

Why study Art?

Have you ever wondered why nobody can define what is and is not art? Do you ever wonder why artists have stopped painting and started pickling animals instead? Do you waste toothpaste unnecessarily? Draw quite well in condensation? Turn clouds into meaningless shapes?

This course can enlighten your perspective on the changing face of art in this new millennium and give you insight into the powers of your daydreaming mind. It equips you with a creative armoury of visual arts skills, harnesses your imagination and enables you to communicate your personal ideas through a dynamic visual language.

This largely practical course allows you to explore not only why and how art is made but also shapes your style as a potential artist.

What will you be learning?

You will be asked to produce a portfolio of work from given starting points, topics or themes. In this sense the term portfolio refers to a set of work that shows exploration, research, technique and skill. This may be presented in a portfolio of some kind, involving working in and out of sketchbooks. Art is often about creative discovery so although you will improve your direct observation skills with drawing traditional media and tools you will also experiment with some unusual and unexpected techniques, discovering new directions to make progress. You will also learn to analyse your work and the work of others. You will look at contemporary and historical artists and how they might relate to your own work. There will be a mock exam at the end of the year which may be an observational piece of work or a response to an artist.

The A level

There are two assessed components:

Personal Investigation 60%. This unit asks you to submit one major project of some personal significance. Selected work from Year 12 will be a starting point and you will carry out investigations, developing ideas and making relevant responses to other artists. This would usually mean that you produce research and maybe one or more finished pieces out of your sketchbook. Your theme or topic may well develop and grow as you work on it but you should aim to explain and illustrate these developments as they happen. You will need to include a related personal study of between 1000 and 3000 words. This will relate to your major project and will include appropriate developments as they happen and artist analysis.

Externally Set Assignment 40%. This is a colossal 15 hour timed exam. You will receive a question paper early and this will enable you to plan and prepare. You will produce a response to your preparation work in the 15 hours, giving you plenty of time to complete a substantial and skilful finished piece.

What are the lessons like?

There will be lots of opportunities and encouragement to explore a wide range of media and resources. Some of the lessons will be like workshops where we will demonstrate new techniques and approaches to you. There will be discussions where you can share ideas and practical work and you'll be expected to display and assess your projects as well. As you progress through the course the teaching will be focused more on the individual and the tuition orientated towards you achieving your goals. The majority of your time in art will be spent churning out practical work so you will find the Senior Art studio a busy and not to mention creative and inventive environment to work in.

What can it lead to?

This course is excellent preparation for any pupil considering furthering their creative studies, and apart from a vast range of Art and Art related courses at university and further education, Art is great because it combines skill based work with wide research skills. You will be developing into an independent creative thinker which universities and employers are keen to take on.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact E.Denby@qes.org.uk, L.Wilson@qes.org.uk or T.Phillips@qes.org.uk