**HELP SHEET – ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

**TO HELP YOU WITH ANNOTATION**

**What to write, what not to write.**

**Annotation**

Use the vocabulary of Art and Design…

When annotating your work you want to be using language approach to art and design as much as possible. The more you use the terms that forma a ‘visual language’ the more articulately you can talk about what you have done, the reasons why and what you have learnt from the experience. The easier this becomes for you the easier it becomes for us to understand your thought process and development. For presentation ideas look at the annotation walls!

**Writing about your own work:**

You’re writing should add to your artwork – Say something about it, provide another dimension - **Not describe it**. You do **not** need to label your work – If it’s an observational drawing we can see that – Instead write about why you **chose** to draw it, how it **links with your theme** and whether the materials you have selected were a good choice or what you would do again. **What did you learn from doing it?** It can help to think of **three positive things** and **three negative things** about a piece of work and write that up – debating what worked well, what didn’t – This helps to describe what you have learnt.

**Some sentences you can try…**

I wanted this image/ sculpture to convey/ suggest/ make people think about/consider….

I was interested in exploring/ experimenting with these materials/this idea because…

I feel the way I have used colour/ presented this piece/work really adds to/ detracts from it because...

If I was to do this piece again I would consider….

I selected these materials/this scale because…

This piece makes me think about/ evokes…. because…

This piece reminds me of… because…

I feel this piece works well because it…

I wanted to…. exaggerate/distort/reflect/ express/give the impression…

I was aiming to communicate… a feeling of/ a sense of space….

Making this work taught me….

Example positive comment:

I used a stick to apply the ink because I wanted to communicate a scratchy quality. I feel I have achieved this with these materials because the ink is unevenly applied leaving some areas thick and others with light traces of ink.

Example of a negative comment and suggestion on how to improve:

I attempted to make another version of my drawing but this time in colour. I decided to use two contrasting oil pastels as I wanted the light and dark areas to stand out next to each other. I am not happy with the end result as I feel the image is not very clear and the colours have smudged creating unsightly dark areas. If I was to do this again I would probably select a different type of material, like chalk as they would have blended much better, making less divides between the different areas.

**HELP SHEET TO HELP YOU**

**WITH ARTIST RESEARCH**

What to write, what not to write?

**Artist Research**

Writing about an artist work:

When it comes to writing about an artist’s work it can be difficult to know what to write. You need to make sure that what you write is informative but relevant. You can find out information about artists from art books, the internet, magazine articles and newspapers. Reviews of the artist’s work can be particularly helpful. Answering these questions should insure you are researching correctly.

**Who is the artist? Where are they from? Were they making their artwork?**

**Are they a contemporary artist? Are they associated with any particular art movements?**

**Are they linked to any other artists? Why are you looking at this artist?**

**How do they relate to your theme? How do they relate to your work?**

**What materials/ techniques/ processes do they use? How do they use them?**

**Why does this interest you? What do you think?**

Always include images of the artist work so that the reader can relate what you have written to visuals. Aim to make at least one drawing of a piece of the artist’s work. Remember to always include the name of the artwork, the date it was made and the materials used

Some sentences you can try:

I find this artist interesting because…

This artist relates to my theme because they explore/ are interested in/ make/draw/ write about…

I think this artist worked from…

His/her work has a sombre/happy/ energetic/melancholic mood/atmosphere… I think this because they have…

My work links to this artist because I have…. Used the same colours/ materials/ scale or I have explored a similar idea/concept/theme

This artist’s style is….

This artist makes work in the style of….

This artist is /was linked to the movement/ is part of….

The work of this artist is similar to… they both make work that discusses colour/scale/textures…

I think the artist is trying to… I think this because….

I like/ dislike this work because… they have used interesting colours/shapes/textures that work/don’t work well…

Example of a piece of annotation about an artist’s work:

To develop my project I have been looking at the work of the Pop Artist Patrick Caulfield. I have been making a series of perspectives drawing of places as part of our theme ‘Environment’. In particular I have become interested in the home environment, and have been making drawings of objects and rooms in my home. I wanted to develop these drawings and experiment with colour and was inspired by the work of Patrick Caulfield. In particular his piece titled ‘Unfinished Painting’, which he made in 1978 is of interest to me. This image contained his trademark bright colours and bold lines, but was combined with ultra-realist images in the centre. I am really interested in this combination and want to develop my next piece of work in this style. I intend to develop my drawing into Pop Art style painting but want to combine these images with photography to make a mixed media piece. The Pop Art style and the works of Patrick Caulfield and other artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol is an area I plan to explore further.

