



Wadham Project Workshop: History of Art

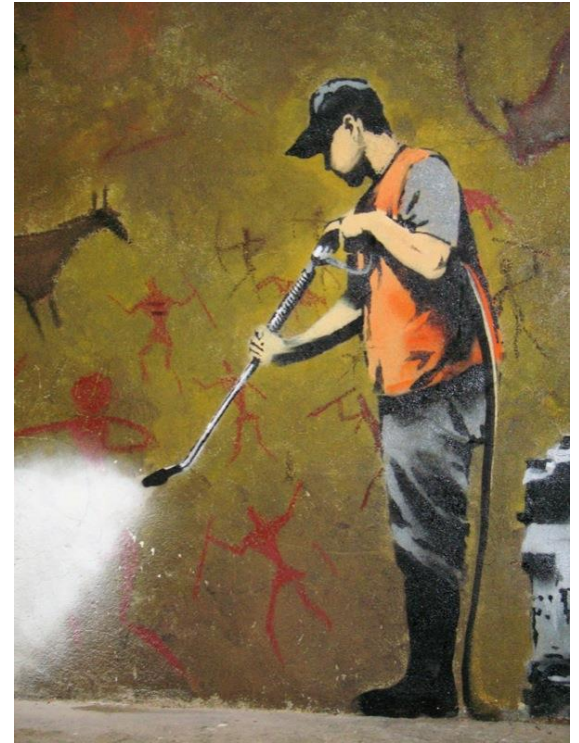
Jacqui Saunders, Head of Art and
Specialist Leader in Cultural Education
Mark Rutherford School, Bedford

What is Art?

What is it for?

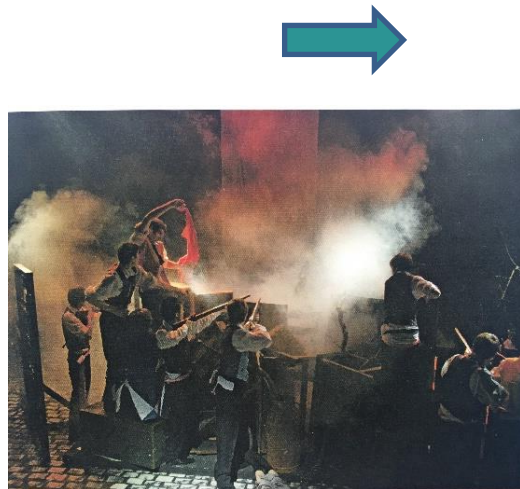
Who is it for?

Why should we study it?



Banksy
2008

My Journey



Which artists can you name?

2 mins to write down

The most common response to the question of which artists do you know?

- 1. Leonardo Da Vinci
- 2. Picasso
- 3. Vincent van Gogh
- 4. Monet
- 5. Michaelangelo (mostly because he was one of the turtles)
- 6. Georgia O'Keeffe
- Sometimes Banksy





Where are these buildings and what are they?





Who is this portrait of?

What do you notice about this portrait?

Look at her dress and the objects in the room

What can you see outside the windows?



In order to understand an Art work you need **context**

Understanding and having knowledge of the historic period in which the art work was made will give you the keys you need to unpick its meaning and decode it.

What?

Why?

Where?

When?

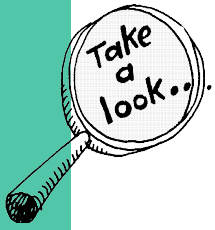
Dates and country of origin is a great starting place

Knowing why something was made e.g. was it **commission**?

Who was the intended audience?

Bonus points for anyone who notices and writes down the purposes of art throughout this session





The crown rests on the side suggesting her royal status and the English monarchy

Her hand is resting on a globe suggesting Britain's imperial ambitions

She is turning away from the stormy seas where the Spanish fleet is floundering and turned towards the calmer seas. She is positioned as a calm force for good, in contrast with the chaos of Catholic Europe.

