

Slide 1 Cindy Sherman

Born: 19th January 1954, New Jersey, America

Nationality: American

Media: Mostly photography based on a portraiture theme. Cindy Sherman is also a film director.

Education: Buffalo State College

Why is her work relevant to the mock exam theme?

Cindy Sherman is interested in how mass media influences our individual and group identities. She started her career by making super realistic paintings then moved to photography. Sherman is famous for the photographs she took of herself in the late 1970 to early 1980's. In this series of photographs, Sherman presented herself with a different female identity (film star, girly pin up, housewife, prostitute) as shown by her appearance. Sherman explores female social roles or personas and the representation of those roles in the media. Due to this, her work is central to the theme of identity.

Slide 2 Amirali Ghasemi

Born: 20th August 1980, Tehran, Iran

Nationality: Iranian

Media: Graphic design (he also selects work for art exhibitions)

Education: Central Tehran Azad University

Why is his work relevant to the mock exam theme?

Ghasemi created a series of manipulated photographs which show Iranian people socializing in their homes. The group of photographs are titled 'Parties'. The theme of 'Parties' may not seem unusual to you but you may question why the faces of the people are blocked out. The reason the faces are blocked out is to protect their identities. In Iran, attending a party even in a private home is unacceptable and is associated with subversive behaviour. This is unacceptable to the current religious regime in Iran which controls every aspect of peoples' lives. The artists work is received differently depending on who is looking at it. His work comments on identity related subjects such as censorship, women's rights, the hijab (headscarf worn by Muslim women) and Islam.

Slide 3 - Frida Kahlo

Born: 6th July 1907, Coyoacán, Mexico

Died: 13th July 1954, Coyoacán, Mexico

Nationality: Mexican

Media: Painting, sketching and drawing.

Education: National Preparatory School

Why is her work relevant to the mock exam theme?

Kahlo is famous for her self-portraits which explore themes that affected her life, her political and cultural identity and her experience of being a woman. She suffered a series of unfortunate life changing events. Kahlo suffered polio as child and was seriously injured in a traffic accident as a teenager. The injuries to her spine and collarbone left Kahlo bedridden for a long period. This was when she developed her painting skills and started to create art work in order to express her political ideas. She later adopted the colourful folk art style of Mexican Folk painting and wore traditional Tehuana dress to express her cultural identity / Mestiza ancestry on her mother's side. Kahlo mixed real and surreal features in her paintings. Kahlo married Diego Rivera in 1929 yet both had numerous affairs and her bi sexuality is another theme explored in her paintings.

Slide 4 - Joseph Cornell

Born: 24th December 1903, New York, America

Died: 29th December 1972

Nationality: American

Media: Found objects, arranged and represented in a box structure.

Education: No formal art training.

Why is his work relevant to the mock exam theme?

Cornell made glass fronted boxes which contained carefully arranged objects. The boxes are often called 'shadow boxes' and the objects the artist used were found in antique or 'dime stores'. The objects were given a new life and meaning by Cornell. Sometimes the boxes had a theme (e.g. birds, space) or the objects in the box were designed to evoke memories such as childhood.

The objects we own can symbolise important aspects of our identity.

‘Soap Bubble Set’ 1936 by Joseph Cornell (see power point) contains dolls head (represents the artist Joseph Cornell), a clay pipe for blowing bubbles (hence the title and representative of his father), a birds egg (his mother), a glass, an antique map of the moon, a print of the leaning Tower of Pisa and four cups (to represent Cornell and his three siblings). ‘Soap Bubble Set’ is part of a series linked to the artists’ childhood and a cosmos theme. Which possessions are important to you or someone you know well?

Slide 5 - Dryden Goodwin

Born: 1971

Educated: Slade School of Fine Art

Media: drawing in combination with photography and video. Also creates gallery installations, films, projects in public spaces (e.g. the London Underground), etchings, works on line and soundtracks.

Why is his work relevant to the mock exam theme?

Goodwin is focussed on the individuality and therefore identity of his sitters. He uses intense mark making to capture and communicate the key elements of their personality. He represents people he knows well, famous people and strangers. A commission for the London Underground led Goodwin to draw portraits of sixty Jubilee Line staff, each with an individual feel.

Slide 6 - Gillian Lambert

No information available!

Media: drawings with some use of paint or mixed media (e.g. foil!)

Why is her work relevant to the mock exam theme?

Portraiture is her starting point but the facial features of her sitters are always distorted or partially hidden. String is used to distort the flesh and facial expression, fabric to hide, disguise or reveal with surreal features added (e.g. talons!). Lambert seems to be manipulating superficially realistic appearances to create a disguised image with a deeper meaning. Identity is more complex than appearance.