

Emma Cate

— TEACHING —

Artwork of the week

Artwork of the week

Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird
1940

Frida Kahlo
1907 - 1954



Mexican artist Frida Kahlo is well known for her self-portraits and bold, vibrant colors. She is celebrated for her attention to Mexican and indigenous culture. Frida loved to draw. She would prefer to spend hours on her own with her artwork than to play with her sisters.

When Frida was six, she had an illness called polio, which left her with a damaged right leg. She had to wear a special brace to support her leg and to help her to walk. When she was 18, she had a terrible bus accident, which meant she had lots of operations.

During her time in bed with both illnesses, Frida would draw to help keep her mind busy and pass the time. She couldn't see very much from her bed, so she had a mirror placed on the ceiling so that she could see herself.

Artistic Movement

Frida has been described as a **Surrealist**. This was a group of artists who painted their dreams. Frida didn't like this label though.

Style

She included lots of bright colours in her self-portraits, reminding us of the vibrant colours of the hot country where she lived. She also included lots of tropical flowers and animals such as monkeys and beautiful birds.



1907 - 1954

Reflection Time

What is strange about this painting?

Why do you think the animals are in the painting?

How would you describe the figure of Frida Kahlo?

How does the picture make you feel?

Think of three adjectives to describe this painting.





Artwork of the week

Sweep it under the carpet

2006

Banksy



Who is Banksy?

No one knows! Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. That means he keeps his identity hidden. He doesn't his real name, and he will not allow photos or copies of his artwork to be made or sold. Banksy uses his art to give his opinion on events that are happening in the world. He is known as a political activist. The art he creates shows what he thinks. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.

Artistic Movement

Banksy is a Graffiti artist. is writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed secretly on a wall or other surface in a public place. It is generally considered to be vandalism. Vandalism is a crime and vandals can be punished.

Style

Banksy uses stencils to create his artwork. He draws an outline onto card or acetate sheets and then cuts the shapes out by hand. He then uses spray paint on the stencil to create the graffiti. Some graffiti artists think it is cheating to use stencils. They prefer to paint freehand. Banksy has said that before he used stencils, he was very slow at painting, so he often got caught or didn't finish a piece at all.



Reflection Time

Who do you think this artwork was created for?
Why?

What was your first reaction to this artwork?

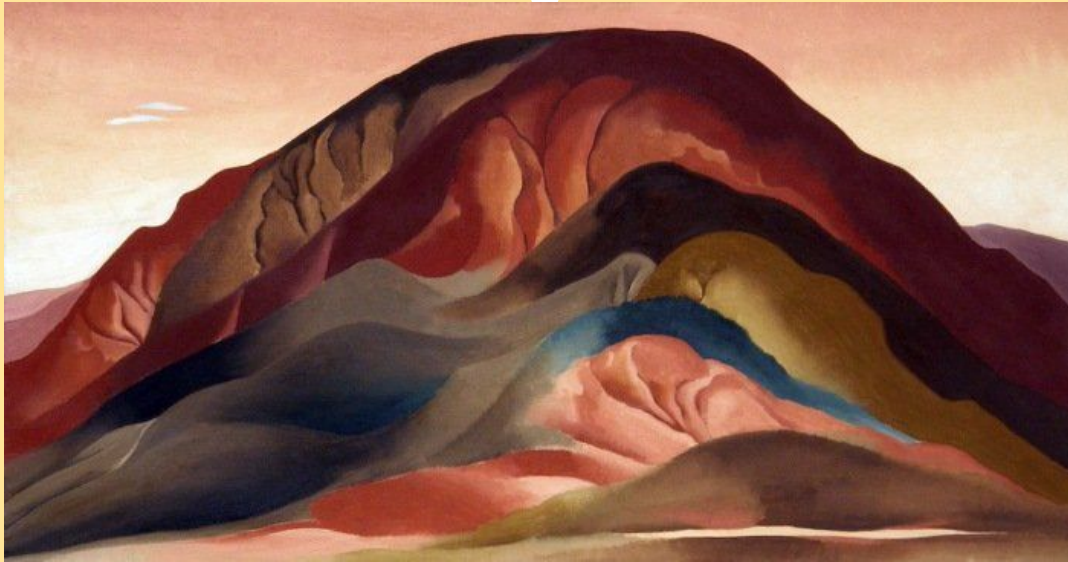
How do you think Banksy was feeling when he created this artwork?

