

MAKING SENSE



TOWNER Eastbourne



Laura White, *The Wall*, clay and mixed media supports, 2020. Work in progress. @ Laura White

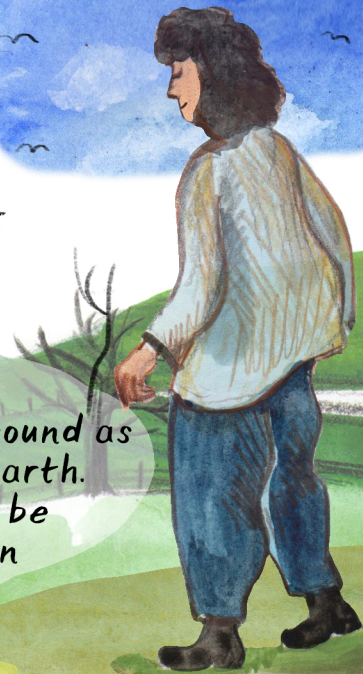
'The Wall' is a clay sculpture by artist Laura White. She is experimenting with layers and balance.

As she builds the clay up she is exploring how time changes the clay, making it bend and contort as it dries out and goes hard.

Many artists use clay as a raw material for making

What happens when you NOTICE the ground beneath you?

Take a step and then another. Do you notice the sensation and the sound as your feet make contact with the earth. Grounding exercises like this can be very calming, helping us focus on the here and now.



SANDY SOIL is crumbly ↗

SILTY SOIL can be gritty and sticky ↗

CLAY SOIL feels slippery and slick when wet ↘

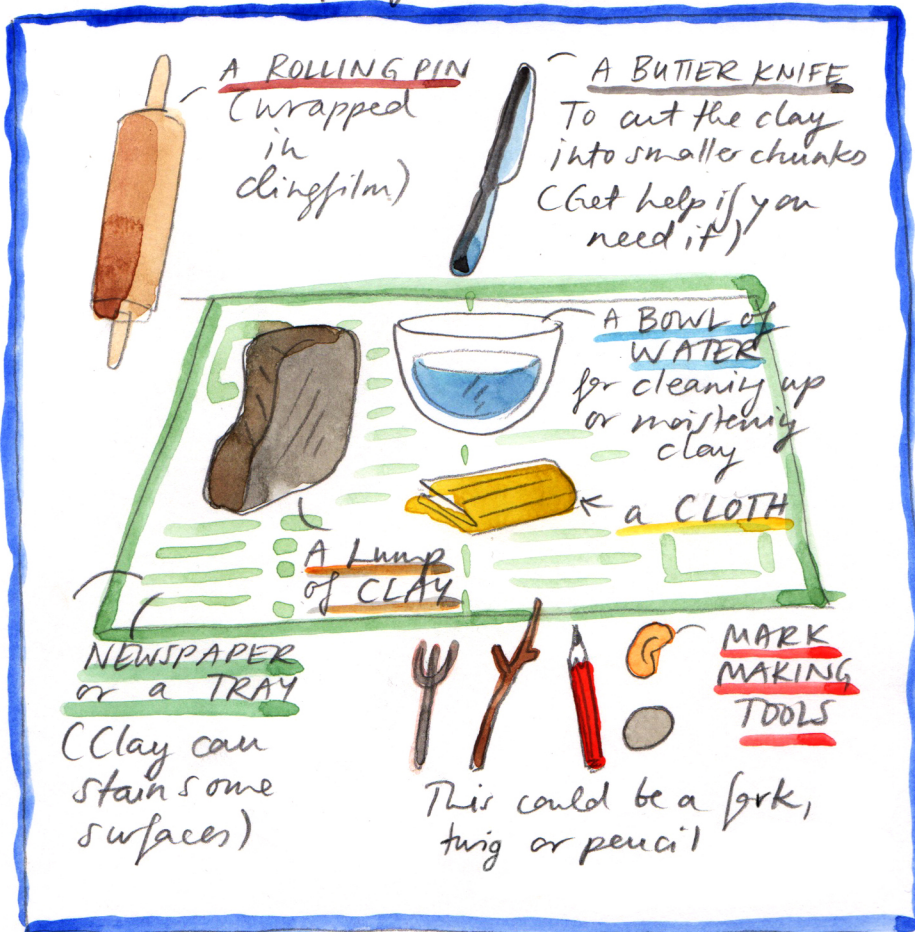
Clay comes from the ground. It's made over hundreds of years from minerals and tiny particles of rock, and often found where water once flowed. In the South Downs National Park, you'll find plenty of clay, also known as 'loamy' soils.

