

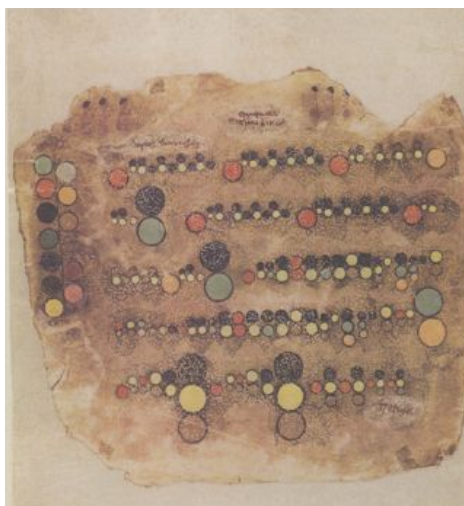
IDEAS SHEET MAKING PICTURES FROM SOUNDS

An enjoyable way to make images can be to listen to something and at the same time, make some marks on paper with whatever pencils, crayons or paints you have to hand. It can be a very relaxing exercise and produce quite surprising results. You might find yourself sketching a scene, but you could also try something a bit more abstract...

What sounds? You can listen to the sounds that are happening around you – can you hear any birds, or traffic, or electric hums in the distance, or chatter, or the radio? You could listen to some music if you have a radio or CD player, or you can listen to something from nature – from a nature program on TV. Whatever you choose, try to really pay attention to the sounds – are they soft, or abrasive, soothing, or strange, do they remind you of a specific place or memory?



Experiment! Use your pencils or paintbrush loosely, try to mimic the sound. If the sound is soft and soothing, try long soft brushstrokes or by making soft shapes. If the sound has a rhythm or stops and starts, you could try using your brush or pencil with short dabbing actions. Your paper might begin to look like a kind of map of the different sounds with lots of layers. The two pictures above were made when listening to a recording of different birdcalls, with traffic in the background. The chirps and cheeps through the trees are represented by the more spotty, speckled patterns, and the hum of the traffic by the more constant soft wiggly lines.



This picture is said to be an Ancient Egyptian musical score – we have to imagine what was meant by the different colours and shapes – the larger circles seem louder and the stronger colour could signal more intense sound. The colour could also represent mood or tone. Experiment with colour as well as pattern and texture in your own picture.

To find out more about sound, image, pattern and rhythm, visit www.aih-throughawindow.com/sound-image-pattern.