

Why Fine Art at GCSE?

Whilst you may have the details of the AQA Art and Design syllabus in your options booklet, you may still be asking this question. Here are some of our current students' answers to that, and some examples of theirs and other students' GCSE practical work.

Arya - Year 10

“Art is a sanctuary from my other academically demanding subjects - I like how it activates another part of myself that relaxes me in stressful times. Art GCSE is structured so that your workload is completely manageable - the time frames help you space out your work so you can purely focus on making some beautiful art!”

Arya's A2 charcoal drawing



Umayah - Year 11

“I took Art GCSE as I have always enjoyed art as a subject and found it as a time to develop my creativity. Also, the lessons are always enjoyable and it's a relaxing time away from other subjects. Doing Art GCSE, was and is a really fun experience. As long as you stay up to date, the work load is manageable and even if you are in the art room at lunch, it's always fun. The best part of the GCSE, is when you finish a piece and are proud of what you've done and that feeling makes the course even more enjoyable.”

Umayah's pencil drawing based on her theme 'Distortion'



Gina - Year 11

“I knew that I wanted to take Art GCSE as I've always loved doing art in my spare time however I was apprehensive because so many people would complain and say it takes up a lot of time and was only doable if you were good at time management. However, whilst yes, you have to learn to organise your time, it's great- it's such a good subject to take your mind off the rest of the day and break up your timetable! I really recommend it because you have a lot of freedom in your compositions, the radio is always on and you have a chance to develop your creative ideas in any way you choose with help whenever you need it- i've got to say, it's one of my favourite lessons!”

Gina's A2 mixed media piece looking at 'Surfaces'



Alisha - Year 11

“I'd say I took art because it's a subject I've always enjoyed and it's a perfect break from all the academic subjects. It's a really calm subject but it also allows you to be as creative and as expressive as you want and also pushes you to improve your ideas so you actually become a better artist by the end. It's definitely one of my favourite GCSEs that I chose!”

Xhxix

Xhxix (also known as YDK Morimoe) is a digital artist based in Tokyo. He creates digital paintings inspired by hyper-realistic art, including artists such as Yanni Floros and Audrey Kawasaki but he is also inspired by fashion and amateur photography. Most of his work portrays young men often in a surreal state and this is inspired by models, in particular, Jacob Morton. The fact that he is inspired by models shows how he likes to represent emotion that can't be expressed through words. He doesn't reveal his true identity online and prefers to leave his work open to interpretation; he leaves his work unnamed. This allows us to see his art as whatever we want to see it as, which in a sense links to surfaces as we don't necessarily need to take the picture at face value and delve into what is beneath the surface and represented by the art.

Xhxix is a contemporary artist creating his work digitally which enhances the abstract work as it takes away a sense of reality through digital media. It makes his art seem artificial and constructed, which I quite like as it furthers the dissociated effect that the image portrays. I also love his effective use of colour, as I feel it helps display an accurate depiction of the mood of his work, for example the subtle colours and sometimes the lack of colour which represents the lack of emotion and power of the people he's portraying. His work inspires me because I like how impactful it is, since you need to take a closer look to conjure your own meaning for the work and it's not simply what it first appears to be.

Yanni Floros' art
Audrey Kawasaki's art
Jacob Morton's modelling

This ghoulish man appears to be in a severe state of torment and helplessness. This is exaggerated through the use of the grey tones for his face. But the intriguing part about this piece is how his skin is melting or being stretched in an array of dull colours. He looks as though he's become so emotionless that his tears have formed streams of pain. He also looks like he may have an illness of some sort, illustrated in the gum like substance emerging from his face. It seems like he's deteriorating as a result of his sorrow and helplessness, he's becoming lifeless.

His work consists of digital portraits of boys in states of extreme distress and they seem as though they are trapped inside their bodies with a surreal element as their sense of escape or portrayal of their emotion. Japan is a very masculine society shown by being notorious for its workaholicism which probably drives the citizens crazy to the point they become emotionless. However they aren't extremely assertive as you'd think, it's just that they don't see showing emotion the same way as we do in western societies where it is acceptable for men to be open about how they feel. Men typically put on a front which is depicted by nearly all of Xhxix's work where they seem to struggle to express their raw emotion verbally therefore they do so through surreal or mythical elements. I noticed that in most of his work there is a recurring theme of the left eye being covered, injured or a lighter colour which may be symbolic of something that he hasn't mentioned online but, I feel it represents the dual nature of man or possibly how we can perceive things from different perspectives and mindsets. He plays with colour in his work often contrasting bright and pale colours and sometimes monochromatic, allowing certain facial features to be highlighted and focused on.

I used watercolour to produce a copy and a response of his style, which of course is very different from digital art and also less forgiving. I tried to recreate the colours he used however they turned out darker than the pastel colours he typically goes for. For my response I decided to create stitches over a frown to form a smile to represent fake happiness over inner sadness. The fact that her lips are forced shut also symbolises silence and being unable to speak up and express yourself and therefore keeping your emotions to yourself.

One of Alisha's artist research boards

Swetha - Year 11

“I chose Art, as I knew that it would be a subject where I could experiment with my work creatively, and take risks unlike other subjects.”

Swetha's A3 oil pastel study



A response to an artist Swetha has researched

Some Y11 main pieces