**Critical Analysis**

How to critically analyse a piece of art work:

Being able to critically analyse (discuss) a piece of artwork in depth is really important. Once you have carried out artist research you should choose one piece of the artist’s work and write up a critical analysis of it. To go with your critical analysis you should have a drawing of the piece of work. This is really important as it shows you have also studied the piece of work in order to make your own version of it. You should aim to answer as many of the questions outlined below. But, you can also add any other relevant information you have found in your research.

**Content and Visual Description:**

What is the piece of art work you are looking at? Is it a painting, print, sculpture, collage, textile piece…? What is the subject or theme of the piece? Is it 2D or 3D work? Describe the piece you are looking at in detail using the formal elements below: If it’s a 2D piece: Describe the variety of lines, tones, textures, colours, shapes, marks, composition… If it’s a 3D piece: Describe the shapes, scale, proportion, lines, movement, weight…

**Meaning, Mood and Messages:**

What do you think the work is about? How does the work make you feel, what is the mood? Calm, sad, happy, confused, angry… What does the work remind you of? Does it link to other images/ objects you have seen? What do you think the artist is trying to say through their work? Is there a message?

**Process:**

How do you think the work was made? What materials or media have been used to make it? Which tool and processes have the artists used to make their work? Can you see how the artist has developed ideas in other work to create this piece? Which 2D and 3D techniques have been used to make the work? Cutting, layering, joining..

**Connections and Ideas:**

Explain how the artist work links to your work/ theme? How could you develop your own ideas from the artist’s work you have seen?

Top 20 Tips

1. Create a range of quick line sketches from your chosen objects.

2. Take photos related to your chosen theme (Colour and black & white).

3. Respond to your own photos by using an art material, acrylic paint, watercolor, inks.

4. Manipulate your own photos by burning, folding, ripping, scratching.

5. Complete a montage of a selection of images reflecting your own theme.

6. Complete artist research please include written info, images and remember to respond by making a piece of art that uses the same techniques but in your own style. (Inspired piece of work).

7. Create a range of inspired studies related to the artist of your choice (mix-media collage, textures, painting’s).

8. Mount up your gallery double pages and annotate your double pages with comments opinions of the work. (How it relates to the theme and the work produced so far).

9. Perhaps add to your experiments by making mini art works related to the theme of the gallery visited. (Annotate your thoughts about the gallery) 2D or 3D.

10. Choose a 2nd Artist –Experiment in the same techniques and art materials- use the Critical Analysis sheets to focus on 1 of the works. (Make your own creative response).

11. Explore 3D as a method of response, make some 3D models from card or paper, paper manipulation, play, explore, experiment with fabric materials, plastic, wire etc.

12. Explore using photography- use montage (collage), layers, angles, lense shapes, colours, size, scale, wide angle lense, manipulate your printed images using, tapes, cut, weave, stich, bleach, paint, stain, fold, pleat, rip, turn your photos into 3D sculptures, build shapes with photos, construct, build etc.

13. Annotate your ideas and explain why they link to the artist’s work, show how they relate to the theme you are exploring. Make sketches and take notes and explain where your ideas are coming from, use postcards or information from art books research and information gathered and written from newspapers etc, annotate on luggage tags and tie them in.

14. Explore textiles, stitching, machine or hand embroidery, fabric staining, bleaching, experiment with the quality and size of stitching layers and a combination of textiles techniques, reverse appliqué constructed textiles ideas and processes. Layer’s, scrunching, scale, and how the fabrics react to each other.

15. Development – Take yourself back through your gathered research and start to build on your ideas and skills by experimenting with techniques and processes to move your ideas forward. Link all of your ideas together.

16. Make connections to the work produced so far and artists explored. Try to show that you have explored a range of avenues to justify that you have experimented sufficiently.

17. If you feel restricted by the theme - create a sub-theme - example beside the seaside could be landscapes, explore an artist or photographer who concentrates on landscapes, think about colour, pattern, texture or shape.

18. Explore the subtheme on a range of different pages try to use lots of explorations of different and a range of art techniques. Textiles, collage, painting.

19. THINK & LINK all of your ideas together and annotate your thoughts in depth. Start to plan out 2 ideas of work related to your drawings/research and artists connections and other relevant research such as photography or sketches. Annotate your ideas on luggage tags.

20. Once you have explored all of the above you then need to start to make a written evaluation of all parts of your project, come to a conclusion making links with parts of your research and explorations.