



NQ Challenge Task No. 1

Bottles

Throughout the history of art, artists have challenged themselves to capture the reflections, the shadows and the translucent qualities seen in glass objects. Glass bottles are a commonly found object in still life artworks as they allow an artist to show off their observational (active looking) skills.

Your first challenge task is to locate a suitably interesting bottle (either around your home or a high resolution photograph downloaded from the internet) and to recreate it in the style of one of the bottles on the left (you do not need to recreate the details on labels, etc.) When choosing what approach to use, you might want to be 'Photorealistic' and create something that is as accurate as a photograph, or you might want to be more 'Impressionistic', creating an image that captures all the information about your chosen bottle, but has a sense of energy and movement to it!

As you will be working at home, you may not have access to specific art materials. What we ask you to do during this time is be creative with what you have around you... for example, feel free to create your work digitally on a computer or tablet... you could collage your work using flour glue and cut out pieces of old magazines and leaflets... paint with food colouring or even coffee on the back of a cut piece of cereal box!! Part of the challenge here is being inventive with what you have! 😊

Success Criteria: A successful image will...

- Not be rushed.
- Be in full colour (where possible).
- Will clearly show that you have taken the time to actively look at and study the bottle that you are observing.
- Will be of a decent size (i.e. not too small! Minimum of A5 suggested)
- Will have well observed shadows and reflections.

Once you have completed your work, please take a good quality photo of it and send it to your teacher.

We look forward to seeing what you create!

NQ Challenge Task No. 2

Backgrounds

Whilst most people don't really give much thought to the background of their artworks when they are first learning to draw and paint, professional artists always consider what kind of 'Ground' they are going to give to their work. The term 'Ground' simply comes from the word 'Background' and describes anything that provides a prepared surface for a 2D art work. Many artists simply create a ground for their work using the same material that they are using for the main image, but some artists really invest time and effort into creating surfaces that take the idea of a ground to the next level!

Artists such as **Jonathan Darby**, **Mark Powell** and **Ian Murphy** (look their work up!) go to great lengths to create grounds that draw the viewer closer into their work, turning what might otherwise be a very ordinary looking image into an intriguing and multi-layered piece of art.

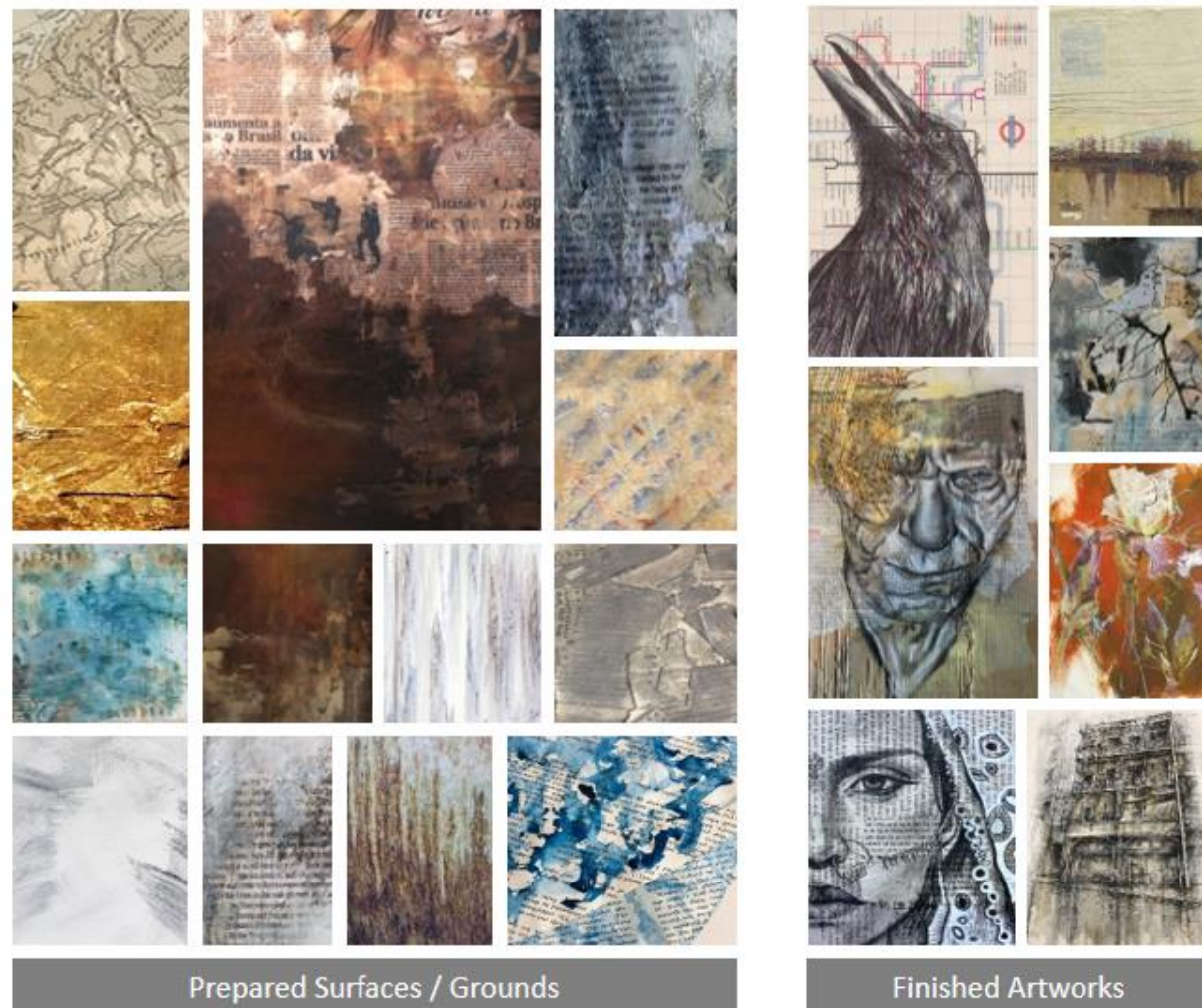
What to do: What we want you to do is create a range of (at least 6) different 'grounds' that you can use to create work on during the coming weeks.