Her face is painted with a thick white makeup to cover pox scars. The makeup contained lead and over time slowly poisoned her.

Her dress and hair have pearls on them. The pearl is a symbol of virginity. Moons and pearls were used to present Elizabeth as Cynthia (Artemis), the Greek goddess of the Moon, who was a virgin and therefore pure.

The carved mermaid could relate to men being lured to their death by wiles of women or it could refer to the execution of Queen Mary



This is one of 3 Allegorical portraits dating from 1588. The artist is unknown





Why would an artist such as Picasso start painting like this?



Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J.) Paris, June-July 1907 oil on canvas 243.9 x 233.7 cm

Cubism

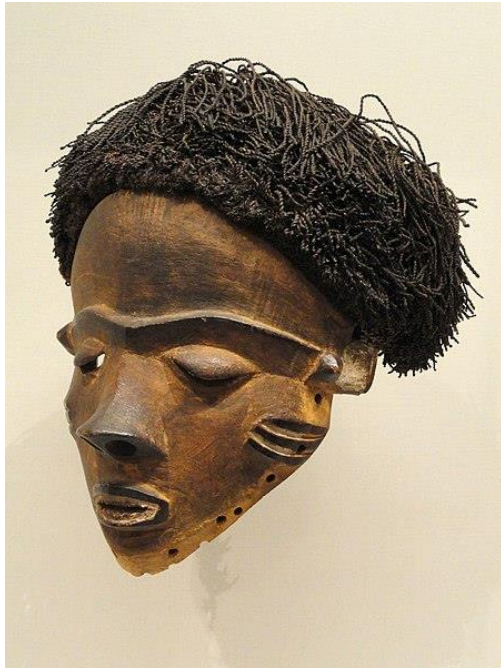


The Caged Bird John Byam Liston Shaw, 1907

In comparison this is what other artists at the time in England were doing.



**Which artist is better
know today?**



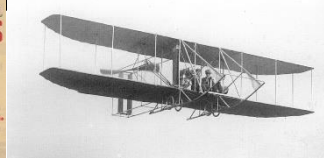
Around this time European artists were starting to collect and appreciate African Art. At the same time the camera is starting to be produced commercially.

Art History Timeline

1850

1900

1800 (19th Century)





Rachael Ruysch



Paulette Tavormina



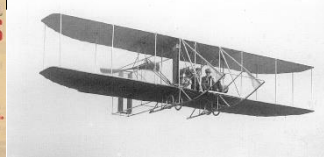
What has the biggest impact on Art at this time?

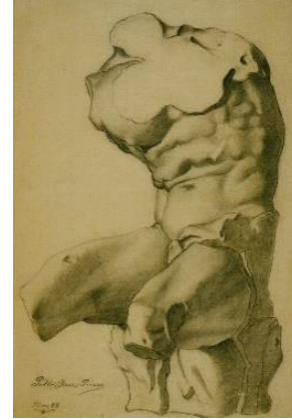
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Picasso could paint and draw very realistically. The works above he did aged 15 and 11!



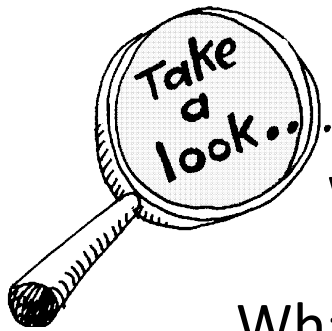
Cubism was a revolutionary new approach to representing reality invented in around 1907–08 by artists Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque.

They brought different views of subjects (usually objects or figures) together in the same picture, resulting in paintings that appear fragmented and abstracted.

What do you notice about the line and shapes?



Guernica 1937 Pablo Picasso oil on canvas 349.3 cm × 776.6 cm



What can you see?

What clues do you have?

What information do you need?



