

Preparation for A Level Art in Year 12

Now is the perfect time to explore your creativity and you can do this in so many ways. Below are a few ideas for engaging with art in slightly different ways to GCSE and opening your eyes to Art in a wider variety of contexts. In year 12 we follow the Eduqas A Level in Art & Design, you begin the course with 4 weeks of experimental workshops and a project based on the theme “Viewpoints” – the great thing about this theme is that you can interpret it in any way that you wish; the more informed you are the more exciting your work will be!

A viewpoint could be

- the artist's point of view related to a subject such as religion, politics and history
- the artists view, their physical perspective of what is going on around them.
- an exploration of linear perspective, representing a 3D space on a 2D surface.
- cropping imagery to manipulate the viewer’s perception of what they see so images start to become abstracted.
- exploring foreshortening, extreme angles, focusing on imperfections or unseen emotions
- the use of mirrors to lead or mislead the viewer

Practical Tasks

1. Look at The Lamentation of Christ 1480 by Andrea Mantegna – then take a photo and make a drawing/painting in a media of your choice showing extreme foreshortening e.g. a hand stretched towards you with the persons face behind or looking upwards towards a face from below the feet/shoes of a person sitting on the edge of a table.
2. Look at Edouard Manet A Bar at the Folies-Bergère 1881 and Las Meninas 1656 by Diego Velasquez and write a comparison of how the artists have explored viewpoints by the use of mirrors in their work (you could watch the TedED talk about Las Meninas first – link below)
3. Set up a still life of objects and take 10 – 15 photos of different viewpoints – look at Still Life with plaster cupid 1895 by Paul Cezanne and Still life 1913 by Diego Riviera to consider the arrangement of your objects. Take photos which explore cropping, also remember to move your camera, shoot from high up or low down as well as eye level. Make 3 drawings/paintings/collages each in a different media of cropped sections of your still life, aim for your pieces to be roughly 15cm x 15cm.
4. Find out the meaning of ANAMORPHOSIS and how this was used in Renaissance art. Research “The Ambassadors2 1533 by Hans Holbein which is in The National Gallery London. Look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paA8hqqQ-w> and <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-decoding-symbolism-hans-holbeins-ambassadors>

Answer the following:

How have the objects been used to describe the character of the sitters?

How do you think the sitters would like to be portrayed to the outside world?

What was the historical context in Britain and across Europe at the time this painting was produced? Give at least two written and visual examples.

*The objects in The Ambassadors are used to show wisdom, culture and knowledge - think of modern examples of objects which could represent these characteristics and draw them in your choice of media and scale.

5. Research the 17th century tradition of Vanitas paintings – make notes on the following: what were they about? what were the main characteristics? who were the main artists linked to the style? Select two traditional examples and write a comparison to Audrey Flack’s Vanitas series created in the 1970’s which were a commentary on the issues of her day, including celebrity status and feminism. **Make your own “vanitas” piece as a response to an issue that you feel strongly about – this could be a collage, animation (try the free Stop Motion app), drawing or painting.
6. Make 3 other creative pieces in response to the theme “Viewpoints” in your choice of size, style and media.

Remember to present the images you are discussing with your written text, present on either word or power point if you can. Also, keep all the photos, drawings etc that you produce so we can look at them in September 😊

It is good practice to keep a bibliography of books, websites and articles you have used for your research. These sites are always a good place to start.

www.npg.org.uk

www.tate.org.uk

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

TED-Ed

As well as keeping your practical skills going it is important to broaden your knowledge of Art History. The TED-Ed videos are a great place to start. The videos are relatively short and have the option to answer questions and learn more “Watch, Think, Dig Deeper”

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons?category=visual-arts>

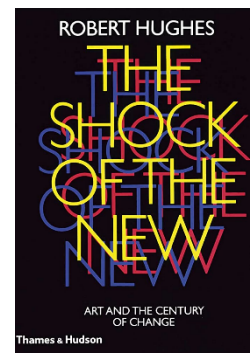
Here are some suggestions

- Frida Kahlo: The woman behind the Legend <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/frida-kahlo-the-woman-behind-the-legend-iseult-gillespie>
- Guernica: why is this painting so shocking? <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-is-this-painting-so-shocking-iseult-gillespie>
- Las Meninas by Diego Velasquez – “Why is this painting so captivating?” <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-is-this-painting-so-captivating-james-earle-and-christina-bozsik>
- The chaotic brilliance of artist Jean-Michel Basquait <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-chaotic-brilliance-of-artist-jean-michel-basquait-jordana-moore-saggese>
- How ancient art influenced modern art <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-ancient-art-influenced-modern-art-felipe-galindo>
- The Case for Andy Warhol https://ed.ted.com/best_of_web/Gcg0K3Mv

