
A LEVEL FINE ART

Context:

When studying Fine Art at A-level you will refine your abilities and skills using a range of techniques and processes. You will expand your knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary art. The first project you will complete as part of the Year 12 A-level Fine Art course is based on 'Portraiture'.

Reading Material:

The National Portrait Gallery website is a great place to start exploring and learning about a wide range of portraits. They have a huge catalogue of work and easy to access information to help you gain a deeper understanding of the stories, ideas and history behind the portraits.

The 'Google Arts and Culture' app and website are currently offering a vast amount of virtual tours of landmarks, museums and art galleries. You can take a virtual tour (google street maps style) through the galleries and exhibitions.

Task 1:

Research

Find and research 20 portraits. Search the National Portrait Gallery, the Google Arts and Culture app and the internet to find 20 examples of portraiture in contemporary and historical art. Aim to discover a wide range of approaches to portraiture from traditional pre-renaissance portraits to modern hyper-realism portraits, and from surreal portrait to conceptual installation portraits.

Focus on finding portraits, not artists. Save an image of each portrait and find interesting and useful information about each portrait, such as who made it? Where and when it was made? What materials, techniques and processes were used to make it? What meaning, message, story or idea does it communicate?

Task 2:

Develop skills

Create a collection of portrait drawings, paintings and experiments. Use photos, found images or copies of the artists' work from your research. Draw the portraits freehand, by tracing or grid drawing. If you can, try to use a range of different drawing materials.

Aim to produce the highest quality drawings you can. If you push yourself to develop your skills and learn about a wide range of artists, you will be better prepared to begin studying A-level Fine Art.