

# A Level Art



# Course Booklet

Welcome to A Level Art at Stoke Newington. This handbook aims to outline some of the crucial information to ensure that you get the most out of the A Level Art course. The course's ethos enables all students to develop to their maximum potential. All staff working in the art department are themselves practising artists.

#### WHY CHOOSE STOKE NEWINGTON?

- You will be able to work in one of the most exciting Art Departments in North London, praised by Ofsted and the Exam Board for the diversity and quality of the students' work.
- There is an exciting visits programme to London Galleries and museums planned, outside workshops in some of the best Art Colleges.
- You will have a dedicated sixth form studio space with a well resourced library of books for borrowing.
- There will be the opportunity to exhibit in an outside gallery and to assist in the hanging of your final show.

We are here to help you get the most out of the course. If there is anything we can do to help then ask.



## ART A LEVEL SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

We expect you to produce a project over the summer – this will give us a chance to understand how you work, what artists you like and help us to plan the lessons more effectively for you.

The theme is **Transformation** for component 1.

Construct a still life arrangement that is adventurous and visually challenging. Vary the colours, surface qualities and structural features of the objects you use – they could be organic or man-made. Look for unusual viewpoints. Imagine what ordinary objects might look like in another reality. A transformation of an object that might become more fragmented turned inside out or simply changes shape. See the Tate Modern's themed displays *Energy and Process*, *Making Traces*, *Poetry and Dream* and *Structure and Clarity*, all of which relate to Transformation.

Produce 3 A2 sketches using the following materials or a combination of them:

Charcoal/pen/pencil/chalk

Paint: watercolour or acrylic

Torn paper

Oil pastel

Then produce 3 studies of artists who work with objects and whose work relates to transformation. You should try to visit the Tate galleries Modern and Britain to view the work first hand and draw in the gallery.

Artists you may wish to study are:

Jacques Lipchitz

Alberto Giacometti

Tony Cragg

Louise Bourgeois

Cornelia Parker

Naum Gabo

Jeff Koons

Peter Fischli & David Weiss

Anselm Kiefer

Henri Gardier

Juan Gris

Jenny Saville

Lucian Freud

Marlene Dumas

Rebecca Horn

You have to be prepared to talk about your work in the first week back when you will be asked to display the project for a group critique. Good luck.



## Requirements/Organisation

You will need to have achieved C or above in GCSE Art to take the course.

For the course there are a number of items that it is vital to have:

- A1 Portfolio
- Set of watercolours and brushes (no's 5,8 and 12)
- Box of chalks and oil pastels
- A2 and A3 sketchbooks
- A range of soft pencils
- Two glue sticks (Pritt)
- Aerosol fixative
- Willow charcoal (assorted sizes)
- Eraser and putty rubber





In A Level Art the work is very self-motivated. Teachers will give you a weekly tutorial giving you advice and direction with your work and it is therefore vital that you bring all work and sketchbook to each lesson so that this can take place.

### The Course

The purpose of this course is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world and to respond in a personal and creative way. It will encourage you to:

- Question all preconceived notions of art and personal ability.
- Encourage you to trust your creative instincts.
- Help you to express your ideas and feelings through the controlled use of a broad range of materials and techniques.
- Help you to investigate and relate to all the evolutionary processes that are inherent in the development of Art and Design.
- Encourage you to articulate issues relating to the work of other artists from a variety of cultures, past and present.



The A Level course is tightly structured at Stoke Newington School.

Entry requirements: At least grade C in both Art and English language GCSE. Students will also need to demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to the subject and complete a summer assignment. This is a two year course.



**Component 1:** Personal Investigation – 60% of the total qualification. This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). There are three major elements: Supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study.

Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from both given and personal starting points. We deliver structured workshops at the start of the course to build skills and confidence in the formal elements of drawing, painting, print making, digital media and sculpture. The strength of our course is linking to professional practice and the wide range of independence and creative skills that students demonstrate. We also expect students to attend exhibitions in their own time and offer the opportunity of a trip to New York during the 2 year course. The Personal Study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification.

**Component 2:** Externally Set Assignment - 40% of the total qualification: This represents the culmination of the A level course. This component incorporates two major elements: Preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus. The assignment will be externally set and consist of one broad-based theme and suggested starting points, released on 1st February of the second year. Students have from 1<sup>st</sup> February until the commencement of the final 15-hour period of sustained focus to develop preparatory studies.

The Art department has very high expectations of every student and believes that everyone can be an artist and that every student has the potential to produce work of the highest standard. There are many careers in art, craft and design. Most require further study at an art college or university, with most students taking a one year foundation course before applying for degree courses in more specialist areas of art and design. Careers where it is useful to have studied art include advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing, media, conservation, restoration, illustration, web design, sculpture, painting and print making and other professions looking for creative people.

## Assessment

Component 1 and Component 2 for A Level Art are marked in four assessment objectives, each worth 25% of each of the whole part.

<b>A01</b>	<b>Develop ideas through sustained and focussed investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.</b>
<b>A02</b>	<b>Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining their ideas as the work develops.</b>
<b>A03</b>	<b>Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.</b>
<b>A04</b>	<b>Present a personal, and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual, and other elements.</b>



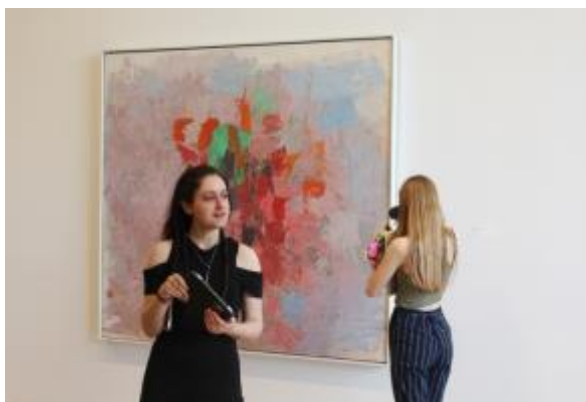
## Life Drawing

Life drawing is an essential part of the course and we are fortunate enough to be able to offer termly after school sessions for 6<sup>th</sup> form students. Lessons will take place in the Sixth Form Studio and are compulsory. Students have found the lessons to be extremely valuable both in developing their drawing skills and supporting coursework and exam work.



## New York 2018

The Art and Photography department will again be running the highly successful visit to New York in 2018. During the trip we visit world famous galleries and sights including MoMA, The Guggenheim, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square, the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty. Students have found this trip to be immensely inspirational and extremely valuable for supporting their studies in A level Art.



## Contact

Should you have any questions about the course, entry requirements or content please find me in the art rooms, call 0207 241 9609 or send me an email to [a.mullins@sns.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:a.mullins@sns.hackney.sch.uk)