

Year 12 (Pre-Course) - Art Summer Work 2025

Hello, A Level Artists!

Whilst summer is traditionally a time to relax, recuperate and celebrate the successes of the previous year, this summer it is also vital that you complete some art coursework, to prepare you fully for the challenges of A Level study in Art next year.

Please ensure you complete the following tasks and bring them with you to our first lesson in September.

1. **Get a sketchbook** or some good quality cartridge paper. I like square sketchbooks which fall somewhere between A3 and A4 size – not too small, but not too big & scary either. An A4 sketchbook will also be fine, but A3 is too big.
2. We will start Year 12 with a ‘mini-project’ which will be teacher-led, titled **“Discovery.”** There are many ways in which this title can be interpreted, and it is important at this level, that you make as many decisions for yourself as possible, right from the start. What does the word *Discovery* make you think / feel? Write your ideas down across the middle of the first double page of your sketchbook, in the form of an illustrated **mind map...**
3. ...focussing in on a few of the best of your ideas, produce a double page **mood board** of images linked to the word *Discovery*. Ensure your images relate to lots of different interpretations of the title. This should be a very broad and general overview of what imagery the word *discovery* might conjure in your mind. You could use Pinterest to create an image board and then print this and put it in your sketchbook. If you cannot get online or print, then make a mood board more traditionally, using newspaper and magazine cuttings.
4. **Take at least 50 photos** of things / people / places that interest you and which can be used in your project. Think practically. What can you shoot which is easy to resource? Is there anything in your house which you can use? Try not to use internet images, as your own photos will gain more marks.
5. Create a series of at least **4 small, tonal studies in graphite**, from the photos you have taken. Annotate each drawing with the time taken on it and a short note to explain how it links to the theme / your idea.
6. **Research the work of an Artist** who interests you. You can choose any artist, so long as you have *never* looked at their work before. Try to find someone who genuinely interests you. I don’t expect anyone to choose Warhol or Monet – that’s too obvious and obvious is boring. Go for someone more contemporary and lesser known. Produce a double page presentation on that artist, with images of their work and short critical analyses of 2 of their works. Make insightful connections between different pieces in the portfolios. What was their pre-occupation? What were they trying to achieve? Make sure that the artist / their work links to the theme (or at least your interpretation of it.) Do NOT write a biography of their life events, unless

those events shaped their work in some way. THE WORK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ARTIST!

Always analyse the art, not the person – you will learn more.

7. Try to complete a **large-scale, personal artwork** (*min. A2 size/ approx. 10 hrs of work*) – this could be a photo, collage, drawing or painting, or a video. It should be an observation taken from one of your photos or sketches, in black and white or colour, with the influence (visual style) of your researched artist made explicit. This would be called a *Pastiche*. Alternatively (and this would be better) it could be a work which is *inspired by*, rather than “in the style of” your researched artist. We might call this an original, informed artwork.

If you have any questions about the course or this work at all, feel free to contact me using the email address below.

I look forward to seeing you all in the new academic year!

Stay safe and get creative,

Mr D Smith *Leader of Art, SHSB*

dps@shsb.org.uk