Like the artists mentioned above, we want to see how experimental, creative and imaginative you can be with the surfaces that you create. Choose different starting materials that you have around you (paper, card, old picture frame backing panels, plastic sheeting, etc.) and then treat them in different ways to build-up surfaces that will provide interesting and unusual grounds for your work. For the moment, plain white paper is off the menu!

Look at the examples of grounds and completed artworks shown here. The artists who created these backgrounds have layered-up materials such as paint, collage, glue and found surfaces (old book pages, old letters, newspaper, etc.) overlapping them, rubbing away at them, sanding them down, making them more subtle with watery washes of paint, etc. They have dripped, dribbled, splattered and scrawled paint across their surfaces – all so they have an interesting background to their drawings!

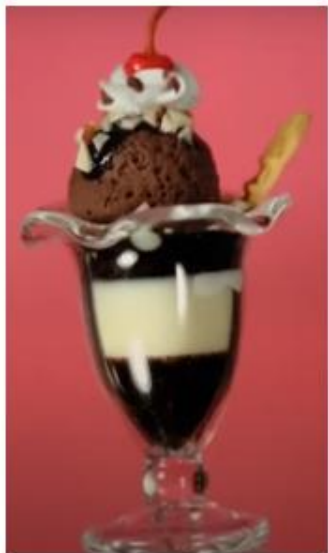
One thing to bear in mind however is that the grounds you create should not be too bold in terms of colour, pattern and texture. Remember that your grounds are there to support your artworks and not to compete with them!

Once you have completed your work, please share some photos of your grounds on your Teams group. We look forward to seeing what you create!



Success Criteria: A successful ground will...

- Be created using a sturdy background material.
- Be built up in layers.
- Use variety of different materials.
- Be created using different treatments, methods and techniques such as those used by the artists discussed.
- Be relatively subtle / not overwhelming (Remember! They're the grounds, not the main image!)



NQ Challenge Task No. 3

Paint along with Sarah Graham

Sarah Graham is a British artist that we study as a part of our National qualifications in Art & Design. Sarah is a Photorealist painter. Photorealism is a style of working where an artist takes a high resolution photograph of their subject matter (usually sweets and toys in Sarah's case) and then recreates that photograph in as much detail as possible, so that in the end, their artwork is indistinguishable from the original photo.

For this week's challenge, we would like you to work along with Sarah Graham as she creates an image from one of the options available on the left.

What to do:

Click on the link below and follow the artist's instructions as she leads you through the creation of her work. You should do your best to use the materials that Sarah uses, however you can improvise with materials that you have around you (for example, food colourings make excellent stand-in paints!)

Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/rB0h2CS1Jy8>

Once you have created your work, please photograph it and send a copy (along with your name and practical art class) to your Art & Design teacher.

