

# THE GLASGOW GIRLS & BOYS -

## View Finding

**Introduction:** This activity is inspired by the Glasgow Girls & Boys paintings. The Glasgow Boys and Girls represent the beginnings of modern Scottish painting in the early 1880s, united by their disillusionment with the academic painting of the time, they began to paint contemporary rural subjects, working outdoors and painting directly in front of their subject.

Learn how to frame a favourite scene of your own by making and using, a view finder.



### To make your viewfinder, you will need:

- A4 card (an old cereal box)
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Fine string or wool

### For your drawing, you will need:

- Your view...landscape, portrait, buildings, people, pets. Whatever you would like to draw or paint.
- Something to paint on to. This can be any paper, card or canvas.
- Your chosen drawing materials. Pencils, water-colours, acrylics, pastels, etc.



## To Make The Viewfinder

An old mount card can make an ideal viewfinder, but if you want to make your own, this is how to do it.

1. Measure and cut a square or rectangle into the centre of the card. Our example is 17cm by 12cm.
2. If you would like to create a grid to guide your drawing, tape string or yarn at regular intervals to the reverse side of your card. Our example has string at 4cm spacings.



### What to do:

1. Choose your favourite view (it doesn't have to be dramatic or beautiful) and tape your view finder to the window., or hold your view finder up and capture your view.
2. Notice how moving away from the view finder, or moving your view finder around, will change what you see, a bit like a camera lens makes things larger or smaller.
3. Take some time to look through the view finder. It's easy to feel overwhelmed when you are deciding what to fit on the paper, so the view finder is a useful tool for spotting your perfect view, and helps to select what you want to put in your picture.
4. Start by selecting a starting point on the grid- the centre of the page is good - marking out from there on the paper. There is no right or wrong way to do this, so have fun! Gradually build up the lines, look at different textures and shapes and, when you feel it's finished, congratulate yourself, and then draw another view!

### Top Tips

- \* When you are ready to begin your drawing, relax by rolling your shoulders, shaking out your hands, fingers and arms. Take a deep breath, hold for five and breathe out. Repeat a few times and smile!
- \* You can stand or sit but make sure you are comfortable and able to rest your sketch pad or drawing board in front of your view finder. You could also tape the paper to the windowpane.

