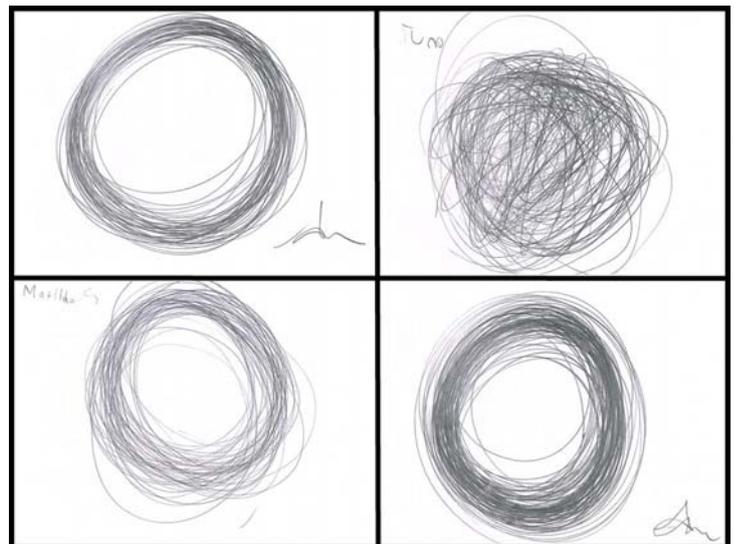
3 sheets of A4 paper.

2 or 3 sharpened HB pencils per participant.

A picture of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo.

Age; From Toddlers to Teens.

We have developed a warm up exercise called Speed Circles that we often do before art workshops. Each participant is given 3 pieces of A4 paper and a sharpened HB pencil. We ask them to listen to a story and a demonstration of how to make Speed Circles. The story goes something like the following and is told while performing the demonstration;



Now I'm going to show you how to make Speed Circles but to explain properly I will need to tell you all a little story, so listen up everyone...A very long time ago, infact it was in 1508, the Pope in Rome, infact his name was Pope Julius the second was searching for the greatest artist in all of Italy. He wanted them to paint the ceiling of his beautiful new church. Well the story goes that the Pope asked one of his messengers to find this artist. The messenger saddled up his horse and headed off across the countryside, over mountains, through valleys and across rivers.

Days and weeks went by but he still couldn't find an artist worthy of the task at hand. He eventually came to a village where he was told that a wonderful artist lived at the top of the hill in a little cottage surrounded by olive trees. The messenger approached the cottage and knocked on the door. (knock on the table). A strange and squeaky voice from within said "Hello, please come in". The messenger entered and told the

man about his search on behalf of the Pope. "If you are the greatest artist in all of Italy I will need you to give me a sample of your art to show to the Pope. Perhaps a painting of some angels or saints."

"Come with me, and I shall make a sample for you right away" said the artist. He led the messenger into his little candlelit art studio at the back of the cottage and this is what he did...so watch carefully;

He placed a single sheet of paper on the table in front of him, in a landscape direction, that means he put it across the way rather than the up and down way which would be called portrait direction.

He stood back a little from the table and wriggled his arms and hands, just like this. Then he wriggled his legs one at a time, just like this. He stretched his arms behind his back like this and then he jogged on the spot, just like this.

Now watch very closely everyone as you'll all be trying this in a moment. He approached the page like this and stood over the page. He was right handed so he picked up his sharpened pencil in his right hand and placed his left hand firmly on the left hand side of the page. If you are demonstrating to a large group hold the page against the wall rather than on a table. Ask everyone for a countdown "Five, Four, Three, Two, One, Blastoff!" Begin to hover your pencil in a circular pattern over the page like a helicopter before finally landing it on the surface of the page to create the speed circle. Continue drawing for almost a minute quite vigorously...

Show them the Speed Circle and continue the story; He signed his name in the corner of the page, just like this and he handed it to the messenger saying "Please give this to the Pope". The messenger was quite impressed at how the man had created the drawing, which I might add was a lot more impressive than my one here but he was unsure what the Pope would think of it. He finally agreed to bring it to the Pope and so thanked the man and headed out across the countryside, over hills and mountains, through rivers and valleys until he finally reached the Pope in Rome.

On hearing about how the Circle was created the Pope was intrigued and asked for the man to be brought to Rome to paint the ceiling of the new church. It turns out that the man was Michelangelo, possibly the greatest artists who ever lived and the church was the Sistine Chapel.

