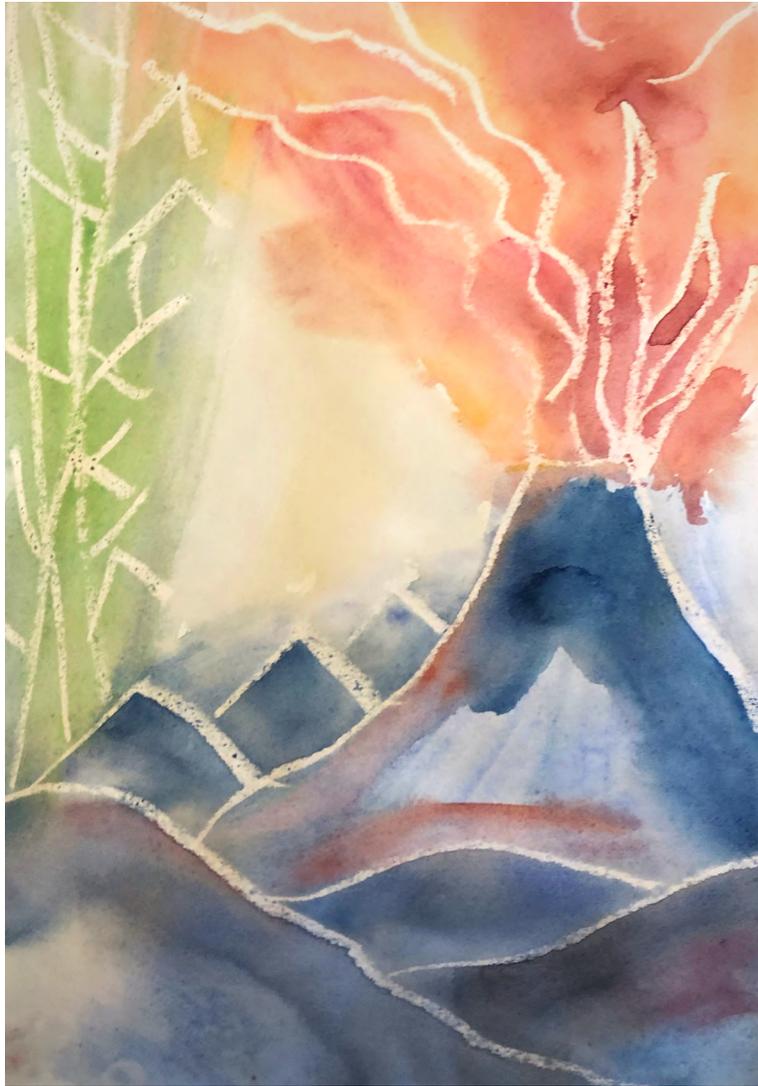


ARTIST PRACTITIONERS IN  
SCHOOLS

CHARLOTTE'S BLOG 4



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*Andy Warhol Inspired Volcanoes,  
with Charlotte Pyrah*

# Inspiration for Creative Learning

CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATION PROJECT TO  
DESIGN A BOOK COVER.

## CREATIVE PRACTITIONER - CHARLOTTE PYRAH

### SESSION- THE FIREWORK MAKERS DAUGHTER BOOK ARTWORK WITH YEARS 3'S AT OVERFIELDS



During the spring term I worked alongside the teacher and children in a Year 3 class at Overfields. The class were just beginning to read a new book called the Firework Makers Daughter which made a great starting point for our Art project and provided some great written and visual inspiration. We decided to link the artwork sessions into both the book and topic work based around Mountains and Volcanos. As an outcome we thought it would be great for the children to work towards making an illustration which could be used as a book cover. I really enjoyed having a defined outcome for our work and I think it really helped the children understand what they were aiming for. It also allowed us to have a class conversation around careers in the creative industry and discuss job roles such as authors and illustrators and graphic designers. We started the first session by looking and talking about the story and how the book cover visually represented the story. The children were great at identifying what was on the book cover and sharing ideas about how that helped tell the story. We also discussed what written information we needed to have on a book cover and why it was important. In small groups the children looked at the current book cover artwork and some volcano themed artwork created by Andy Warhol and compared the two of them thinking carefully about what colours had been used, the type of line and impact of the artwork.

The second half of that session was about getting creative and starting to explore different techniques to make some volcano illustrations. Over three afternoon session the children had the opportunity to try tissue paper colour transfer, use black and coloured inks with sticks and straws as drawing tools and a wax resist and watercolor technique. The children created some vibrant, energetic and colourful artwork and seemed to really enjoy getting stuck into such hands-on processes. At the end of each session it was important that we evaluated what we'd been doing and we often did this through group or peer discussion where the children pointed out things that had worked well and things that they'd found more difficult. It was lovely to see some of the children really shining during these practical sessions and we were keen to hold up their work and share it with the rest of the class. Once the class had explored the different techniques each child was then able to look at and compare all of their pieces of artwork and choose one that they felt was the most successful. Once they had selected one piece, we simply used the photocopier to shrink down the artwork and make it book cover sized. Our final task was to add the book title and authors name text to the front cover. I was very keen to make the work look like real book cover. It was also a good opportunity to bring in an element of Design and Technology as well as IT to the project. As a class and using the smart board we typed up the title and author name and tried it out in different fonts, colours and sizes.

## SESSION - OVERFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL,



Explorations in tissue transfer, ink drawing, wax resist and watercolour.

We talked about how the style of font needed to fit in with the story and theme of the book. Each child cut out and added the text to their front cover and then attached the artwork onto a folded piece of card to make it look realistic as a cover. The finished pieces were very effective and it was easy to see how proud the children were of them. I thoroughly enjoyed working with this class on this project, it was pretty challenging for the children to explore a number of different techniques but they coped really well and the afternoons were very hands-on, messy and experimental. There was quite a lot of cleaning up involved as we had lots of different media available on the tables but in my opinion it was worth it to be able to offer new materials and tools for the children to explore. The class teacher created a lovely display of work and talked about potential ways that the project could be extended and how the book covers could be used to display written work that the children had produced around the story. We chose to deliver the project over four afternoon sessions in order to allow the children to create a range of artworks on the same theme however this could be condensed down into two sessions if the children simply chose one technique and produced one piece. Another great project, super enthusiasm from teachers and children and fabulous finished pieces!

Charlotte Pyrah