

KS3 ART - TERM 1

This page has key pieces of learning information for your first term in KS3 Art. By staying mindful of these key pieces of learning throughout term 1 it will allow you to progress more quickly and efficiently in this subject.

Do not worry about, or compare to others where your skill level may be at now but dream about what skill level you want to be by the end of the year. Remember the most talented artists in the world all have been at the same level as you at some point during their careers. Developing technical skill in art is much the same as building muscle in a gym, it takes time, resilience focus, belief and patience. It is achieved by trying, failing, trying again and repeating. Those that understand that failing is as much an important part of the process as success are those who are on the path to great things. All greatness started with belief and mastering the mind is one of the best lifetime skills you can possess.

Observation



Observation is another word to describe the act of looking at something. Many drawers do not spend enough time considering how they observe when they are starting out. This is one of the most important key skills to be mindful of. My make the mistake of looking at something and then looking at their drawing and in fact are drawing from their memory of what they have just seen. Unfortunately our minds can play tricks on us. Are you drawing something from your memory or are you drawing what your eye is seeing. Good observational technique relies on the drawer continually referencing back to what they are looking at and comparing it to their drawing. This forces you to draw what the eye sees rather than the mind and is key to accurate observational drawing. Remember we are practicing the coordination between eye and hand. Developing the ability allow the hand to draw what the eye sees requires practice and continual observing.

Top tip: Improve your ability to draw observationally as you make each mark on the page look by back and thorth from object to paper every few seconds and check what you have drawn compared with what you see

Drawing Techniques

Line

The quality of line in our drawings is heavily dependent on our skill level regarding pencil control. To develop and maintain pencil control we need to be mindful of the following:

- Consider carefully how you hold and grip your drawing instrument.
- Make sure you do not lean your palm on the paper as this restricts our ability to direct the pencil where we want.
- Avoid bending the wrist. Keep the wrist solid and bend from the elbow.

Top Tip: To improve your quality of line practice your pencil control by drawing one page of lines freehand that are as straight as possible. Then try one page of squares and one page of circles. Legend has it that Da Vinci could draw a perfect circle. How perfect can you get yours?

Tone



In art tone refers to the difference between light and dark. By adding tone in our drawings we can make them look 3D. If you look around the space you are in now you will notice that all objects shape and form is defined by the difference between light and dark rather than lines being around them. Highly skilled drawers will eventually tend to only use variations of tone in their finished works so start practicing these skills as soon as possible. We can add tone by adding shading to our work. We can adjust the variation of tone by adjusting the pressure we apply to the paper or applying shading with various mark making techniques dependent on the type of texture we want to portray such as those shown below