Success Criteria: A successful image will...

- Not be rushed.
- Be in full colour.
- Clearly show that you have taken the time to actively look at and observe the piece you are recreating.
- Be of a decent size (i.e. not too small! Minimum of A5 suggested)
- Have well observed details.
- Will follow Sarah Graham's advice in the video.

Happy creating! We look forward to seeing what you produce! 😊

NQ Challenge Task No. 4 Cactuses

NQ Challenge Task No. 4 Cactuses

Natural forms have always fascinated and challenged artists with their irregular shapes, patterns, 3D forms, structures, colours and surface textures. Cactuses are a perfect blend of these visual elements, and provide the perfect opportunity for artists to showcase their skills in recreating these.

Look here at the different materials, methods, styles and approaches that artists have used to create artworks based on cactuses. Each one is different, but each still captures the visual qualities of the cactuses being observed.

Look here at the different materials, methods, styles and approaches that artists have used to create artworks based on cactuses. Each one is different, but each still captures the visual qualities of the cactuses being observed.

What to do:

For this challenge, we would simply like you to select and recreate at least one of the cactus artworks shown on the left.

Try working on one of the prepared background surfaces that you created previously. If you feel that these surfaces are not suitable, you can always create a new one that fits in with the cactus that you are going to create. Don't forget that when it comes to being inventive with surfaces to work on, you are only limited by your imagination (and what you have around you!) For example, cardboard, brown paper, newspaper, tea-stained paper, collaged magazine pages, an old book page, etc. If you feel that the surface that you have created is visually too strong, you can always 'knock it back' to something more subtle by brushing a light wash of white/neutral coloured paint over the surface so that details of your chosen surface still show through at least a little, but don't compete with your cactus image for attention!

Also, for this challenge try layering-up different materials in your work. This 'Mixed Media' approach is commonly used by artists. For example, start off with materials that are better for covering larger areas (paint, collage, etc.) and then reduce the size of the material that you are using to create finer details (pencil, pen, etc.). Try experimenting with different, layered materials in your cactus work! ☺

Success Criteria: A successful image will...

- Not be rushed (You have around 4 hours to work on this over the week!)
- Be in full colour.
- Clearly show that you have taken the time to actively look at and observe the piece you are recreating.
- Be of a decent size (i.e. not too small! Minimum of A5 suggested)
- Have well observed line, tone, texture, shape, form, colour and texture.
- Be created over a prepared surface/background.
- Be created using 'Mixed Media'.

Once you have completed this week's challenge, please take a good quality photo of it and send it to your teacher.

Happy creating! We look forward to seeing what you produce! ☺



Perhaps the most familiar material that we use in Art & Design is Pencil. But very often, because it is such an everyday tool to us, we rarely stop and think about how we actually use it. There are several things that we actually need to consider when we create a pencil drawing to make it really successful. These are:

- How we hold and move the pencil.
- How much pressure we apply.
- How we create tonal differences and a sense of contrast.
- How we recreate areas of light and shade, reflection and shadow.

What to do:

For the first part of this challenge task, we would like you to watch and take in the advice given in the following videos about basic pencil drawing techniques:

Video 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OezMavBqWXc&feature=youtu.be>

Video 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WR-FyUQc6I>
(Watch up until 3 minutes 22 seconds)

Please don't skip the videos. They've got some great tips!

The second part of this challenge task is to create a detailed, well-observed tonal black and white pencil drawing of a candle. It's a simple enough subject, but getting all the details right (including the flame) is the real challenge here. You can choose any of the four candles available on the left.

We recommend that you aim to fill an A6 (Postcard sized) portrait-oriented piece of white paper/card with your drawing, or if you tend to work more to the centre of a piece of paper, try working on A5 or A4 and then crop your work down afterwards – It's up to you!

To help you create your candle drawing, watch the following video. There are some great tips on drawing a candle. The artist uses a mechanical 'pump' pencil, but a regular wooden graphite pencil is totally fine. If you have access to different grades of pencil, use higher numbered 'B' pencils for darker tones (e.g. 6B, etc.) and stick to using different pressures with an 'HB' pencil for your lighter tones.

Video 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuRrjUhg6U&feature=youtu.be>

Once you have created your work, please post a photograph of it on your Teams thread.

Success Criteria: A successful image will...