Some people think graffiti art isn't real art. Do you agree? Why or why not?





Artwork of the week



Red Rust Hills

1930

Georgia O'Keeffe

1887 - 1986

Born in 1887, Georgia O'Keeffe was an American artist who painted nature in a way that showed how it made her feel. She is best known for her paintings of flowers and desert landscapes.

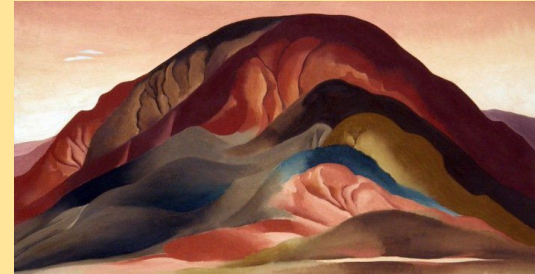
Georgia knew from the age of 12 that she wanted to be an artist. She went to art school but what she was taught there didn't seem relevant to the way she wanted to paint. She played an important part in the development of modern art in America, becoming the first female painter to gain respect in New York's art world in the 1920s. Her unique and new way of painting nature, simplifying its shapes and forms meant that she was called a pioneer (a person who is the first to do something).

Artistic Movement

Georgia experimented with abstract art. Art in the 1920s was exciting. Artists didn't just want to show how something looked but were using colours, shapes and brush-marks in unexpected ways to express meanings, ideas and feelings.

Style

Georgia developed her own unique style – a combination of abstract and realistic. She emphasised the importance of composition – which means how you arrange shapes and colours and experimented with shapes, colours and marks.



1887 - 1986

Reflection Time

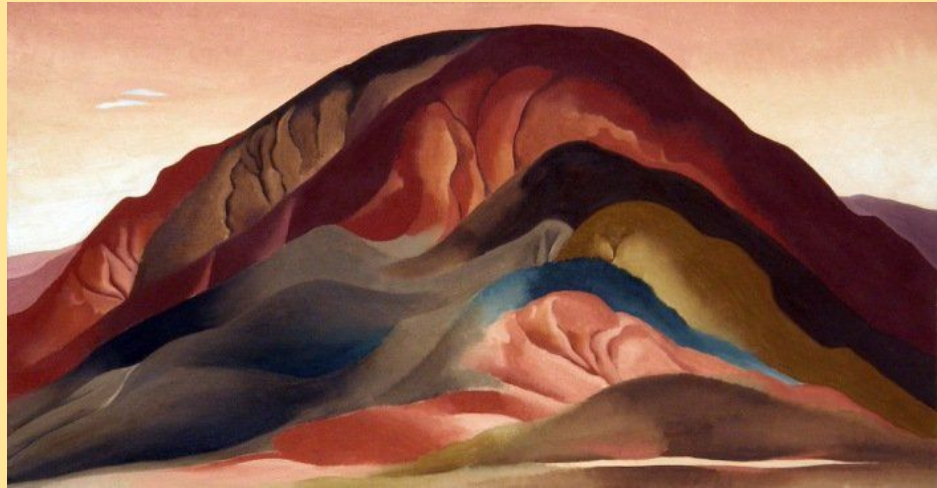
What words would you use to describe this landscape?

