

## Material Matters

This week we will experiment with constructing and combining materials.

### 1 Piece of pieces

**Activity:** Create a textile hanging by transforming scraps of material.

**Time:** 30 minutes (ish)

**You will need:**

Old fabric e.g. clothes, bedding, cloths/ rags, a needle & thread, pins or glue, scissors and pens. Think outside the box - *What else could you use?*

**Suggested steps:**

1. **Cut up** your material, choosing interesting sections, textures and colours.
2. **Transform** your fabric scraps by being playful and inventive! *Create patterns, text or designs by drawing on the fabric* - What imaginative materials can you mark fabric with?
3. **Arrange** the fabric in a composition of your choice.
4. **Attach** the pieces together with a needle and thread, pins or glue.
5. **Display** it - In a window for neighbours to see? Or is it for your eyes only?

Then, take a photo if you can!



### Food for thought

What are Gee's Bend Quilts?

Gee's Bend is a small, remote, black community in Alabama with a tradition of quilt making.

These quilts are made from recycled work clothes, dresses, oldsacks, and scraps.

Sometimes the quilts follow patterns, but often they are improvised, creating unexpected rhythms and colours.

*Ian's magnificent scrap fabric collage made during a Dover Zest session back in March!*





**Food for thought**



## 2) Fabric Faces

**Activity:** Create a soft sculpture self portrait

**Time:** 40 mins (ish)

**You will need:** old clothes, fabric scraps, string/wool/twine, tape, scissors

**Optional:** Needles and thread, pins and pens

### **Suggested Steps:**

- 1) **Choose** interesting combinations of materials and consider selecting colours to capture your personality!
- 2) **Look** in the mirror or go imaginative with how you choose to create your face in fabric!
- 3) **Bunch** together fabric or scrunch old clothing to create the shape of your face.
- 4) **Wrap** with string or secure with tape.
- 5) **Construct** your features seperately (eyes, nose, eyebrows, mouth and ears). You could do this by cutting sections of scrap fabric and scrunching to shape it and wrapping.
- 6) **Attach** with tape or pins.
- 7) **Add** any details through mark making with pens or sewing sections. How else could you build on your fabric face to give it lots of personality?

Take a photo if you can!

### Who is Jonathan Baldock?

Jonathan Baldock is a contemporary artist who is interested in the body and spaces.

He makes sculptures in fabric, clay and salt dough that are humorous or strange portraits of people, particularly their faces.



Frank's inspiring fabric face was made in a Whitstable Zest Session using a pillow case, cotton wool and scraps of old clothing.

Thanks for taking part in this weeks activities! We hope you enjoyed it. Please continue to share photos and thoughts by emailing [zest@brightshadow.org.uk](mailto:zest@brightshadow.org.uk) and find new activities and updates on [www.myzest.org.uk](http://www.myzest.org.uk)