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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK
John Jackson Charitable Trust and
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CLAY EXPERIMENTS

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SETTING up your WORKSPACE



Take a **MOMENT** to **FEEL** the **CLAY** in your **HANDS**
Let it massage your palms by rolling a small ball around between them

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

DOES IT CHANGE OVER TIME?

Working with clay involves all your senses, especially touch! Try moulding and shaping your clay using your hands. The heat from your palms will make it soft and warm, but over time it will dry out and go hard.

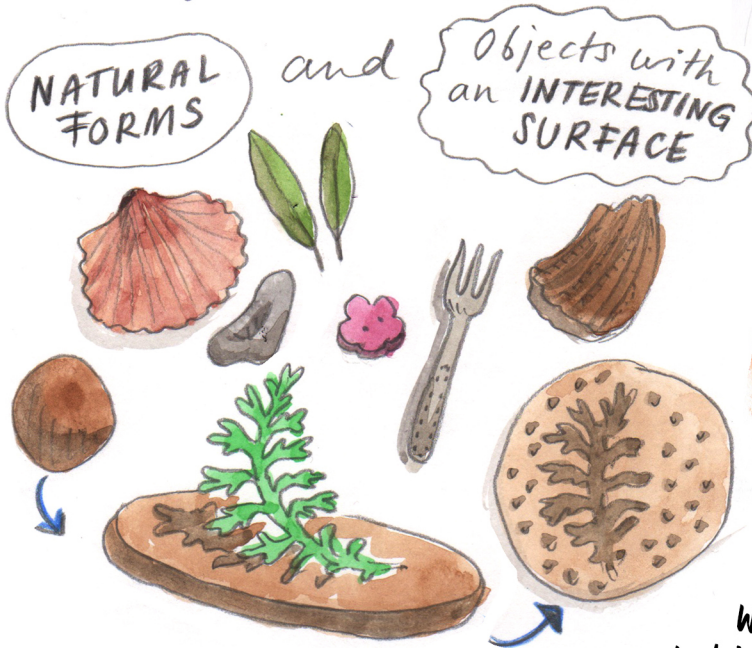


You could create a range of clay forms and grips by:

TAKING IMPRESSIONS

You can use the same setup as before and add:

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- 1) Roll out some of your clay using a rolling pin, or flatten some with your hands
- 2) Press your natural forms or other objects gently into the clay surface
- 3) Gently remove your objects and notice the marks that have been left behind
- 4) When you're happy, you can leave the clay somewhere warm to dry out.

When it is safe to do so, you can try taking a ball of clay out for a walk and collecting impressions of bark or other surfaces