Show the group a picture of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It took Michelangelo over 4 years to complete the paintings that contains more than 300 painted figures. The paintings are among the most important paintings in the world even 500 years after they were made and it all began with a Speed Circle!

Now get everyone to try it. Don't forget to limber up first and start with..."Five, Four, Three, Two, One, Blastoff!" We find it helpful to repeat something like "Round and Round and Round and..." while the group is frantically circling. Let the drawing come to it's natural end as much as possible, some kids really get captivated with the process.

You will need extra pencils on standby as the tops will become blunt. If the pages are not held firmly they will shift and rip. Make sure there is nothing underneath the page that each student is working on. As soon as everyone is ready continue with a second and third attempt. Ask everyone to line up their three drawing in the order they were created, ask them which is their favourite, complement them on their results and show some of them around.

We repeat Speed Circles several times throughout each term although there is no need to repeat the story, we would however ask does anyone remember who the artist was and what he painted. ps. He didn't paint on his back as many people think, he actually stood on scaffolding with his head stretched back.

This exercise has many benefits, it settles participants and makes them concentrate on the task at hand. There is a blank page in front of them during the story which helps them to consider what they are about to draw rather than jumping in and drawing straight away. There is a great sense of achievement as everyone can do it from Toddlers to Adults. There is also physical exertion involved. Just like a runner warms up before a run we believe it is important for young artists to warm up before making art.

ART TIPS

Art Tip #1 Kids love to make cards for their friends and family. Rather than buying cards buy some art supplies instead. Kids love to receive handmade cards too.

Art Tip #2 Don't use crayons use Oil Pastels, they're much better.

Art Tip #3 The secret to creating 3D Sculptures with clay is to first attach reinforcement wires to wooden bases. Specially designed modelling wire is available in most good art supply shops. Snip the wire with a pliers and wrap it around screws to attach to the wood. Careful with the ends of the wire, it can be sharp.

Art Tip #4 Glitter is not just for Girls! Sometimes boys need to be challenged to use it but when they do they often love it! Same with the colour pink, boys will often say they hate pink!

Art Tip # 5 Praise. Look what I made! Kids have great pride in what they make and love showing it to people. It's a great opportunity to give them praise.

Art Tip #6 Stuck for wrapping paper? Try some Aluminium Tin Foil and jazz it up with a ribbon. Tin Foil is also a great art material and most people already have it in their kitchen.

Art Tip #7 Left handed scissors make things a lot easier for left handed people.

Art Tip # 8 Keep your air drying clay in a bucket with an airtight lid and we've heard if you keep a wet towel in there too it will keep it moist for longer.

Art Tip # 9 Be Adaptive...If you do not have the recommended materials it may be possible to use an alternative material.

Some Background on our Outreach Programme for Schools; We travel to schools around the country with the equipment and materials needed to develop interesting, fun and educational art projects with the full involvement of the kids and teachers. We help to enhance school environments by creating permanent artworks either indoors or in the school grounds. We also bring a range of arts and crafts and digital workshops to schools. We have brought lots of different types of art projects to schools including Map-making, Digital Art, Animation, Mosaic and Stained Glass. Our Art School is based in Bunmahon, County Waterford. We run weekly art classes for kids and adults and undertake many collaborative artworks with communities and organisations.

Weekly Arts, Crafts and Digital Workshops: We cater for small art projects in schools as well as large ones. We can provide a series of weekly arts and crafts workshops including clay sculpture, printing, foam mosaics and collaborative art. I have also designed a five-part series of simple animation, film and digital art workshops. Simple but effective techniques are used to give kids a basic insight into things like flip-books, stop motion animation.

For Teachers: Apart from the art workshops for teachers that we offer through the Waterford Teacher Centre we also have some other options available. Every fortnight we hold The Saturday Art Club for adults where a different topic is covered at each workshop and a homemade lunch is provided. We also run a range of weekend art courses and a monthly performance evening called the WORDS event.

School Tours: We cater for school tours for groups of up to 30 kids at a time. Our school tours often include Environmental Art on one of our local beaches followed by a Pebble Mosaic workshop here at our studio. The Copper Coast Geopark Visitor Centre is located nearby where the group might like to find out about the area and watch The Miners Movies followed by a picnic in the fresh air.

Please visit the schools page of our website and our Facebook page for all our latest projects and news. Our phone number is 051 292919 if you need some further advice.

Regards

Sean and Miranda Corcoran



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