- Not be rushed.
- Be in B+W Pencil only (No colour please!)
- Clearly show that you have taken the time to actively look at and observe the candle you are recreating.
- Be approximately A6 (Postcard) size (or drawn on a larger piece and cropped down)
- Will have good tonal contrast between dark and light (no washy mid-grey tones)

We look forward to seeing what you produce! 😊



NQ Challenge Task No. 6

Folded Fabric Painting

An important but often overlooked element in still life drawing and painting is what artists place in the background of their images. Traditionally, this is something that doesn't take attention away from what's going on in the foreground (front) and middle ground of the drawing or painting, but is still something that allows the artist to show off their observational skills. A frequent favourite of artists is to use draped fabric. It's something that's challenging to draw or paint accurately, but it is also something that can add a real sense of richness, depth and interest to an artwork. Look at the examples of still life images on the right here. You can clearly see that draped fabric can really add to an artwork's visual impact and appeal!

What to do:

For this challenge, we would simply like you to select and recreate at least one of the folded fabric images shown on the left.

If you have access to paints (watercolour, acrylic, poster paints, etc.) then we would like you to have a go at painting your chosen fabric image/s. If not, please try and be inventive – You could use hobby paints, watered-down food colouring, tea and coffee, or anything else that you can 'paint' with (no tablets for this exercise please!) As you build-up your portfolio of images, we really want to see a mix of materials, so give painting a go... particularly if you've been avoiding it up until now! ☺ Try painting on thick paper or card (for example, the back of a piece of cereal box card is ideal!)

Success Criteria: A successful image will...

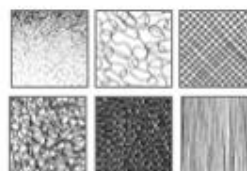
- Not be rushed.
- Be painted.
- Be in full colour.
- Clearly show that you have taken the time to actively look at and observe the details of the piece you are recreating.
- Be of a decent size – Not too small! A square of card around 15cm x 15cm is ideal for this task!
- Use colour and tone to create a believable sense that the fabric is flowing, folding and has 3D form.

Once you have completed this week's challenge, please take a good quality photo of it and post it on your art team thread or mail it to your teacher. If you complete this task early, have a go at another piece – The more work you produce, the more practice you are getting and the better your skills will start to get!

We look forward to seeing your work! ☺



Perhaps the single most important skill when trying to accurately recreate your 'Subject Matter' (what you are drawing/painting) is the ability to actively look at and observe all the different details and qualities that you see in front of you. One artist who has definitely developed the skill of observation is Mark Powell. He works almost exclusively in black ballpoint pen, recreating every detail of what he is observing, and working on found backgrounds such as old maps, newspapers, postcards, letters and book pages.

