

ENTWINED

RURAL · LAND · LIVES · ART

VARC RESOURCE PACK 4: Sam Douglas

We would love to see any artwork produced so please share images with us by emailing them to helen@varc.org.uk . Use #EntwinedRuralLandLivesArt if you post on social media and the VARC handles: Visual Arts in Rural Communities (Facebook), @varc_arts (Twitter), varc_arts (Instagram).

Sam Douglas was VARC artist-in-residence in 2018/19. His work is made as a result of experiencing the landscape first-hand through sketches made whilst out walking, camping and cycling. He is particularly interested in historic sites – places where there are remnants of stone circles, standing stones or rock art. You can watch a film of Sam in his studio explaining his working process here:



You can watch a slightly longer version of the film via Vimeo here:
<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/519406894>

Read more about Sam on the VARC website here: <https://varc.org.uk/entwined/artists/sam-douglas/>

Sketchbooks as a working tool

Sketching is the basis of all Sam's ideas – he records ideas and imagery in sketchbooks using pens, pencils and felt tip pens which are then turned into oil paintings back in his studio. Sketchbooks allow artists to record landscapes first-hand through drawing and colour notes, etc. and for many are vital to their working practice. You can see more about artists whose work is informed by sketchbooks here:

<https://scene360.com/art/101195/sketchbook-artists/>

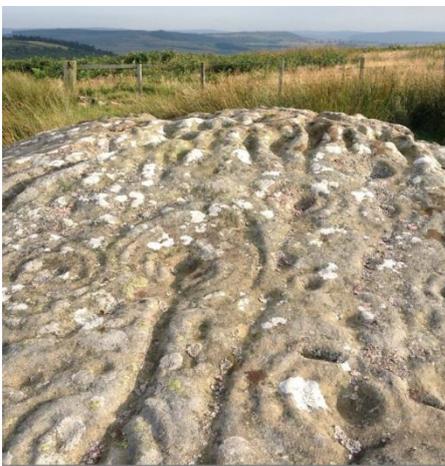
<https://www.johnlovet.com/sketch-books-and-journals>

Activities to try

Explore rock art and cave paintings: Sam's work often includes ancient markings 'hidden' in the landscape – stone circles, cave paintings, etc. You can read more about how cave paintings were made here:

<http://www.webexhibits.org/pigments/intro/early.html>

The article explains how the people making these ancient paintings used a range of pigments and materials, such as feathers and twigs. Choose a subject (animals, plants, figures, etc.) and experiment with different tools, materials and mark-making to make your own work in the style of a cave painting.



Cup and ring marks Old Berwick and Ketley Crag, Northumberland. Images Sam Douglas

Texture and layers: Watch Sam's film to see how he creates depth and texture to his paintings by layering paint and varnish. Make your own landscape artwork on a rigid board or heavy cardboard by layering materials to create texture – you can try using paint, collage, PVA glue and sand.

Collaborative landscapes: Work in a group with other pupils to create a large-scale landscape drawing from a view from your classroom window, sketches or photographs. Use materials to encourage you to work quickly and loosely to cover large sheets of paper joined together or paper from a roll. Discuss how the different styles used by each person have come together as one piece of work in a post-work critique.



ENTWINED: Rural. Land. Lives. Art. is a multi-partner project led by Visual Arts in Rural Communities (VARC) and comprises 6 mixed length residencies and 2 associated artist projects. Through the artists' practice, different aspects of what makes a 'place' will be explored and the interconnectedness of rural land and rural lives revealed.



Visual Arts in
Rural Communities



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