


## FINE ART

### AQA Fine Art




AS and A-level  
Art and Design

## Why choose fine art?

Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? If so, you should consider a course in fine art with AQA. Fine art is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you.

Fine art offers opportunities to use your creativity to express yourself. You will develop your understanding of creative processes, your ability to observe and to think, to solve problems and to communicate in a visual way. It will enable you to work independently and to make your own discoveries by exploring ideas, other artists' work and different materials and techniques. Fine art gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.



*Rose Bibby – Priestley College, Warrington*

#### Further study and career opportunities

**Possible degree options**


- 2D and 3D animation
- 3D design
- Applied arts
- Architecture
- Art history
- Art therapy
- Ceramics
- Digital media
- Fine art painting
- Fine art printmaking
- Fine art sculpture
- Game design
- Illustration
- Industrial design
- Interior architecture and design
- Visual communication
- Visual effects for film and television

**Possible career options**


Studying a fine art related degree at university can give you all sorts of exciting career opportunities, including:

- Architect
- Art technician
- Art therapist
- Art valuer
- Artist in residence
- Arts administrator
- Community arts worker
- Illustrator
- Lecturer
- Multimedia artist
- Mural artist
- Museum/gallery curator
- Painter
- Printmaker
- Sculptor
- Teacher

[aqa.org.uk/art-and-design](http://aqa.org.uk/art-and-design)



AS and A-level  
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*Corin Nestor – Highlands School, London*

#### AS assessment

At AS you will produce a **portfolio** of work for component 1 which counts for 60% of your total AS marks. In component 2 you will produce **personal work** in response to one of five exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total AS marks.

#### A-level assessment

At A-level for component 1 you will develop work for a **personal investigation** into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A-level marks. In component 2 you will produce **personal work** in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks.

#### Practical course

AS and A-level are practical courses in which you learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative personal work. You will find out about a whole range of media, techniques and processes. You will develop your creativity and independent thought, learn to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish.

Fine art is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects.

#### Progression

Fine art AS and A-level builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding developed through study at GCSE.

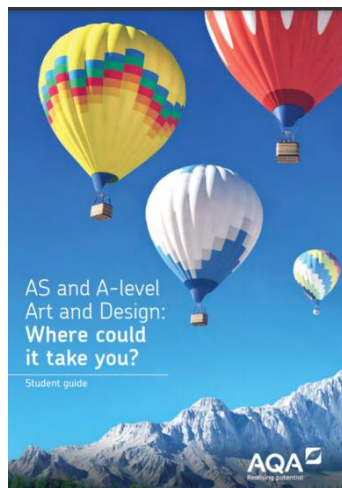
At the end of the A-level course you will have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for higher education.

#### Entry requirements

If you want to know more, please talk to your teacher.

[aqa.org.uk](http://aqa.org.uk)

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<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/AQA-A-LEVEL-ART-STUDENT-GUIDE.PDF>

# Transition to Sixth Form:



## Sixth Form Study

You are likely to study 3 subjects at Bolder Sixth form. Each subject will have six lessons per week. You can expect to engage in a wider range of learning strategies in lessons as well as independently. These could be anything from:

- Skills based workshops
- Wider independent artist research and response outside of lesson hours.
- Extended 1-1 practice of practical or experimental work.
- Flip learning – learning in your own time and presenting what you have found to the class.
- Life drawing classes

## Independent Study

A Levels and Applied Qualifications will require more study to be completed by you independently rather than with a teacher. At Bolder we recommend that you spend the same time studying outside of lessons as you do in lessons. Therefore, if you have 5 hours of Art per week, this means that 5 hours also needs to be spent on work outside the classroom.

This pack will support you with starting to practice independent study over the summer period which will help you understand what works best for you.

## What do you need to complete?

Over the summer it is expected that you engage with this transition booklet to support with your movement into A level Art and Design.

**You must complete the A Level bridging tasks and make up a total of 100 credits over the summer.**

The points for each task are outlined below:

1. Starting your journal – 50 credits.
2. Documentaries and Ted talks on an artist – 25 credits
3. Completing a day trip to a gallery with photo evidence, annotation and artwork responses – 100 credits.

You can decide what combination of tasks to complete, alongside the bridging tasks. These must also be evidenced on your return in September. Please bring your completed work to your first A Level Art lesson.

## Equipment list



It is important that you have access to the right equipment when undertaking the A Level Fine Art. The Art Department will provide you with access to some of the more specialist equipment and resources but it is your responsibility to ensure you have access to the basic equipment and resources for each of your independent study periods and home tasks.

We recommend you have the following. We do provide packs with this equipment in to purchase at the start of the academic year.