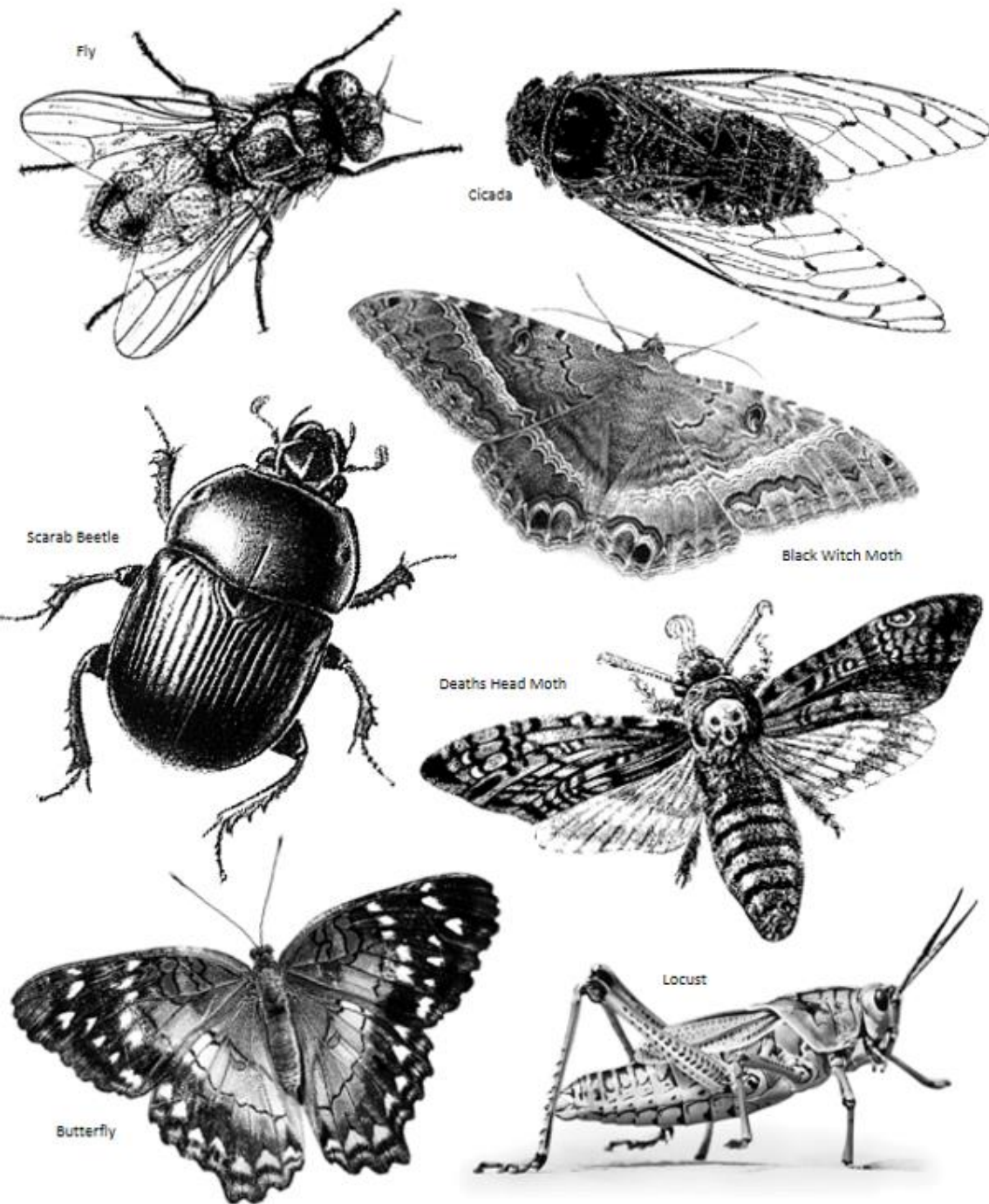


What to do - In this challenge, we would like you to try working like Mark Powell. To do this, you will need to select, actively look at, and recreate one of the black and white insect images shown on the left. You will need to recreate your chosen insect in as much detail as possible using black pens only and working on a found background – Just like Mark Powell! ☺ You can either find your own background to work on or print one out from the selection that we have provided for you on page 2 of this challenge task.

Whilst Mark Powell usually sticks to black ballpoint pen, you can use any type of black pen that you have around you. However, please make sure that you use a thickness of pen that best suits the type of line/mark that you want to make. For example, there's no point trying to recreate fine, delicate details with a thick Sharpie or marker pen! Plan what kind of pen you are going to use for different types of line/mark!

Also, think about what kind of line/mark you are going to use for the different parts of your chosen insect. You can use a pen in many different ways – dots, dashes, swirls, scribbles, etc. – so experiment with what works best for the different textures and surfaces seen on your chosen insect (smooth, furry, ridged, bumpy, etc.)

Finally, make sure that you avoid big cartoony outlines around your drawing. Remember that real life doesn't have big black outlines around everything, so neither should your drawings!



Found Backgrounds' - As mentioned, Mark Powell works on vintage surfaces such as old maps, postcards and letters. You are free to select your own found surfaces to work on, but to help, we have also provided you with scans of some surfaces here (on the right) so that you can copy, enlarge and print them out to work on. These images are in the A5/A4 ratio so please just copy, paste and enlarge these to the size that you want before printing them out ☺

Some Helpful Video Clips - To help you develop your work, take a look at the following clips. These will provide some additional advice and tips that you can apply to your chosen insect from Page 1.

Video 1: Ballpoint Pen Drawing Techniques

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNx5aeMPT3s>

Video 2: Drawing a Bee in Pen & Ink

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

Success Criteria - When creating your black pen insect drawing, make sure that you take note of the following points.

A successful image will...

- Not be rushed (You have at least 3 ½ hours for this)
- Be created using Black pens on a found background.
- Be well observed with highly accurate detail throughout.
- Not have bold cartoony outlines.
- Be created using a variety of mark-making styles (lines, dots, dashes, etc.) to recreate different texture and surfaces.
- Be of a decent size to show off detail (No smaller than A5).
- Be oriented (Portrait or landscape) appropriately according to the insect being drawn.

As always, once you have completed this week's challenge, please take a good quality photo of it and post it on your art team thread or mail it to your teacher. If you complete this task early, have a go at another piece – The more work you produce, the more practice you are getting and the better your skills will get! ☺