Make sure you wash your hands after handling soil



MAKING SEED BOMBS

1 Create **BALLS** of **CLAY** and **PRESS** into a **FLAT DISK**

2 Add a **PINCH** of **COMPOST** + **SEED MIX** (also contains sand and woodchip - good for growing)

3 Wrap the **EDGES** so they are **SEALED**

4 **ROLL SMOOTH** between your hands + **LET DRY**

5 Let your **SEED BOMBS FLY** and land in places that need some **PLANT LOVE**

Ideal sowing time is Spring or September

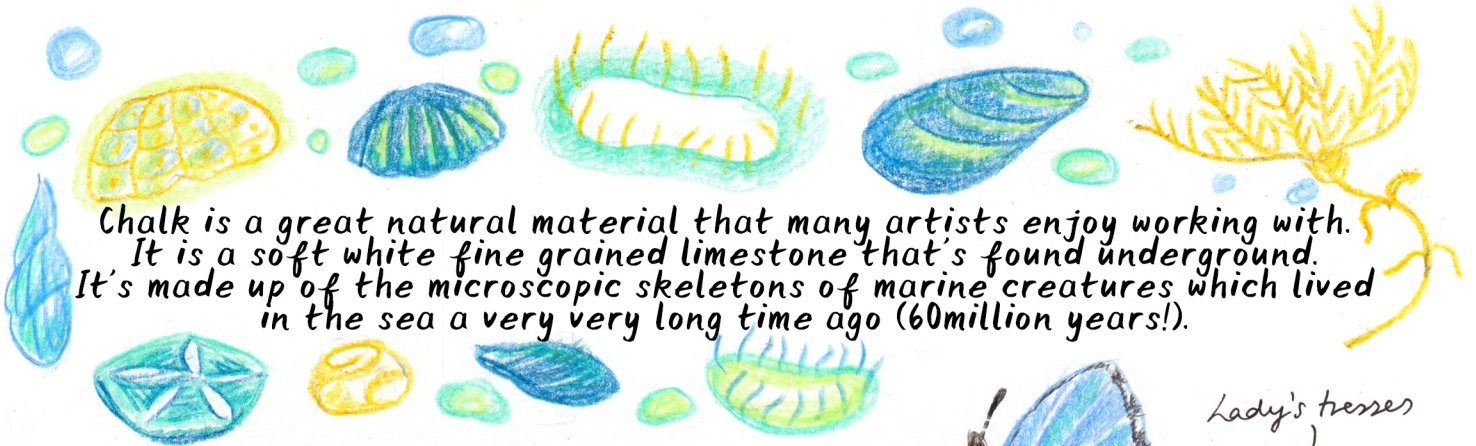


Thank you for taking this journey with us. We'd love to see what you've been up to. You can share your experiments by emailing esther.collins@townereastbourne.org.uk or posting on Instagram and tagging @Hello_Towner

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CHALK

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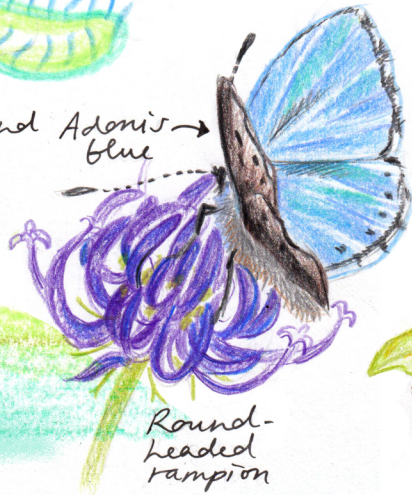


Chalk is a great natural material that many artists enjoy working with. It is a soft white fine grained limestone that's found underground. It's made up of the microscopic skeletons of marine creatures which lived in the sea a very very long time ago (60million years!).

On a visit to the South Downs National Park you can't miss the chalk cliffs. Soil formed on top of all this chalk is home to some of the most diverse habitats you can imagine.

you can find rare plants & wildlife

Adonis blue



Round-headed rampion

Lady's tresses



Spider Orchid



Harold Mockford, Chalk Pit in the Downs, 1961.
©Harold Mockford. Towner Collection

This abstract painting called 'Chalk Pit in the Downs' was made by Harold Mockford - a mostly self-taught artist who has nearly always lived in Sussex. This painting was inspired by the chalk pits of the South Downs. He often paints places he has explored himself and that are known to him from memory. He turns these familiar locations into abstract and dreamlike landscapes.

Can you think of and remember a landscape you love?

What colours and textures can you see?