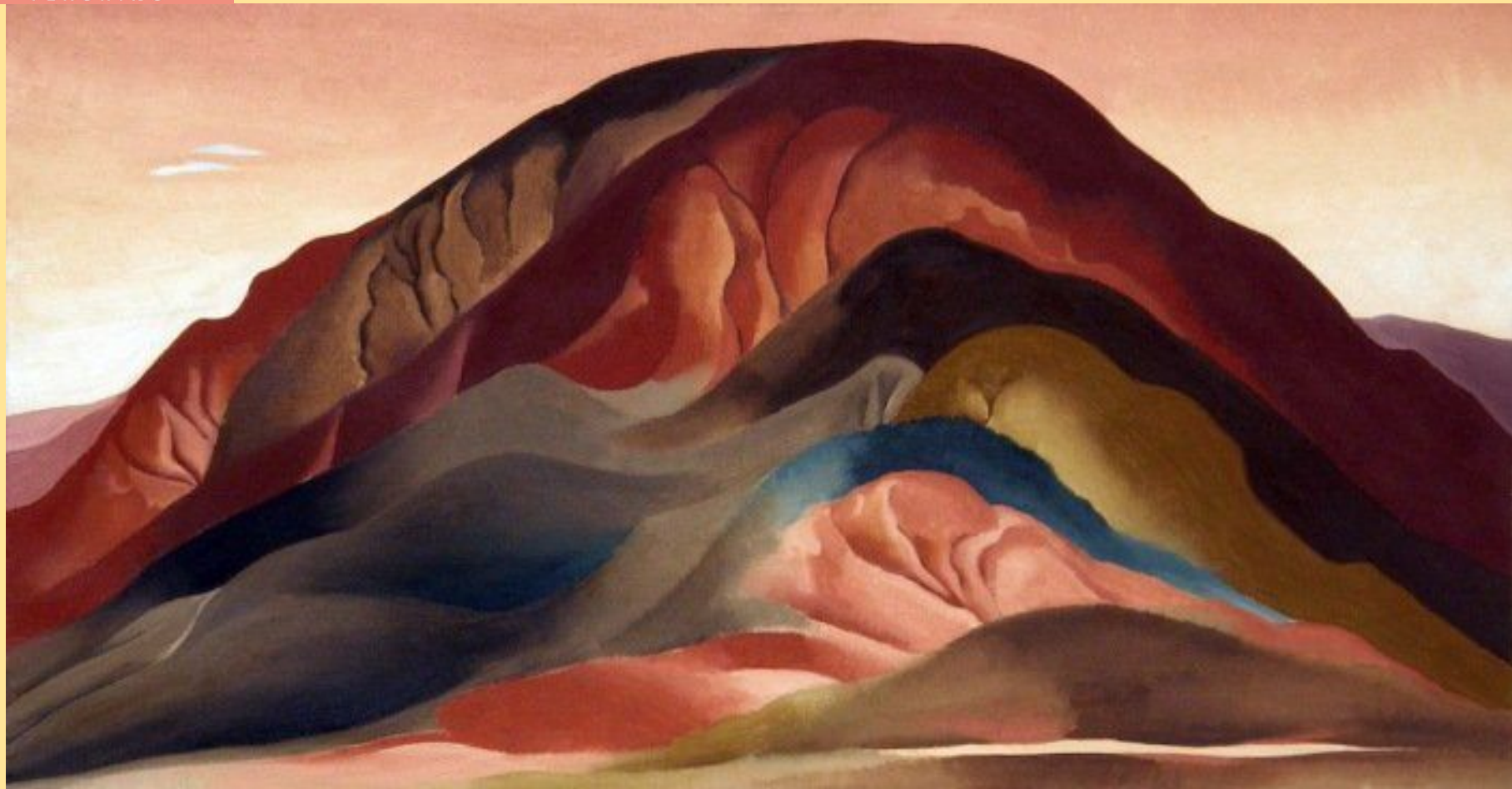
What mood do the colours make you feel?

What kinds of shapes are the lines making?

What do you think the painting is called 'Red Rust Hills'?

What is beautiful about this artwork?





Artwork of the week

Grillo
1980

Jean-Michel Basquiat
1960-1988



Jean-Michel is from Brooklyn, New York and had Haitian and Puerto Rican parents. His mother encouraged his interest in art. His mum was often in hospital and this caused him lots of pain. Troubled by his early childhood, Basquiat dropped out of high school and left home at age 17. He lived on the streets, with friends, or in abandoned buildings.

He began a graffiti campaign with graffiti artists Al Diaz and Shannon Dawson. They created a group called SAMO© and painted anonymous messages on walls and on subway trains in New York City. In the late 1970s that work—together with the work of other graffiti artists—began to receive notice in the art world, and so did Jean-Michel. He emerged in the mainstream New York art scene at age 20 and became popular very quickly. Sadly, he died at the young age of 28.

Artistic Movement

Jean-Michel didn't have any formal training. He mixed together Abstract Expressionism and graffiti to create his own unique style. He created highly expressionistic work that mixed graffiti and signs with the gestural and intuitive approach of Abstract Expressionist painting.

Abstract Expressionists were a group of young New York artists who made paintings that were non-representational, meaning they didn't look like anything. Instead they tried to show emotions.

