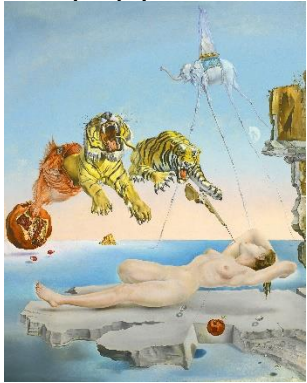


Year 13 BTEC Autumn Term Art Knowledge Bank

Surrealism

The word 'surrealist' (suggesting 'beyond reality') was coined by the French avant-garde poet Guillaume Apollinaire in the preface to a play performed in 1917.



Salvador Dali, Dream caused by the flight of a bee around a pomegranate a second before

Many surrealist artists have used automatic drawing or writing to unlock ideas and images from their unconscious minds. Others have wanted to depict dream worlds or hidden psychological tensions. Surrealist artists have also drawn inspiration from mysticism, ancient cultures and Indigenous art and knowledge as a way of imagining alternative realities. The movement's aspiration towards the liberation of the mind as well as the liberation of artistic expressions has also meant seeking political freedom. In many instances, these artists have turned to political activism. In this way, the revolutionary concepts encouraged by Surrealism has led the movement to be seen as a way of life.

Surrealist artists; Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Max Ernst

Techniques and processes

Oil Painting

Oil paint is slow drying and versatile, allowing you to easily manipulate it on the painting surface. There are 5 key steps to prepare and think about before you start your oil painting:



Step 1: Prepare your painting surface - You can paint on many different surfaces—**canvas, wood, paper**—but whichever you choose, it's important to apply a type of **primer** called **gesso** to the painting surface to prevent the oil from seeping into the surface.

Step 2: Paint in order - Paint thick over thin. That means using thinner paint and less oil in the first layers, saving thicker paint and higher oil content for later layers. This will help ensure that earlier layers dry first and will help to keep your painting from cracking. Start with an underpainting of paint and **white spirit**, then move to a painting with thicker oil paint and/or adding **linseed oil**.



Step 3: Paint with a limited palette - More colours does not mean a more sophisticated painting. If anything, it is often the opposite. By mixing the three **primary colours** you get a natural black. Add some white to that and you have grey. The three primary colours can then be used to mix what-ever colour you need.

Step 3: Create a variety of textures - The best thing about oil painting is how smoothly you can **blend colour tones**. But, at the same time don't over blend everywhere. To help you blend and create detail use 3 different sized brushes from big to extremely small. Then to stop yourself from over blending by using a **palette knife**. They can be a fantastic painting tool used for applying paint in an **impasto style**, or for scraping paint off.

Step 4: Clean your brush - It's important to clean your brush between colours with **white spirit** and with soap and water when finished painting. Have paper towels handy to wipe excess paint and white spirit off your brushes as you go. Don't wash up oil painting **palettes**, just rub off excess paint with paper towels and leave to dry. Also don't put white spirit down the sink ask your teacher where you can dispose of it.

Materials

Acrylic paints are extremely versatile, and ideal for fine brushwork, glazing, staining, water media techniques and many more. This smooth and light paint has excellent pigment quality, colour strength, and durability. The acrylic paint can be applied to almost any stable surface like watercolour paper or canvas. It is quick-drying and can be purchased in a variety of forms, like a tube or small ink-bottle varying in viscosity.

Oil-based paint is very durable and provides a glossy-looking finish. Brushstrokes fill themselves into a smooth, rich varnish. Oil-based paint has long-lasting coverage and blends well with others. This paint dries slowly which works in a painter's advantage since the artist can develop the painting gradually, making changes to the work along the way. Don't forget about water mixable oil paints. Water mixable oil paint is oil paint with an added emulsifier. This type of paint is water mixable, not water-based. This paint possesses elasticity and is diluted thinly when more water is added.

Watercolour is a translucent paint containing pigment and a binder, typically gum-arabic. The gum-arabic holds the paint together and ensures the paint will not flake. The paint has colour pigment suspended in water until the water dries and stains the surface. The paint brushes with fluidity and transparency and dries fairly quickly.

Gouache is a water-soluble and opaque paint so the white of the paper surface does not show through. It is a tad chalkier than traditional watercolour and absorbs light rather than reflects it. The paint is diluted with water, but possesses a strong coloured pigment. This unique paint dries darker and a little of it goes a long way and takes time to dry which means it can be workable for hours or even days after application.



Key Literary Vocabulary

Graphite	Is the dark grey material usually found encased within a wooden pencil. Used to draw.	Linseed Oil	A pale yellow oil extracted from linseed, used especially in paint and varnish.	Impasto	Paint applied thickly.
Canvas	A strong, coarse unbleached cloth made from hemp, used as a surface for oil painting.	White Spirit /Turpentine	A colourless liquid distilled from petroleum, used as a paint thinner and solvent.	Subject	Subject Matter refers to what the artwork is about. The model or objects in the work.

Useful websites to research further knowledge

www.tate.org.uk	https://www.virtualartacademy.com/online-art-community/	https://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/apply/portfolio-advice
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