

## Teachers Art Workshop testimonials 6/9/09

"An opportunity to experience creativity in a fresh and exciting way with two great facilitators; providing a range of materials and inspiring us to think and do beyond our comfort zones."

Ondine

I found the day deeply inspiring, and have thought about it in some way every day since! I am conscious of my own inhibitions around art and how critical our way of responding to children is. If i had experienced art in this kind of atmosphere when i was younger, i think i would be a very different person!

Faustina

I found the whole day very invigorating, active and reflective. It was particularly good to work in scales, and with materials I was not used to using e.g. A1 paper, graphite, collage, clay etc. The sessions were well structured and followed a natural course of helping us to relax, and lose feelings of judgement or inhibition, in order to produce individual and authentic pieces of art/sculpture. The fact that the facilitators are recognised artists/sculptors themselves made the experience feel more faithful to its objectives. The experience was consistently related to its natural connections for classroom activities rather than a simple training day in isolation.

Anne-Marie

Having never been a confident artist it was liberating for me, under Marco and Stephanie's tutelage, to create images that I was really pleased with. I felt no pressure to ensure my artwork was realistic, just an expression related to their stimulus.

Matthew Mills

The morning that Marco gave us was, for me, a gift. The total pleasure at being given the permission and freedom within a defined space allowed me to be present in the moment, and enjoy a deep contact with my creativity. Knowing the space was held by someone passionate about the experience and development of art, created for me a safety that allowed me to let go of judgements and trust my response. I enjoyed working in a group, sharing and reflecting on each others work stimulated my own process and ideas. Getting to know

others through their mark making is something I also enjoyed. So thanks to Marco for giving us his time, energy and expertise in preparation and on the day and beyond..... Pearl Imogen Leader

Marco's preparation and planning was excellent. Great delight to have so much art material to hand. I really felt aware of letting go and to remind myself not to be drawn in by what others might be doing when I had lost concentration. I valued being able to have a go, regardless of ability even if this is what we promote ourselves as doing in class it was good to go through the mind freeing process. Thank you. Anna

I recently had the pleasure of attending a course facilitated by Marco Crivello and Stephanie Davis-Arai. Not being a confident artist I was slightly anxious at what the day might entail, but within moments of starting the first activity I started to relax. This is how I would describe the day. Focused, intense at times, a chance to experiment, free from judgment, confidence building, liberating. At the end of the day I was full of ideas and enthusiasm and felt equipped to take this back to the class. Amanda Lucy

The art inset really got me thinking about how I teach my children art and how I may be holding them back, especially when insisting on a whole class focus. I decided to launch a new art project with my class following the training and gave the children art journals to allow them to respond to things that interest and excite them in the world. We discussed this project together as a class, looking at a range of artist's journals and how they are used to support artwork, and agreed how we might use journals ourselves. I gave the children a range of materials to work with and they now set themselves challenges every time they work in their journals – experimenting with materials, techniques and colour. Now, we always share our artwork and reflect on it both individually and collectively and our developing a strong arts culture within the class. The arts training day was a major motivator for me to rethink our approaches to art and am very excited by the changes I can now see within the children in terms of their confidence, expression and creativity. Clare

Art has always been something I have chosen to pursue both within formal education and through my own independent activity. But in my adult life I have always been aware and frustrated by a level of self consciousness which has limited the authenticity of my artistic expression. The opportunities we were given through the day (to draw with big body movements; to work with our eyes shut etc) helped me to tune in to a less controlled and more powerful creative energy. At the end of it all I just

wanted to keep going and in fact could think of nothing else all weekend!  
As headteacher I am now really excited about how we can develop ways  
of working in school which will ensure the same level of freedom for our  
children. Lizzie