Style

His art focused on the differences in society such as wealth, poverty and racism. He often included poetry and text in his work, and most commonly used painting, drawing, and collage to create his pieces. Jean-Michel would sometimes include a crown in his work to symbolise Black power.



1960 - 1988

Reflection Time

If this artwork could talk what would it say?

Who do you know that would really like this artwork? Why would they like it?

Why do you think you should be learning about/looking at this artwork?

What details do you like about this artwork?





Artwork of the week

Pietà

1498-1600

Michelangelo Buonarroti
1475 - 1564



Michelangelo is one of the world's most famous artists. He was born in 1475, near the city of Florence in Italy. Growing up in Florence during the Italian Renaissance was the perfect environment for young Michelangelo. Even as a child all he wanted to do was paint and be an artist. His father, a local government official, wanted Michelangelo to go to school, but he had little interest in school. At the age of thirteen he was apprenticed to Domenico Ghirlandaio, a painter and artist. Michelangelo's talent quickly became noticed and as a young man he became a well known artist.

Although Michelangelo considered himself to be a sculptor he is also very well known for his painting, perhaps most famous of all is The Sistine Chapel Ceiling.

Artistic Movement

Michelangelo lived in the time of the Renaissance. The Renaissance was a period of time from the 14th to the 17th century in Europe. This era bridged the time between the Middle Ages and modern times. The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth". A big part of the Renaissance was a cultural movement called humanism. It looked for realism and human emotion in art.

Style

Michelangelo used his advanced knowledge of the human body to create his sculptures. He was interested in how concrete figures come to life in sculpture. He was liked religious themes and focused on the image of Christ in many of his drawings, frequently drawing the same images until the emotion in his pieces became intense.



1475 - 1564

Reflection Time

This sculpture is called 'Pietà' which means compassion/piety. How is this displayed in the sculpture?

What shapes and textures can you see in the sculpture?

Who do you think the female figure is? How do you think she is feeling?

How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it?



