

SMART

Student Multimedia Art Research Tool

Further information for teachers

SMART will enable you to enhance the experiences of students whose work you are supervising. It contains rich material that will improve your and the students' understanding of modern and contemporary artworks on display in the gallery, as well as complimenting their existing knowledge and experience.

The project offers two levels of engagement: a multimedia tour of the collections displays at Tate Modern, and a web-based project to follow-up on their gallery visit.

Multimedia tour

Students access the multimedia tour on individual PDAs that you borrow at the gallery. This tour focuses on twenty key artworks on display and explores a number of themes and issues such as the figure, abstraction, growth and form, lines, shapes and textures, art and politics, installation, cultural borrowing, and dreams and the subconscious.

However, as well as following the tour of the twenty artworks, students are able to access a huge range of content about other artworks on display, therefore there are many different pathways they can choose to take through the gallery.

Students create their own content in response to artworks on the tour by using the drawing, texting and audio recording interactive features on their PDA. In addition they are able to save digital images of their favourite artworks from the tour.

Website

Content created by students in the gallery is automatically saved to their own personal pages on the Tate website which they access back at school. To enhance this content they can upload a wide range of additional material to their website, such as digital photos, audio recordings, digital scans of their own sketches or other artworks, their creations in Photoshop, texts, etc.

The website allows students to order all of this content into a multimedia presentation or work journal that can be both a record of their gallery visit and a critical analysis of the development of their own artwork.

Everyone can log in to their own website through these pages on www.tate.org.uk. Teachers have administration access to students' websites.

Why take part?

SMART has been developed to extend students looking and thinking about modern and contemporary visual art to encompass broader frames of reference than they might otherwise bring to interpreting artworks. The outcome, creating their own multimedia presentations in the form of visual diaries, log books or work journals, allows students to refine and filter their research data into a coherent and creative outcome. At GCSE and up to A-level, students' multimedia presentations may form

part of their assessed coursework as research projects or mini personal studies. The multimedia format is recommended by exam boards, enriching learning and assessment by offering a more dynamic, layered approach to personal, critical and contextual studies.

Learning objectives

Some suggested learning objectives you may wish to consider:-

- To explore, reflect and evaluate modern and contemporary works of art
- To enhance existing subject knowledge
- To develop research skills
- To encourage students to become independent learners
- To make connections between works of art and the students' own practices
- To respond appropriately to the wide variety of multimedia content and interactive features available
- To share ideas and responses through collaborative learning and dialogue
- To use ICT creatively

How might students achieve this?

For instance they could:-

- Choose a collection of artworks they've seen on display, and relate this to their own art practice
- Play the critic and make their own judgements about art on display
- Play the gallery curator and explain their selective criteria for creating a display
- Make multimedia presentations that could be a mini personal study, visual diary, or record of their gallery visit.

In order to make it a really strong contribution to their coursework and to give themselves the best assessment outcome, students should try to make exciting and creative connections across different artists' works and exterior influences.

The project is informed by the 'Ways of Looking' methodology developed by Tate, which encourages students to look at an artwork through four approaches – their own personal interpretation, what the subject of the artwork is, the formal aspects of the artwork, and context in which it was made.

Tate's publication 'The Art Gallery Handbook' gives you more information about the 'Ways of Looking' methodology. <http://www.tate.org.uk/shop/product.do?id=27293>