

Year 8 – Zodiac Animals Unit 4

Project Outline

Inspired by 'Circle of Animals / Zodiac Heads' created by contemporary political and conceptual sculptor Ai Wei Wei, this unit is designed to introduce students to 'Art with meaning'. The theme of the sculpture, the artists' intention and the possible meanings it has for different audiences will be explored. The practical focus is on tone, mark making and the use of mixed media which provides an opportunity to further develop Year 7 observational tonal shading (Unit 1 & 2). Students will create a 3 part GCSE style A4 sample. A focus on evaluating outcomes & personal targets for the development of key skills. A research and presentation task will provide students with an opportunity to extend their knowledge, skills & understanding

Lesson Outline

Lesson 1	Introduction to the project – students will select the animal image for the practical task, lightbox trace an outline onto A4 cartridge paper before adding basic mid-tones (soft tissue modelling technique), leaving white paper highlights then pressure blend shading darker shadows.
Lesson 2	Tonal shading – students will complete the tonal shade sample focussing on accurate representation of tones. Following a demonstration students will explore different mark making techniques to represent textured surfaces. HW 1 – Tea/coffee wash to prep for L3.
Lesson 3	Tonal watercolour over tea/coffee wash background - Following a demonstration students will apply light, medium and dark watercolour washes to the second third. The challenge will be to create gradual watercolour blends and accurately match the tones.
Lesson 4	Completion of Lesson 3 sample – option to explore Derwent Watercolour pencils by over shading then wash blending. Independent Study 2 – find & print out an example of Mark Powells' work where he has used recycled paper & collect collage papers suitable for lesson 5.
Lesson 5	Mixed media Focus – students will prepare the surface of the third sample with collage (brown, ripped sugar paper) before working over the top with black, grey & white chalks or oil pastels. Some students may choose to create mini samples to practise blending & mark making.
Lesson 6	Completion of Lesson 5 sample
Cover?	Due to the Y11 Exams 24.3 & 26.3 some Y8 lessons may be covered. Whenever possible students will continue with practical work. If not possible, students will undertake the Art Careers Focus cover lesson task or an Ed Fairburn / Mark Powell Artist Study Task .

Independent Study Outline

You will be expected to complete 1 piece of independent study during this project. Please ensure this is completed to the very best of your ability and presented with care in your sketchbook.

Independent Study 1	Write in your planner – Tea / coffee wash the next tonal sample & collect papers for the collage sample (lesson 5)
Independent Study 2	Write in your planner – Research a Chinese Zodiac Animal . Find out about the personality traits & qualities associated with it in addition to images of the animal in Chinese Art. Illustrate and present your research on an A3 double page in your sketchbook. At least one illustration should be a tonal study using the skills and understanding gained in lessons.
Independent Study 3	Write in your planner – Stolen Art Research Task (see slide 16 of Ai Wei Wei Powerpoint)