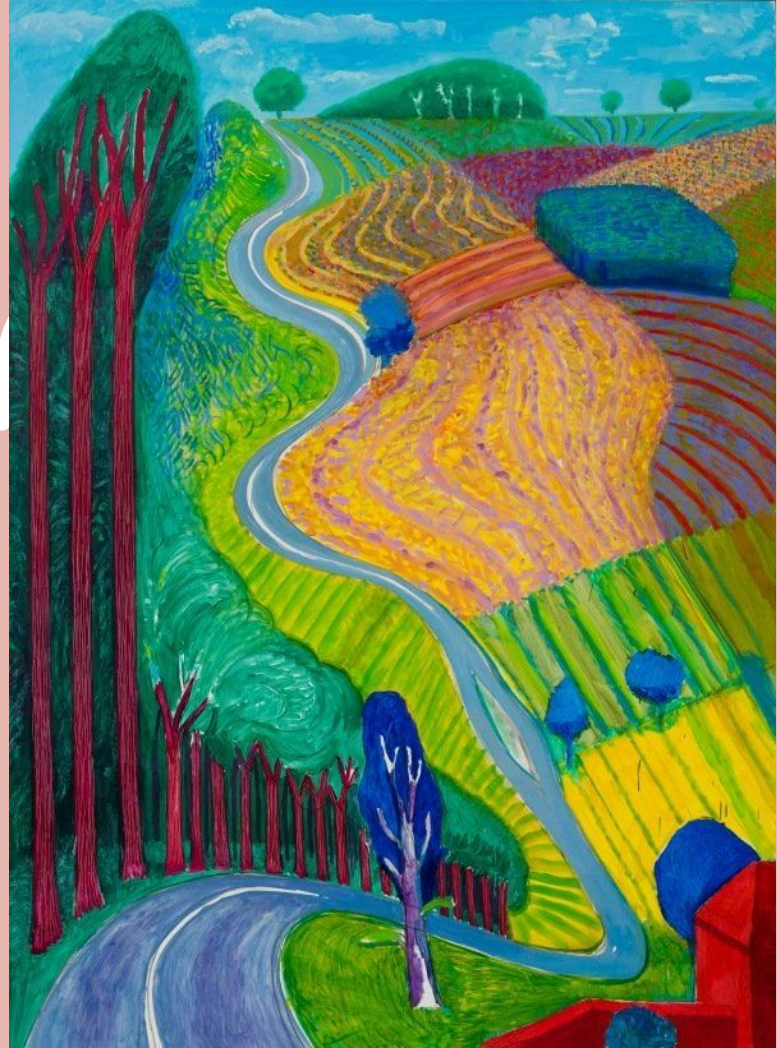


Artwork of the week

Growing up by Garrowby Hill

2000

David Hockney
1937 - present day



David Hockney is one of the most important painters of the 20th century. If you were to Google, famous British painters, there's a good chance that Hockney's name will appear. David Hockney was born on July 9, 1937, in Bradford, England, to Laura and Kenneth Hockney. In 1948, David Hockney won a scholarship to the Bradford Grammar School, one of the best schools in the country. Here he enjoyed his art classes most and thus decided that he wanted to become an artist. Furthermore, he disliked the other subjects he was required to study. He spent his class time doodling in notebooks! In 1953, David finally enrolled in the College of Art and began painting with oils, his medium of choice for most of his life.

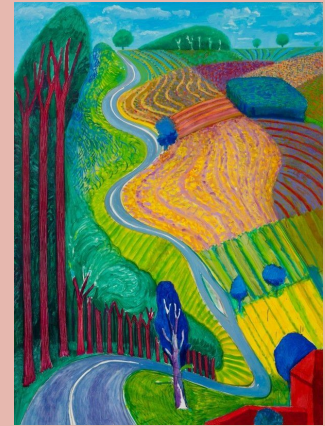
In 2011 was voted most influential artist out of 1000 British nominees. Despite Hockney being eighty years old he continues to create works of art and exhibit in galleries around the world.

Artistic Movement

David Hockney was one of the big artists involved in the pop art movement in the 1960s. Pop art was a style of art that was bright, full of colour. It was made by lots of young artists who felt that the art they saw in galleries was a little bit boring.

Style

Hockney lives in London, but owns two other homes in California. You can imagine then that a lot of his work varies, because California and the UK are very different places. California is usually always sunny, where as in England the weather changes all the time. So, when painting in England, Hockney likes to paint the seasons. He also loves to paint people. Lots of Hockney's work involves painting people he loves. This is usually pairs of people. He has also painting men that he loved and spent time with.



