

A LEVEL FINE ART

Summer Preparation Work

Websites:

www.tate.org.uk

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

www.npg.org.uk

www.banksidegallery.com

www.royalacademy.org.uk

www.museums-sheffield.org.uk

www.patchingsartcentre.co.uk

www.yorkartgallery.org.uk

www.nationalgalleries.org

As part of you're a level you will have a related study which can take the form of a 3,000 word essay with some visual content to illustrate points, (although there are other ways to present it which we will discuss in class). Any form of visiting exhibitions and galleries and widening your knowledge of art will give you chance to make informed choices.

However, in the current situation this is not possible. Therefore, it means you have to rely on the virtual world and visiting websites to see what exhibitions have been on or are currently on (but just not being visited).

Summer activities:

1. Using the websites above or even exploring galleries further afield and abroad – look at the exhibitions they have on currently or have had recently. Some give virtual tours with running commentary, which is interesting.

Make notes to discuss the following questions back in class, as these will relate to how you need to approach your own related study in January:

What exhibition did you visit? (Website or otherwise)

Give some background information on the artwork on exhibition – is it a one-artist show or a group of artists linked by an Art Movement perhaps?

Is there a particular painting that stood out and why?

Is there any work that you did not like and why?

Is there any work in the exhibition that you found particularly inspirational and why?

2. Observational studies are particularly important in A level to show skill in recording from life. Here are a few drawing exercises I want you to try. You can use a variety of materials eg pen/biro, pencils, crayons, felt pens (creatively – no ‘colouring in’ – think sketching and layering), collage, pastels, paints – whatever materials you have available.

-LOOK DOWN – sit on a chair or settee and set up a still life on a tray on the floor of a group of objects – the choice is yours, just be careful it is not in the way and will not trip anyone else up. Draw from this angle looking down onto the still life. Interesting objects could be bottles, shoes/boots, candles, plants – grouped together.

-LOOK UP – sit at the bottom of the stairs (if possible) looking up. Draw the perspective of the stairs and their shape as they recede.

Challenge- drawing people and portraits is often popular at A level but it is a skill. Sketch the people around you as they move (minimally), for example – to make a cup of tea, ironing, working on the computer, reading a book, watching tv. Have a go at a self-portrait – give yourself a time limit; no less than an hour, no more than three hours. Look for details and especially tones. Use whatever materials you have and enjoy using – be creative. Even painting, collage and mixed media.