Imaginative bottle birds

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Inspired by Polish artist Barbara Kobylinska, recycled bottles are transformed into beautiful, sculptural birds! Create the bird on the outside of the bottle with tinfoil, masking tape, cotton balls and gauze bandage. Finally, paint the birds in cheerful patterns and bright colours.

TARGET GROUP: Juniors (Y3-Y6) and optional courses

The idea was developed by art school teacher Line Frøslev

Hoe werkt het

1 Show the pupils the pictures of Barbara Kobylinska's birds and talk about their shape, expression, colours, patterns, etc.

2 Let the pupils draw sketches of their own birds. They may colour them with Art Aqua liquid watercolours - small works of art in their own right ...

3 Add a few pebbles or similar in the bottom of the recycled bottle so that the finished bird does not fall over.

4 Build on the outside of the bottle with tinfoil and shape the bird's tummy, bottom, neck and head. You may hold the tin foil in place with masking tape.

5 Cut the crown, comb, wings or points from thick card and attach with masking tape.

6 Attach small cotton balls for the eyes using a glue gun.

7 You may attach small cotton balls onto the bird's body with a glue gun. Make sure they are not attached too close as you will need to get your fingers in between the cotton balls when covering the bird with the gauze bandage.

8 Cut the gauze bandage into small pieces, moisten with water and apply all over the bird. Make sure to apply the gauze bandage very close to every attached detail on the recycled bottle.

9 Leave to dry for approx. 24 hours.

10 Paint with an opaque craft paint. You may mix the colours to make new shades. Work in several coats, but allow each coat to dry before the next. Leave to dry.

11 Make a pattern with small brushes. Use foam stencil brushes for dots. Leave to dry.

12 You may want to add more patterns with Posca markers.

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13 You may use a hair dryer to shorten the drying time between the coats of paint.

14 You may use small bamboo sticks for making small dots.