- *A set of acrylic paints – these are some good brands to choose from Daler Rowney System3, Winsor and Newton, Liquitex, Golden.*
- *A set of good quality brushes in a range of sizes*
- *A set of drawing pencils*
- *Scissors*
- *Glue sticks*
- *A3 sketchbook*
- *A1 portfolio – to store work in school*
- *A3 portfolio – to transport work to and from school*
- *An art bin or tool box to keep all your equipment in*
- *Access to a camera (the camera on your phone is adequate)*

## Example Student Work

Here are 3 links to videos of example student work.



A Level Fine Art Book Flip Through (A\* - 100%)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0J-H5XzDZ4>



A-level (A2) Art exam sketchbook - A\* (full marks)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEql6Ycticc>



A Level Art Exam Sketchbook (Edexcel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhnAURA6n9I>

# A Level Fine Art Bridging Tasks

In A level Fine Art you will build on the skills you learnt at GCSE, increasing depth of development and refinement.

## TOPIC

Chiaroscuro is the use of contrast between light and dark to emphasize and illuminate important figures in a painting or drawing. It was first introduced during the Renaissance. It is very commonly seen in religious art, especially with the light emanating from the holy figure being painted. It can also refer to how light and shadow are rendered on an object in a painting to create the perception of depth. The technique is commonly associated with the Renaissance, where it was brought to prominence by Leonardo da Vinci in such works as *The Adoration of the Magi* (ca. 1481-82) and Caravaggio in *The Incredulity of St. Thomas* (ca. 1601-02).

The word *chiaroscuro* is oxymoronic; it comes from the contrasting Italian words for "clear, light" (*chiaro*) and "obscure, dark" (*oscuro*).



## TASK 1:- What is Chiaroscuro?

Create an A3 research page that shows your understanding of Chiaroscuro. Please include definitions, the history of Chiaroscuro, and contemporary examples. The following links will help you. (This can be done on the computer if you prefer)

[www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/c/chiaroscuro](http://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/c/chiaroscuro)

[drawpaintacademy.com/chiaroscuro/](http://drawpaintacademy.com/chiaroscuro/)

[www.theartstory.org/definition/chiaroscuro-tenebrism-sfumato/](http://www.theartstory.org/definition/chiaroscuro-tenebrism-sfumato/)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiaroscuro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiaroscuro)

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/glossary/chiaroscuro](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/glossary/chiaroscuro)

## TASK 2: - Observational Drawing

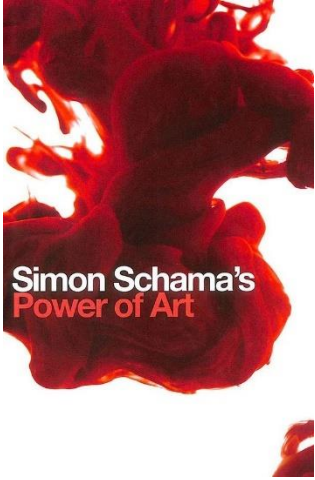
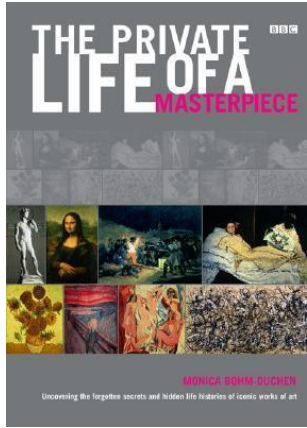
Create a still life using a range of objects from the kitchen. Set up your still life in a room where you can close curtains and blind to create a dark space. Place the objects together and using a torch or battery-operated tea light (please do not use a real candle or tea light) or your phone torch, create dramatic shadows and highlights. You can do this by placing the light source low down and to one side. Avoid lighting from above.









Using any size paper produce a series of studies of the still life. This task is purposely quite vague as I would like to see how you use your imagination to independently interpret the activity.

Here is a list of possible approaches:

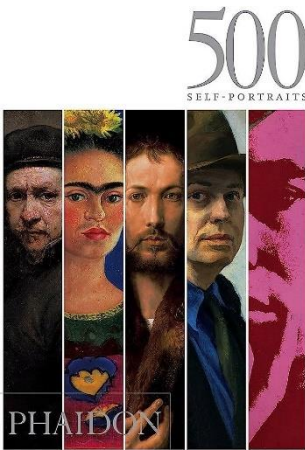
- Start with a few quick sketches to familiarise yourself with the composition. Move positions so you view the still life from different angles
- Select a small area and enlarge when drawing
- Use mark making to apply tone
- Use a range of sketching pencils to create the tones e.g. HB to 9B
- Reverse the process by using a white pencil or chalk or white acrylic paint on black paper
- Produce a line drawing and fill each tone with tonal collaged materials
- Assign each tone a colour and paint the image using these
- Draw with your non-dominant hand
- Draw with both hands at the same time
- Produce a photoshoot from your still life and work from one of the images
- Draw onto a collaged colourful surface
- Choose a primary colour and paint onto a secondary colour background