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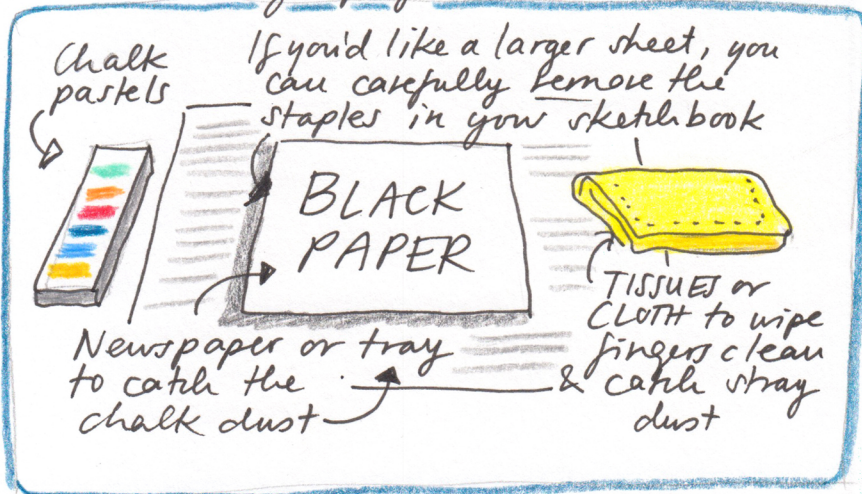
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CHALK EXPERIMENTS

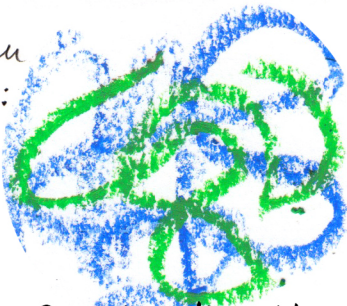
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Setting up your WORKSPACE



If there is a LOT of Chalk DUST you can take your ARTWORK outside and BLOW or SHAKE the dust off

You can TRY:



Drawing directly on the paper



Using the flat edge to get texture



Layer colours



Blending with your fingers

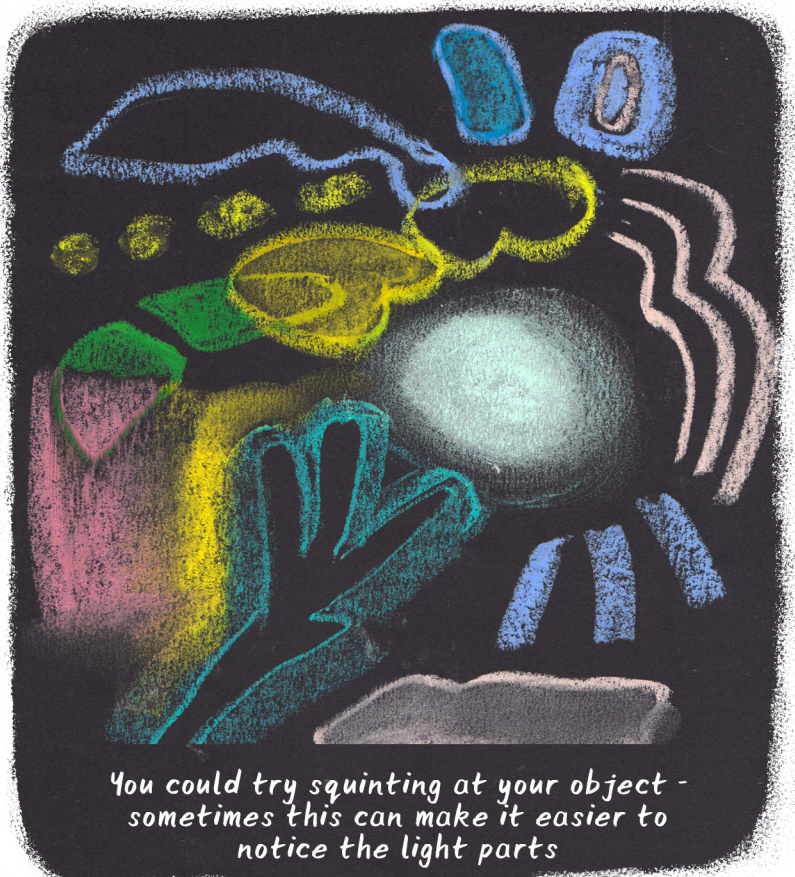
1) Let's start by looking closely at the natural forms around you. That might be a tree you can spot from your window or an object you collected on a walk.