WATCH

If you have access to Amazon Prime watch “The Shock of the New” this is a definitive eight-part series on the rise and fall of the modern art movement presented by critic Robert Hughes. If you prefer to read a book and would like it to reference during your Art studies in the future Amazon have second-hand copies available from about £5.

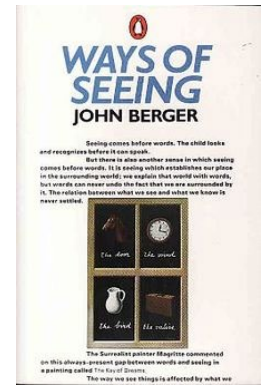
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0997198/>



READ

Ways of Seeing by John Berger

"Seeing comes before words. The child looks and recognizes before it can speak." "But there is also another sense in which seeing comes before words. It is seeing which establishes our place in the surrounding world; we explain that world with words, but word can never undo the fact that we are surrounded by it. The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled. "John Berger's "Ways of Seeing" is one of the most stimulating and the most influential books on art in any language. First published in 1972, it was based on the BBC television series about which the "London Sunday Times" critic commented: "This is an eye-opener in more ways than one: by concentrating on how we look at paintings ...he will almost certainly change the way you look at pictures." By now he has.



Available second-hand on Amazon from about £3

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ways-Seeing-Penguin-Modern-Classics-ebook/dp/B002ZJSV78/ref=pd_sim_ebk_14_1/259-2408242-6311935?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B002ZJSV78&pd_rd_r=3b397a80-a76b-4d5e-acaf-1e0bb75f66b3&pd_rd_w=hUKnU&pd_rd_wg=d8mD4&pf_rd_p=538a73b0-f31b-4f02-8637-79c64aaecbdf&pf_rd_r=2JXSNMCN22MYTANHCTJW&psc=1&refRID=2JXSNMCN22MYTANHCTJW

*There are also videos on YouTube of the 4 TV episodes – be warned TV visuals weren't of such a high quality then and John Berger is sporting some amazing 70's fashion!!

And lastly ...

Take the SPS 30 Day Art Challenge

30 DAY ART CHALLENGE					
DRAW 1 your favourite toy from observation	CUT 2 facial features from a magazine and arrange them into collages	WATCH 3 a youtube video about a sculptor eg. Antony Gormley, Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Anish Kapoor	DRAW 4 a hybrid animal that combines 3 different animals	MAKE 5 a sculpture out of aluminium foil	OPEN 6 a book on a random page and illustrate the text
CREATE 7 your own pattern and cover a page in it	DESIGN 8 a maze and give it to someone to solve	DRAW 9 something from the kitchen using your opposite hand	LOOK 10 out the window and draw what you see outside	FOLLOW 11 a drawing or origami tutorial on youtube	WATCH 12 a youtube video about a painter eg. Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Jackson Pollock
TAKE 13 a virtual tour of an exhibition on the National Gallery website	INVENT 14 your own challenge	MAKE 15 a structure using recycled materials like plastic, paper and cardboard	LISTEN 16 to music and draw lines and shapes to match the sounds you hear	DRAW 17 something from your room using two pencils at once	CUT 18 up strips of paper and weave them together
RESEARCH 19 Henri Matisse and respond to his work using pencil, colour or collage	DRAW 20 something using a continuous line	DESIGN 21 a new pair of trainers or car	FIND 22 interesting textures, place paper over them and shade over with a pencil to take a rubbing	INVENT 23 a new kind of sweet and design the wrapper for it	DESIGN 24 a sculpture inspired by the video you watched on day 3
MAKE 25 papier-mache using flour and water and make your sculpture from yesterday	TAKE 26 a photograph and edit it on your phone to make it look unrecognisable	MAKE 27 a drawing of someone at home in your own style	CREATE 28 a poster with a positive message on it	DRAW 29 around your hand, move the paper and draw around it again. Repeat then add colour to the shapes	MAKE 30 a book of all your challenges, using string to bind it - WELL DONE!