



Hospitalfield

Free Drawing School Online Challenge

by Jade Montserrat

Watercolour Challenge by Jade Montserrat

Hello!

I'm Jade and I look forward to leading this Free Drawing School Challenge.

We'll be thinking about some ideas relating to gardening and drawing as radical creative acts.

In preparation, I've revisited these two written works that inspire me:

If you are 15+ years please read Alice Walker's "In Search Of Our Mothers Gardens"

If you are under 15 years please look at the children's book Shadow created by Marcia Brown as an illustrated translation of a poem by Blaise Cendrars.

If you have a chance, please do get to know these, they are attached to the links

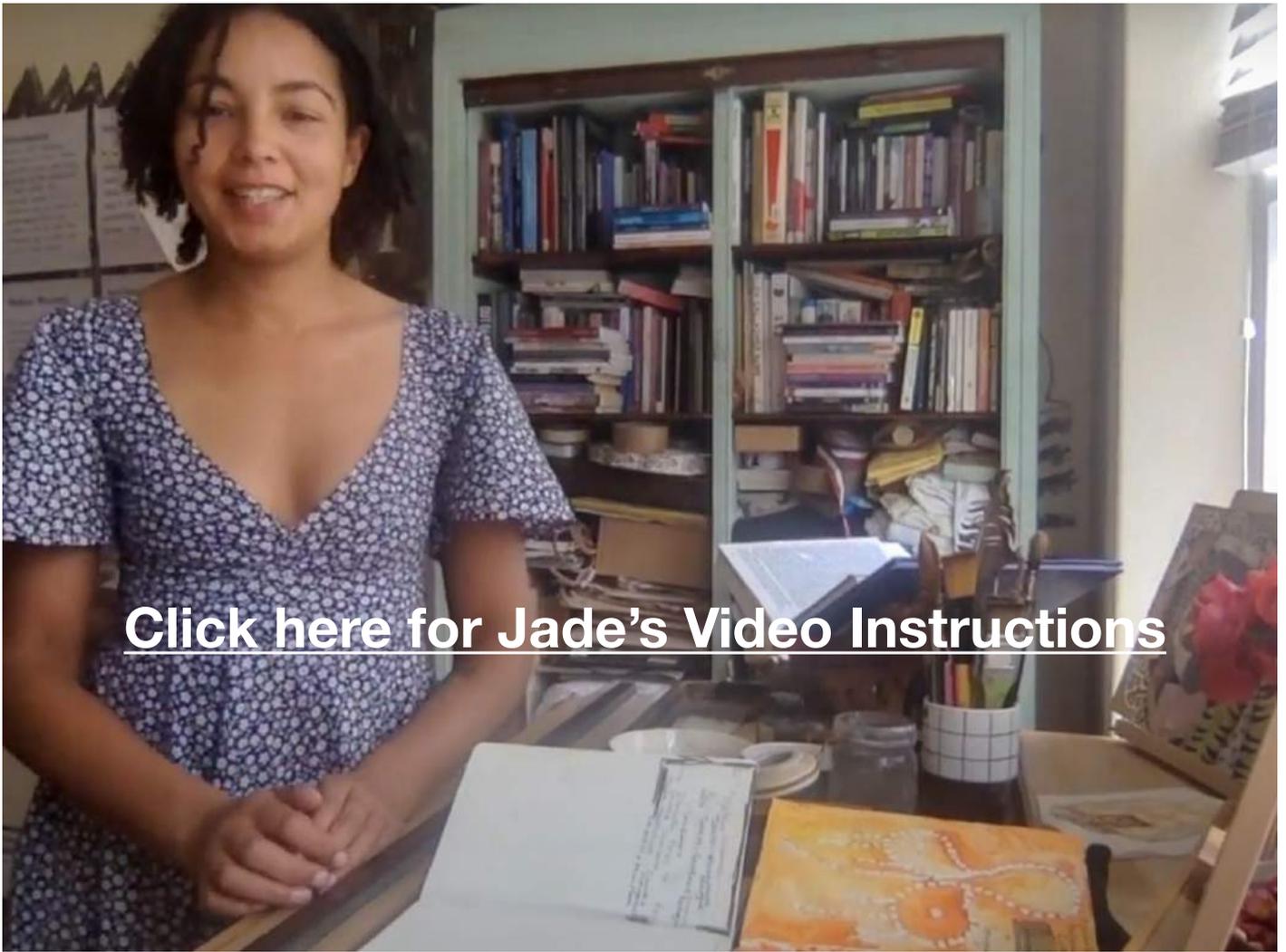
I often use water colour and illustration in my work and so for the challenge I would ask you to have ready:

