

Denzil Forrester

Itchin & Scratchin

Denzil Forrester begins his paintings by creating drawings in different places. Lots of his paintings start as drawings in night clubs. He doesn't paint what people look like, but instead what their bodies are doing. It's very important to his work that he captures *motion* and *movement*. Let's try it!

1.

Grab a pencil and draw a few long lines following the shape of a moving person. Maybe you could ask someone to model for you, or you could use a figure from one of Denzil's paintings.



Drawing board

2.

Now try holding two different coloured pencils in one hand, and doing it again - what has colour done to it? Does it look like it has more energy?



Colour can change the mood of a painting. The bright colours Denzil uses make the scenes look *bold* and *vibrant*.

Drawing board

Activity Sheet

Spike Island

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As well as *movement* and *colour*, Denzil also uses *music* to inspire his work. When making drawings in night clubs, he draws for the length of one song – so his work has to be *fast* and *expressive*. He sometimes names the painting after the song that was playing while he was drawing. We're going to add music to our drawings, just like Denzil, and see what happens.

3.

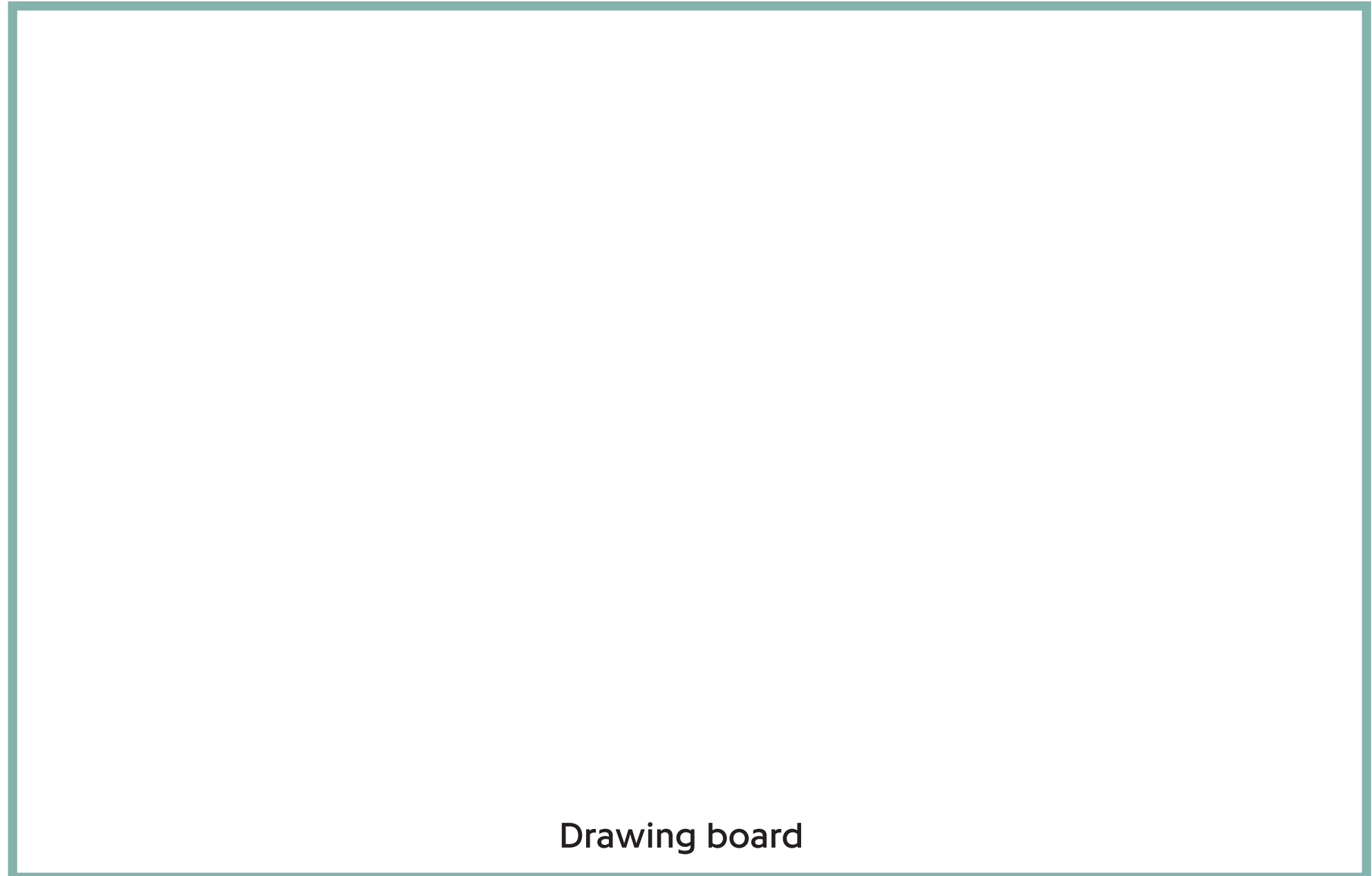
Play your favourite song while you fill the drawing board with bodies like you practised before.

Stop drawing when the song ends. You'll have to work quickly to fill the space!

Now you can add some details, like drawing a room around your dancers.

Title your work with the name of the song you listened to.

Title: _____



Drawing board

Activity Sheet

Share your work with us! Tag us on Twitter @_Spikeisland
or on Instagram @Spikelisland

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