2) Look closely. How does the light hit its surface? Are there strong contrasts between the light and dark areas?

3) Try drawing the highlights you see on your black paper

These could overlap and inspire new abstract shapes. You might want to try and trace simple forms too.

You could also add some highlights on top of your charcoal drawings from your charcoal kit

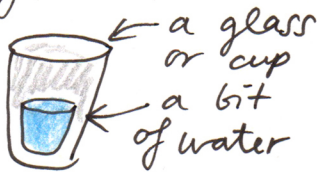


You could try squinting at your object - sometimes this can make it easier to notice the light parts

Making Chalk Paints

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You can use the same setup as before
Just add:



← a glass or cup
← a bit of water



A pebble or rolling pin for grinding up chalk



A TEA TOWEL and ZIP LOCK BAG if you prefer CRUSHING rather than GRINDING chalk

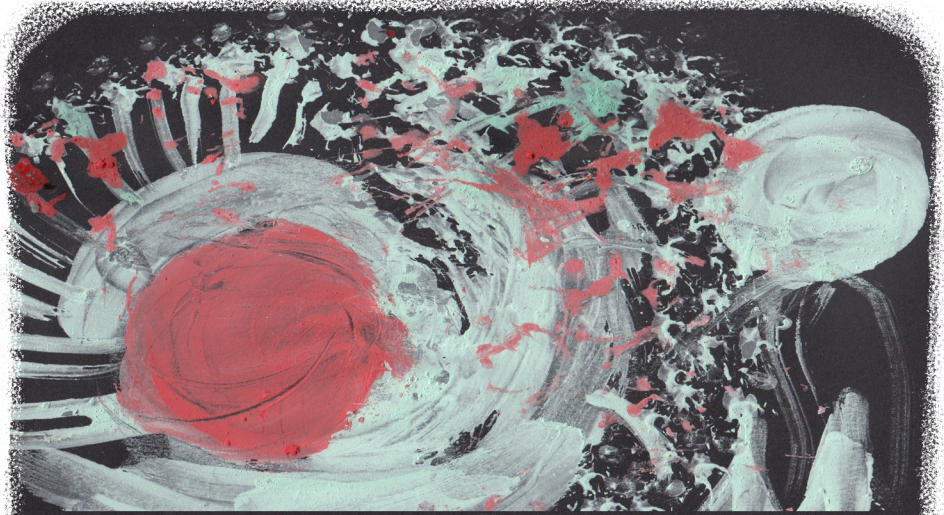


TWIGS, STICKS or LEAVES to use as BRUSHES

1) Place your chalk stick on a tray and carefully grind it up to a powder using your pebble. Take your time and ask for help if you need it.

2) Brush the chalk powder slowly into a cup. This can be dusty - again, get help if you need it.

3) Add a little bit of water at a time until it has the consistency of thick paint. You can use one of your sticks to stir this into a paste.



4) Try to paint using sticks and leaves as natural brushes. You could do this outside if you have a garden wall, or paving.

Capturing Silhouettes

To try this, you'll need to make more chalk dust.

Notice what captures your attention.

A twirly twig or a spikey leaf?

Place these on a fairly dark surface. This could be a work surface you can wipe clean, a paving stone, or some more of your black paper.

sprinkle your chalk dust over your form's edges



carefully lift away your form and notice the marks left behind.

Make sure you wash your hands after coming back inside

Thank you for taking this journey with us.
We'd love to see what you've been up to. You can share your experiments by emailing esther.collins@townereastbourne.org.uk or posting on Instagram and tagging @Hello_Towner