

Art in the 20th Century – Modernism and Beyond

Year 6

This final unit should be seen as a continuation of the children's work on the impressionists and post-impressionists. The late work of Monet and brushwork of Cezanne are considered to be forerunners of abstraction and modernism. The children start by reviewing their understanding of modernism, introduced in the unit on *Style* at the beginning of year 5. They then use three statues, including recent sculptures by Marc Quinn and Thomas J Price, to investigate the issue of public statuary and identity as a starting point for their own project.

The children go on to consider how Picasso developed cubism which led to abstraction and then explore work of significant British artists of the 20th century. They consider abstraction by looking at the work of sculptor *Barbara Hepworth* and painter *Frank Bowling*, the influence of world war two on the work of *Frank Auerbach* and the departure from abstraction and return to figuration in the work of *Lucien Freud*. Finally, they explore how art can address the issue of identity, in the work of *Lubaina Himid*.

This tour of important work of British artists from the 20th and 21st century is designed to inspire the children independently to explore their own ideas and create a piece of work in materials of their choice about identity, as part of an extended project, to be a culmination of their year 6 work. The process of such an undertaking is explicitly taught, and uses the children's developed skills of analytical observation, annotation, sketching, experimentation, planning and execution of a final piece.