1936: Spanish Civil War
Rise of Fascism
Picasso working in Paris



26th April 1936 aerial bombardment of the market town of Guernica, which lasted for two hours. Shocking because it happened in the daytime and the victims were civilians and left approx. 1,600 dead.

The painting was made in three months and displayed at the **Paris International Exposition, 1937**

Why did Picasso choose to paint it like this?

Why is it in black and White?

5 mins to discuss



Context



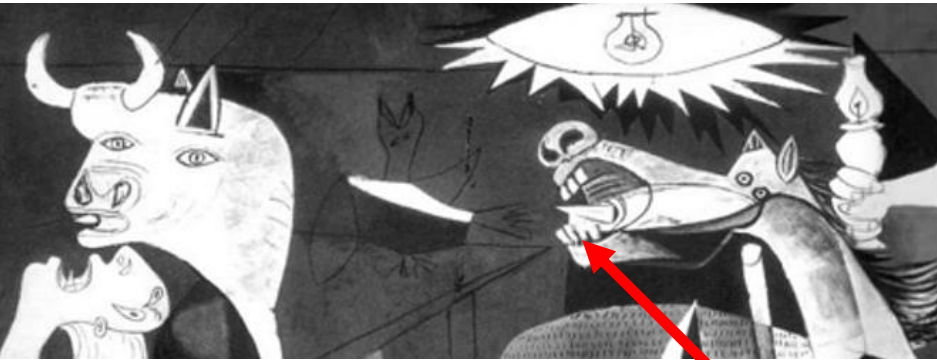
When the Nazis searched Picasso's apartment a Gestapo officer saw a photograph of the painting. "Did you do that he asked?" "No", replied Picasso "You did".



Symbolism



There is a lot of symbolism in Guernica.
What could this be symbolic of?



Why has Picasso included a bull? What is between the horse and the bull?



Look at the marks on the palm on this person – what do they suggest?



What does this mother and child image remind you of?

What do these little marks remind you of?



What could a broken sword symbolise?

Why is the soldier holding a flower?

The mother and child figure composition is similar to The **Pietà** was a popular subject among northern European artists.

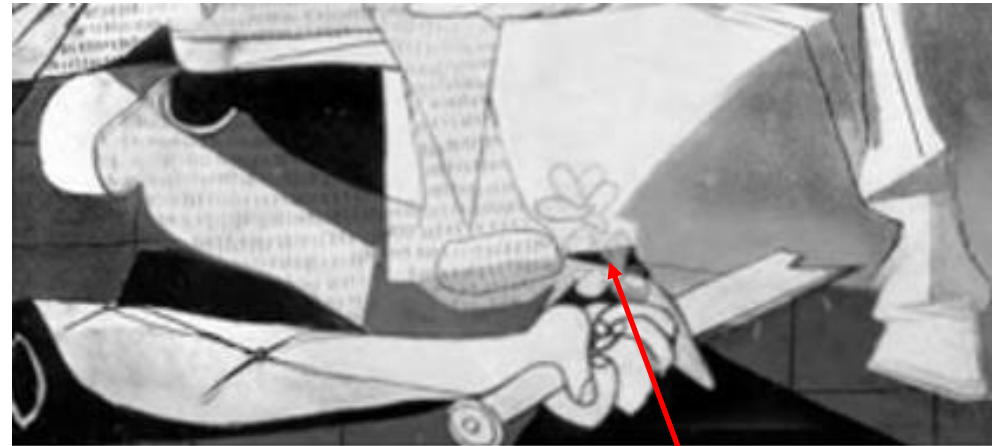
It means Pity or Compassion, and represents Mary sorrowfully contemplating the dead body of her son which she holds on her lap.



Pietà Michelangelo
1498-1499



These marks are suggestive of the stigmata – or the scars on Jesus Christ where the nails were used to crucify him.



