Abstract: Pret-a-Dessin / Drawing-in-a-box: a new technique being developed as part of the Heart Group to assist the development of autistic spectrum animators who will benefit through the process.

A case-study where a drawing structure developed for a Big Draw workshop run this year as one of several projects John organized for the Drawing Society. The structure is an installation which permits five to draw a portrait where the view is focused and controlled. This process has potential benefits for autistic spectrum ESPA students. The idea is that the box blocks the visual overload and divergence beyond the frame.

Developing beyond the frame, Pret-a-Dessin / Drawing-in-a-box is adapted as a tool where both the subject and the animator are able to move three-dimensionally in the process of drawing for animation.

This case study is a development from a previous paper ‘Reception Animation; The interaction of reception theory within animation and drawing context.’
This is a special drawing project with two special needs schools in Sunderland. One of the schools supplies students to study at The University of Sunderland. ESPA.

1. NEAS North East Autism Society School at Carly Hill.

The project is in early stages with the aim to run drawing classes using the Drawing-in-a-box device designed and made by John Tyrrell and used in a Big Draw workshop run by Roger Thomas for the University of Sunderland. The aim is to explore the empathetic process of framing the task of drawing to filter out excess visual distractions experienced in the target group, children on the autistic spectrum. The school have agreed to allow lecturer John Tyrrell to run pilot art classes to explore this and other ideas developed through the three attached papers.

2. ESPA Education and Services for People with Autism

The project has involved our own students from ESPA but the aim to further extend with the School has been interrupted by change of Management.