1937 - present day

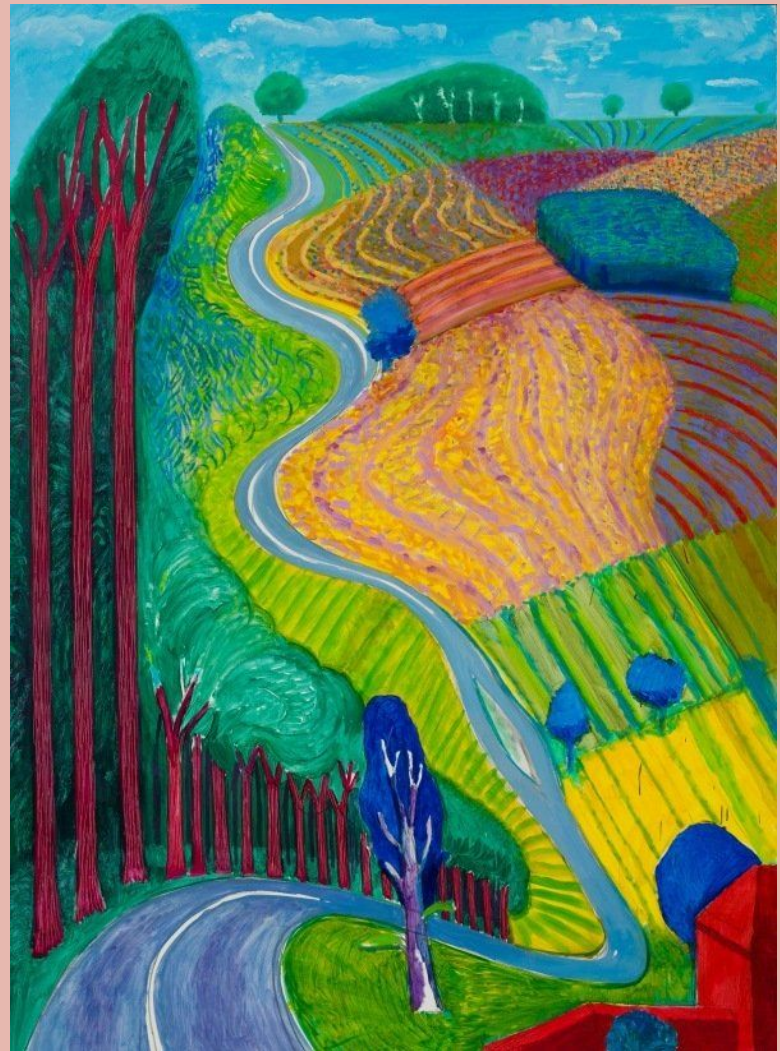
Reflection Time

David Hockney has painted the landscape in Yorkshire, where he was brought up. There are lots of different colours. Why do you think this?

Think of three verbs to describe this painting.

Which area of the artwork do you think is most important? Why?

How does your eye move through the artwork? What choices did the artist make to make that happen?





Artwork of the 1950s

Dotted
1959

Anni Albers
1889 - 1994



Anni Albers was a German artist. She was born in Berlin in 1899 and came from a Jewish family. She was interested in art from a young age. Albers studied at the Bauhaus. The Bauhaus was an exciting school of art and design in Germany. Art teachers and students at the school worked and learnt together.

At the time, women were only allowed to study a few classes. Anni decided to study weaving and became one of the greatest textile artists of our time. She believed that textiles are a type of art and as important as painting or sculpture! How does it make you feel that women weren't allowed to study the same things as men?

Artistic Movement

Anni was an early Modernist. Modernism rejected tradition. It was interested in new ways of doing old things. Modernist artists experimented with new ways of seeing and with fresh ideas about the nature of materials and functions of art.

Style

Anni Albers was interested in old methods of weaving. She used looms to make many of her textile designs. A loom is a piece of equipment used to make fabrics. It weaves threads over and under other threads to create the textile.

Anni Albers thought that people had forgotten about their sense of touch. Today, a lot of objects are made by machines. This means that we don't have to use our hands as much as we used to. She liked to make artworks that tickle our sense of touch and make us want to feel them. She used traditional methods mixed with the modernist style which made her very unique!



1960 - 1988

Reflection Time

What was your first reaction to this artwork?
Why do you think you had the reaction?

If this artwork had sound effects, what would
they sound like?

What does this artwork remind you of? Why?

Do you want to see this artwork again? Why
or why not?





Artwork of the week

*Between the Two my Heart is
Balanced*
1991

Lubaina Himid
1954 - present day



Lubaina Himid is a British artist. She was born in Zanzibar in 1954 but moved to the UK with her mother when she was only four months old after her father died. Her mother was a textile designer. Growing up with a mother who was an artist taught her a lot. She learnt a lot about shapes, colours and making things through looking!

She attended the Wimbledon College of Art, where she studied Theatre Design. She is a hugely successful artist as well as a professor of contemporary art at the University of Central Lancashire. Lubaina was even appointed MBE in June 2010 for "services to Black Women's Art" won the Turner Prize in 2017 and was made a CBE in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours "for services to art."

Artistic Movement

Lubaina was part of the Black Arts Movement in the 1980s. This movement included different Black British artists trying to create opportunities and encourage other Black artists to show their work.

Style

Lots of Lubaina Himid's artworks are about the strength of Black people throughout history. She uses a lot of bright colours that remind us of African patterns and fabrics. Patterns and clothing are important in her paintings. Himid is very interested in stories about Black women and often depicts (shows them) in her artworks. Lubaina paints stories about beautiful friendships, love and kindness. The women often wear colourful dresses and sailing on a boat.



1954 - present day

Reflection Time

If you could ask the women in this painting a question, what would you ask them?

How do you think the women know each other? What do you think their relationship is? Why?

What would it feel like to be in this artwork?

What do you think happened next?





Artwork of the week

Little Dancer aged fourteen

1880-1881

Edgar Degas
1834-1917



Edgar Degas was a French artist born in Paris in 1834. He was well educated and spent most of his life in Paris. He was supposed to become a lawyer, but he preferred to doodle so he became an artist instead!