- watercolours, inks or watery tea/coffee
- pencils
- paper
- mirror or a way of photographing yourself



Jade Montserrat holds up her copy of Shadow by Marcia Brown

When you have made your work we would love to include them on our online gallery on our webpage. Share your drawings by emailing volunteer@hospitalfield.org.uk or online using [#freedrawingschool](https://twitter.com/freedrawingschool)



INSTRUCTIONS:

I would like you to think through drawing by locating our bodies, or the sense that the garden or the earth has on our bodies, to create a sense of belonging.

My idea when I'm making my own work is that the connection between ourselves and the earth is a line, and that line, like our communications with one and another, is drawing. I see that all of these ideas relating to works on paper or installation, installation drawings, and performance is the potential to harness a radical creativity. I think of gardening as a place to locate our radical creativity. That's what spurs me to keep creating and keep imagining. I believe that a healing body also heals the garden. There's a reciprocity between the two activities, our creativity in the garden and our creative selves.

So I'm wondering how we can visualise that exchange of energy and visibility and consider, maybe on a global scale, the stewarding of our spaces.

I take great solace in the garden and maybe one of the examples of my work that demonstrates this is the recent seed packet that I made for Industria's first magazine printed edition. This is a wild flower seed packet and it corresponds to works that I've been making for a while that relate to my torso. And I've also used the idea of my torso to consider other elements of my body. So a finished work would be this watercolour of my ear [shows water colour painting] It also looks quite like a space ship.

So for this I would like you to choose a section of your body, I have chosen a torso. I would like you to paint using either water colours or we can use coffee and tea as a way to outline the particular area of your body that you might choose to focus in on.

Using a close up photograph of my torso I copy that, taking pains to be aware of areas of light and shadow and areas where I haven't quite got the whole part of my body, I make up. What really interested me with these spots of light, that were so beautiful in my studio at the time. There's all sorts of ways of making the colour and the water bleed and create really excellent dark and light effects.

The thing to remember when doing water colour is that its crucial to have fresh water and patience... because everything take a while to dry...So you can see here several layers that have gone into making the start of this water colours. So there's three colours. Three lots of drying time...

Consider depth mostly and I would consider what kind of embellishments I'd like to make. In the mean time I might do a little sketch, which might feature in these gaps. Or they might feature as decoration all around.

In my sketch book for a series that I've called 'Shadowing Watercolours.' I've taken out the stuff that I use which is this masking fluid to create a pattern. Its just something thats nice to consider for future drawings that you might work on.You can create a lot of layers by masking out areas for the paper so that you can keep them really clean and layer up the colours on the water colour paper.

I'm excited to see your in progress watercolours! Jade.

The Free Drawing School is an annual artist commission that invites groups and members of the public to take part in a programme of experimental drawing inspired by Hospitalfield's historic walled gardens. Organised by a local artist each year and involving other experienced artists the drawing will take place in the studios, historic rooms, woodland and gardens.



The Free Drawing School Online continues over the summer with many more challenges as we invite guest artists to design the weekly challenge for you to join in with. The Free Drawing School challenges are designed to be done at home with the resources you can bring together from your drawers and cupboards.

Hospitalfield in Arbroath is dedicated to contemporary art and ideas, Hospitalfield is a place to work, study, learn, visit and enjoy. Our programme is anchored in the visual arts yet encourages interdisciplinarity. We maintain strong national and international working partnerships with the aim of making Hospitalfield a meeting place and cultural catalyst in the working lives of artists and creative professionals in Scotland and far beyond.

Jade Montserrat is an artist based in Scarborough, England. She is the recipient of the Stuart Hall Foundation Scholarship which supports her PhD (via MPhil) at IBAR, UCLan, and the development of her work from her black diasporic perspective in the North of England. Jade works through performance, drawing, painting, film, installation, sculpture, print and text. Jade came to Hospitalfield in 2017 as part of the Autumn Residency

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Cover Image: Wild flower seed packet with specially commissioned work by [Industria](#) on paper by Jade Montserrat, 2020. Courtesy of [Industria's Instagram](#)

