

AAC at home

Rainbow bird etchings

In Afternoon Art Club, we get children making art.

Earthbound

'Earthbound' has been curated by Hannah Gee and features six contemporary Australian ceramicists. The exhibition continues until 23 oct, 2021.

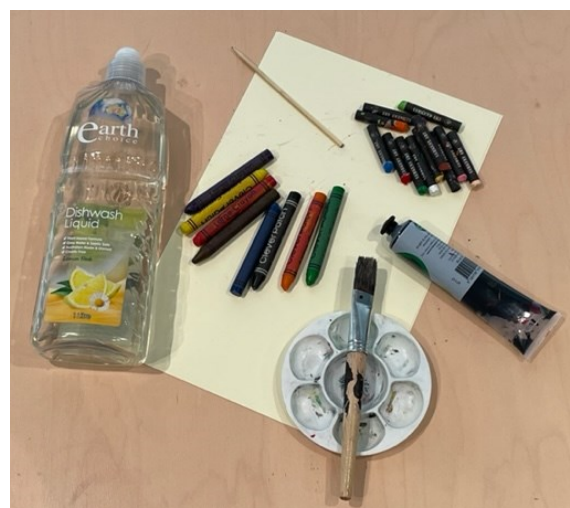
These ceramics from 'Earthbound' are made by Indigenous artist Carlene Thompson (APY lands). She uses a technique called 'sgraffito' to carve images through a layer of coloured glaze. Carlene had lots of children when she was a younger woman, five girls and a boy. Her works are about tjulpu tjuta (birds). People call her Tjulpu Thompson, and she says 'like I did with my children, I now raise chicks every day on canvas and in clay in my work'.



Create a rainbow bird image by using etching, a similar technique to Carlene's 'sgraffito'

You will need:

- Thick cardstock
- Crayons or oil pastels
- Black acrylic paint
- Dish washing soap
- Brush and palette
- Something 'scratchy'



Step one– Drawing

- Using oil pastels or crayons, create a colourful, abstract drawing on your cardstock
- Don't worry too much about what you are drawing– at the end of the day, all you will see is colour popping through the layers of paint
- Ensure you cover the whole piece of paper leaving no gaps

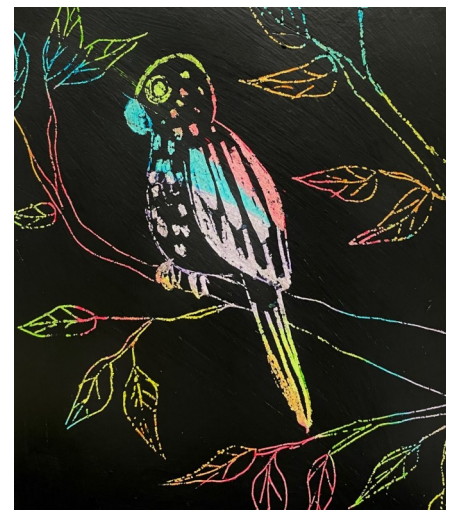


Step two– Painting

- Mix two parts black acrylic with one part dish washing liquid. This mixture will help the paint sit on the surface of the oily drawing
- Apply the paint thickly so you cant see the drawing underneath. You may need to apply in 2-3 coats

Step three– Etching

- Use something 'scratchy' like a pencil or wooden skewer to scratch through the layers of paint to reveal the colours underneath
- You may want some paper underneath to catch the loose bits



Extension activities

Did you enjoy etching? Here are some ideas to extend this activity:

- Use a large piece of cardstock or prep lots of small pieces put together to make an etching on a big scale
- Try sgraffito like Carlene Thompson by carving through glazed 'leatherhard' clay
- Try other 'carving' techniques like linocut printmaking or soap carving

Well done on your finished masterpiece!

Share it with us

#goulburnregionalartgallery

Have an idea for the next AAC at home? Let us know!