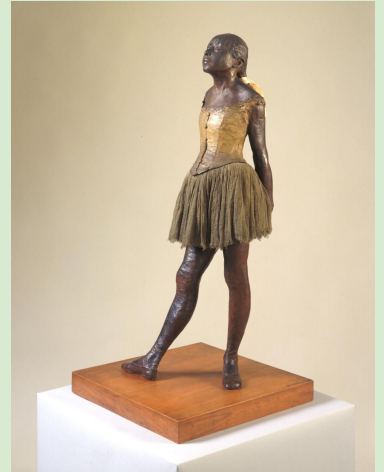
Not long after beginning his art studies in Paris, he left to travel and study in Italy. He returned to Paris in 1859 and tried to launch his art career; however, he was unsuccessful at first. In the 1860s, his art changed from large portraits of historical scenes to modern subjects such as racehorses. His pictures of racing events and his use of bold colours were unusual but very popular. By the beginning of the 1870s, Edgar was becoming known for his art in Paris. He is still famous today for his artworks of ballet dancers.

Artistic Movement

Edgar was an Impressionist. Impressionist artists were not trying to create a reflection of real life, but an 'impression' of what the person, light, atmosphere, object or landscape looked like to them. And that's why they were called impressionists! They tried to capture the movement and life of what they saw and show it to us as if it were happening before our eyes. Although Degas is often described as an impressionist, he didn't really think he was one.

Style

Edgar drew, painted and sculpted scenes of everyday life, and especially liked painting scenes of entertainers. He often made pictures from odd angles. In later years he made sculptures of dancers as he was losing his eyesight.



1834 - 1917

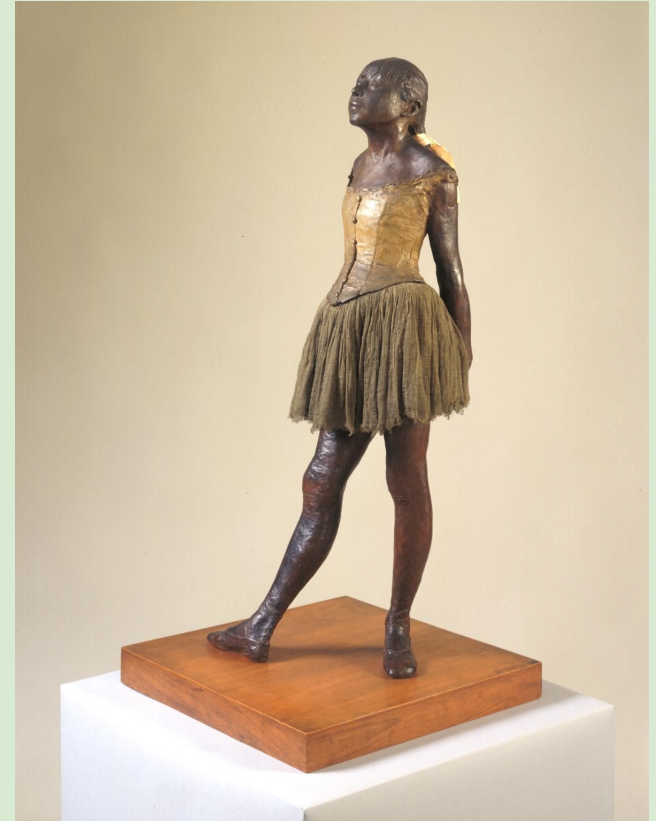
Reflection Time

If you could name this artwork yourself, what would you call it? Why?

Where does your eye look first? Why do you think that is?

If you could make one change to this piece, what would it be?

What feeling do you get from this artwork? Why do you think this is?





Artwork of the week

Brownstones

1958

Jacob Lawrence

1917 - 2000



Jacob Lawrence was an African American artist whose work was known for its emphasis on storytelling. He was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on September 7, 1917, and lived in Pennsylvania, before moving to Harlem in New York with his mother and sisters at age 13. He received his artistic training at community art centers in Harlem, the easel project of the Works Progress Administration, and the American Artists School in New York.

He was awarded the Spingarn Medal by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1970 and the United States National Medal of the Arts in 1990 and is celebrated for his work depicting the struggles of African Americans.

Artistic Movement

The Harlem Renaissance was a 20th century cultural movement that started in the New York neighborhood of Harlem. As many African Americans fled the south, Harlem became a centre for creative individuals like artists, writers, poets, photographers, musicians and dancers. There was no single style that defined the Harlem Renaissance, rather artists found different ways to celebrate African American culture and identity.

