

5 THINGS I'VE LEARNED: FRANCE BIZOT

Find out what keeps this year's Derwent Art Prize winning artist inspired
Words: RACHAEL FUNNELL



“My drawings are like a diary. Each one is a new adventure”

02 Artists & Illustrators



1 START A CONVERSATION

Drawing is a pleasure. I have been enjoying it since I was eight years old. For me, it's a way to understand the world – a kind of conversation with other people. I try to be creative as often as I can. My drawings are like a diary. Each one is a new adventure, like a long walk.

2 LEARN TO IMPROVISE

My last series of drawings on books – including the 2018 Derwent Art Prize winner – came to me when I was on holiday. I had forgotten my sketchbooks, so I started drawing on an old book. I was inspired by the title, cover and texture.

3 GET ONLINE

Social media is a huge source of inspiration. I nourish myself by looking at paintings, drawings and photos. I am quite active across Instagram and Facebook. Social media is like looking out of the window of a high-speed train; thousands of images and words appear every day,

and I try to capture some of them in my drawings.

4 CHANGE IT UP

I love trying new things. I have all sorts of sketchbooks in different sizes and textures. I use lots of pencils and make layers of different colours to find the perfect hue. A blue could be made with red, green and yellow, or lots of different blues. It gives more depth to colours.

5 TEACH YOURSELF

Although I studied at an art school for five years, in many ways I feel like an autodidact. When a painting or a drawing catches my eye, I try to understand how it was done, and this inspires my work. I mostly work in pencil and charcoal using tempera, but I have also taught myself photography.

See more of France's art on Instagram at @francebizot

ABOVE Derwent Art Prize winning work Madame Bovary LEFT France Bizot