The flower is a white poppy

EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE



20 CARTES DÉTACHABLES

SÉRIE N°1



Context

Paris Exposition 1937



U. R. S. S. • RUSSIA
S. S. R. R.

ARCHITECTE : IOFAN — COLLABORATEURS FRANÇAIS :
BONNÈRES - COQUET - JOSSILEVITCH, ARCHITECTES



ALLEMAGNE

ARCHITECTE : SPEER — COLL. FR. : COURRÈGES - COUDERT
JANKOWSKI - HUGONENQ, ARCHITECTES



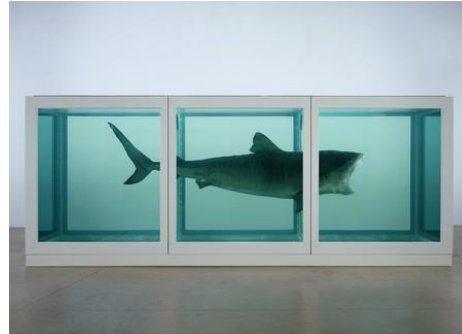
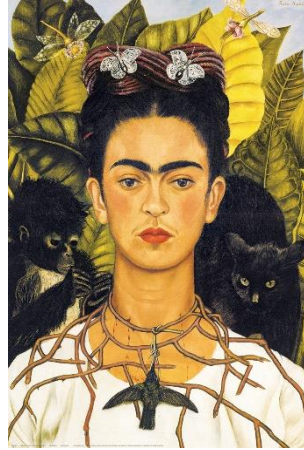


8th February 2003,
New York



Purposes of Art

Your thoughts.....



Art shows us who we are, where we have been, our heritage, our culture and how it has changed.

It is the mirror held up to society.

Artists record, document and comment on the world as they see it.

“Art is a lie that makes us realize truth, at least the truth that is given us to understand.” Picasso



Follow up task

Compare and contrast these paintings

Choose one of these images to research in more depth



Mr and Mrs Andrews Thomas Gainsborough 1750 oil on canvas 69.8 cm × 119.4 cm



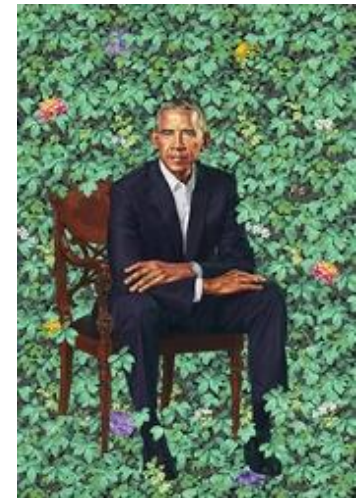
Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy David Hockney 1970-1 acrylic on canvas 217cm × 308cm



The Arnolfini Portrait Jan van Eyck oil on oak panel 82.2cm x 60cm



The Ambassadors Jan van Eyck 1533 oil on oak 207cm x 210cm



President Barack Obama Kehinde Wiley 2018 Oil on canvas 213.7cm x 147cm

Success criteria:

Know who the artist was – biographical information

Historical context – understand what was happening at the time the piece was made

Find out the media (ie what it's made from), the size, country of origin and where it is now.

Use the analysis sheet to guide you.

Why did the artist make it?

Finally – what is your response?

Do you like it or dislike it? Why?

Recommended Sources

Tate Gallery <http://www.tate.org.uk/>

The Tate also has a youtube channel and they produce short videos:
[TateShots – YouTube](#)

The National Gallery <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>

The National Portrait Gallery <http://www.npg.org.uk/>

The V&A Museum <http://www.vam.ac.uk/>

The Museum of Modern Art www.moma.org

www.artchive.com

If you have access Sky Arts have some interesting documentaries [Sky Arts | Sky.com](#)

www.artsandculture.google.com gives you high resolution reproductions that you can zoom in on to see details.

There are also many documentaries that feature artists talking about their work.

The BBC *Imagine* documentary series gives a real insight to many visual artists as well as writers and other influential figures. These are available on YouTube.