Style

Jacob Lawrence's work focuses on the history of African Americans in the United States. Many of his screen prints, which are bold and graphic, include several panels that tell the same story, each in a different way. He includes scenes of everyday life, historical events, and the lives of African American heroes and heroines in his work.



1917 - 2000

Reflection Time

What questions do you have about what you see?

What can the image tell you about the artist? What do you see that makes you say that?

What do you think is the focal point (main part) of this work of art? What makes you say so? Why do you think the artist made that the focal point?

Do the colours create a mood in the painting? How do the colours make you feel?





Artwork of the week

Spider
1994

Louise Bourgeois
1911 - 2010



Louise was born in Paris on Christmas Day, 1911. As a young girl, she enjoyed being in her parents' busy tapestry studio, helping with dyeing cloth, weaving and sewing. Tapestries are thick pieces of fabric with pictures or designs, which are made by weaving different coloured threads. They are quite rare to see but they are usually hung on walls like paintings. Louise would often draw designs for tapestry sections that needed to be repaired.

In 1930 she began to study mathematics, Her mother died in 1932, whilst she was studying. Her mother's death inspired her to abandon mathematics and to begin studying art. In 1938 she moved to New York where she studied art further and began to become well known as an artist. Louise Bourgeois is one of the great figures of modern and contemporary art. She is best known for her large-scale sculptures and installations that are inspired by her own memories and experiences.

Artistic Movement

Louise has been connected with many different art movements but she rejected all of them, preferring her work to be seen as unique.

Style

Louise used art to explore her feelings. She wanted her artwork to tell stories. She has lots of upsetting things happen in her childhood and she used her art to represent those feelings.



1911 - 2010

Reflection Time

What was your first reaction to this artwork? Why do you think you had the reaction?

What is mysterious about this artwork?

What would this artwork be afraid of?

How do you think the artist was feeling when they create this artwork? Why?

Describe this artwork in a sentence.





Artwork of the week

Eat Me Now

2013

Chila Kumari Singh Burman
1957 - present dy



Born in Liverpool, Chila Kumari Singh Burman describes herself as a 'Punjabi Liverpoolian' who likes to combine her Indian roots with popular culture. Punjab is a region in the north of India. Magpies like to collect shiny things and so does Chila Kumari Singh Burman. Her studio in Hackney, East London is filled with treasures she's found on her travels like retro jewellery, ancient artifacts, shimmering sequins, Chinese paper cut outs and bindis. Bindis are small dots worn on the forehead, traditionally in South Asia. They can be round or the shape of a teardrop. They can be simple or shiny, depending on the reason they are worn.

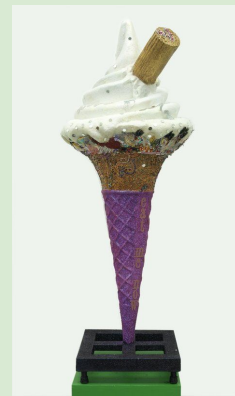
Chila was one of the first British Asian female artists to have a monograph (a special type of scholarly book) written about her work: Lynda Nead's *Chila Kumari Burman: Beyond Two Cultures* (1995), and a second monograph by Nead was published in 2012. In 2017 Chila Kumari Singh Burman was awarded an Honorary Doctorate for her art, but she doesn't consider it 'work'.

Artistic Movement

She was a key figure in the British Black Arts movement in the 1980s. This movement included different Black British artists trying to create opportunities and encourage other Black artists to show their work.

Style

She creates art that is fun but also makes you think. She likes using unexpected styles and techniques to create her masterpieces. She loves the energy of different colours. Her work includes collage, printmaking and video. You could say that she's a 'mixed media' or a 'multimedia' artist. Chila Kumari Singh Burman doesn't like being labelled as one thing. She combines different techniques including painting, collage and printing together; this is known as 'mixed media'. When video or sound is used in artwork it's called 'multimedia'.



1957 - present day

Reflection Time

Give three verbs that describe this artwork.

Describe the colors in the artwork

Close your eyes and describe the artwork from memory.
Why did you remember what you remembered? Why did
you forget what you forgot?

If this artwork were music, what would it sound like?





Emma Cate

— TEACHING —

Artwork of the week