

B B C BITESIZE

HALIMA: A lot of the time when you work with materials in a physical way, you have to understand what they are going to do, how far can I take it. How can I test these materials and see what I can do with them?

I always collect lots of different materials to draw with and to draw from. I always have hoards of stuff in my room because I feel like someday maybe that material might be interesting.

I'll collect different types of papers because obviously drawing on tracing paper is going to give you a different quality of mark than you would have on, I don't know, cartridge paper. If you draw on a more textured paper it's because you want that quality of line.

A lot of the time it is interesting to work with materials that you find that you wouldn't think to work with. So the toothpicks are quite an everyday item and it sounds quite silly but at the end it's just a piece of wood.

I start out by using a sewing machine on a zig-zag setting so in that way the zig-zag makes like a tube of thread around the toothpick and then you play with the colour and then you can play with the density of the line. I'll break them individually and then reconstruct them to make a shape.

Wood is a really structured material and it's really solid. Making fluid shapes out of it seems completely in contrast to the original nature of the material.

There is the fear that it won't work and often it doesn't work and it's important not to be discouraged by those times because that's the point when you find a way to make it work. And the thing you've ended up with at the end is a labour of love and work and passion.