

# Big Draw Event

**Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 3.00pm**

**At Seawhite Studio in Partridge Green**

Question: what do two artists, an animator, three secondary schools, an industrial studio space and an animated 50-foot drawing have in common?

Answer: they are all taking part in the Big Draw Event at the Seawhite studio in Partridge Green (West Sussex) on Monday 9 October.

The event represents an exciting collaboration between painters Emily Ball and Gail Elson, and animator Mark Charlton. Working together, they are going to take 30 GCSE students from Steyning Grammar, Oathall Community College (Haywards Heath) and Hazelwick Secondary School on an epic adventure in art that will stretch not only their drawing skills but also their views on what art is all about.

The one-day workshop is part of the National Big Draw campaign that encourages everyone to explore and enjoy drawing using different approaches and styles. Emily Ball explains why she, Gail and Mark wanted to be involved: "Seawhite is a keen champion of art in schools. We have this fantastic opportunity to use the studio space and our skills as artists to give the students a rich and unique experience. We want to immerse them in art for the day. We want them to try as many new ideas as they can and challenge them in terms of the different materials and techniques they'll use as part of this workshop."

The first challenge for the students will be the unusual location. The students will use the studio's industrial space as inspiration for their drawings. Using objects that are reflected in mirrors and suspended from the ceiling will encourage the budding artists to tackle their drawings from unexpected viewpoints.

The second hurdle will be moving from small individual drawings to one giant collaborative piece. Throughout the day, the students will be working on a 50-foot drawing that will stretch the length of the studio. Taking shapes and details from the studio space, they will take it in turns to make marks and select shapes that will ultimately create one overall image in response to the studio. Their masterpiece will be a rich combination of styles and textures using charcoal, chalk powder, compressed charcoal, rubbers, pencil, acetate, marker pens, masking tape and tissue paper.

Then the final challenge: animating the epic drawing! Amongst the hive of drawing activity will be three animation work stations where Mark will help students to not only film their drawings as they evolve, but also create short animation pieces in response to them. Each school will produce a DVD of all the animations and drawings as a record of their day.

Working alongside professional artists in a "real" studio will be an exciting experience for the students – one that will hopefully give them the confidence to be more daring in their own artistic ambitions and endeavours.

Drawing just got a whole lot bigger!

Further information contact Emily Ball:

Tel: 01903 743537

Email: [emily@emilyball.net](mailto:emily@emilyball.net)

[www.emilyballatseawhite.co.uk](http://www.emilyballatseawhite.co.uk)