# Film, Lecture & Podcast recommendations:

Documentaries	Summary
 <p>Simon Schama's <b>Power of Art</b></p>	<p>Simon Schama's <b>Power of Art</b> <i>BBC</i>  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006ml08/episodes/guide">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006ml08/episodes/guide</a></p>
 <p>THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A <b>MASTERPIECE</b></p> <p>MONICA BOHM DUCHEN Uncovering the forgotten secrets and hidden life histories of iconic works of art</p>	<p><b>The Private Life of a Masterpiece.</b> <i>BBC</i>  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00jhpsk/episodes/guide">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00jhpsk/episodes/guide</a></p>

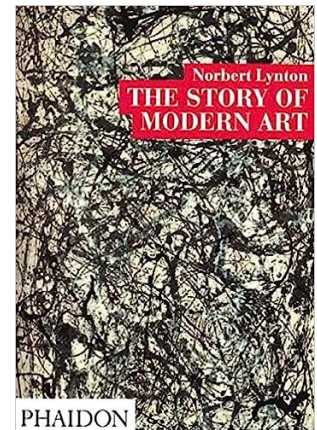
TED Talks			
<p>Why Art is important to democracy  <a href="https://www.ted.com/playlists/733/why_art_is_important_to_democracy">https://www.ted.com/playlists/733/why_art_is_important_to_democracy</a></p>			
<p>Powerful Art Activism  <a href="https://www.ted.com/playlists/476/powerful_art_activism">https://www.ted.com/playlists/476/powerful_art_activism</a></p>			
<p>Using Art History to examine the modern day  <a href="https://www.ted.com/playlists/571/using_art_history_to_examine_modern_day">https://www.ted.com/playlists/571/using_art_history_to_examine_modern_day</a></p>			
<p>Extraordinary, larger than life art  <a href="https://www.ted.com/playlists/716/extraordinary_larger_than_life_art">https://www.ted.com/playlists/716/extraordinary_larger_than_life_art</a></p>			

## Book recommendations:

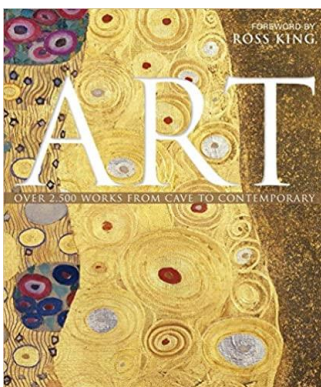


If portraiture is what you're interested in, then these are the most famous images of the artists themselves from Frida Kahlo to Van Gogh.

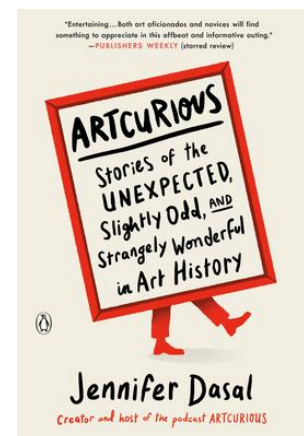
If you are looking for an art dictionary for modern art this is the one! Easy to look up your favourite artists putting them into chronological order.



If you are looking for an art guide to help make sense of what you see, this book will help to navigate the meaning of art.



If you are more interested in the narratives behind artworks and learning about the quirky origins of some of the most famous artworks in existence this book is for you.



Lots more recommendations can be found here: <https://brokebybooks.com/best-art-books/>

# Ideas for gallery visits and things to do:



The Royal Academy in Piccadilly Circus has a Summer Exhibit every year with some amazingly quirky and different artworks done by a mixture of working artists across the world! Great for gaining inspiration.



The National Gallery is a MUST in Trafalgar Square, and its FREE! It has a huge display of artworks including Impressionist painters such as Van Gogh and George Seurat.



The Tate Modern has some amazing free collections for those that prefer more abstract modern and conceptual artworks. Not to mention the views across the river!





This is Miss Handley's favourite art gallery in London! Located in Vauxhall near the MI5 building, it has an excellent collection of art by British artists, such as Dante Rossetti and John Singer-Sargent.

**EXPLORE MORE GALLERIES AND EXHIBITIONS HERE:**

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/england/articles/the-10-best-art-galleries-in-england/>

<https://www.artfund.org/>



There are also some great places where you can see London Street Art, check it out here:

<https://inspiringcity.com/2020/07/16/best-places-to-see-street-art-london/>