

Spring 1: Silk Paintings

Lostwithiel Primary School

Year Three

Overarching theme for the year -
The Role of Art in Ritual and Ceremony

Art Knowledge Organiser

Beech Tree Class

Prior Learning: In Year Two, the children will have learnt to use drawing and painting to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination. They will have used a sketchbook to make notes about artists, skills and techniques. They will have practised using pencils of different grades and at different angles to create different effects.

Key Art knowledge and skills:

- Silk painting originated in China over 2000 years ago. Pigment made from minerals, such as vermilion, azurite and malachite, was applied to sheets of pure white silk with fine brushes made from animal hair. Chinese silk painting often depicts aspects of Chinese life, such as rituals at temples and tea ceremonies.
- Silk is made from the cocoons of silk worms. The cocoons are unravelled by hand and spun then woven to create silk material. Painting on silk preceded painting on paper.
- Silk painting is a three-step technique. A design is drawn on paper first and the silk is laid over it. Then the design outlines are traced with a special ink in a tube called gutta paint. This acts as a barrier to stop the silk paint bleeding. The silk paint is then applied. It can be used like a watercolour paint so subtle blended effects can be created.
- Sketchbooks are used by artists to record their observations before their main piece of work. Sketchbook work for silk painting could include observing and sketching silk paintings from a range of artists and experimenting with colour washes and blends using watercolours.
- Modern artists often use IT to capture and experiment with colours before their final piece. Photographs of mountains can be uploaded onto a computer and software can be used to manipulate colours to create different effects.
- Art critics comment and compare artist's work using the relevant language. Children can be taught sentence starters and vocabulary to critique their peers work in a positive and constructive way e.g. Your palette of colours is effective because... I think your foreground colours compliment the ...



Key Art Vocabulary

General Terms and Cross Curricular Vocabulary

| | | | |
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| tracing | The technique of copying an image through a translucent material, such as special paper or silk. | complimentary | Complimentary colours are on opposite sides of the colour wheel and are thought to work in harmony when used together. |
| outline | The lines used to define a figure or a shape. In silk painting, some outlines are closed by gutta paint to stop the silk paint bleeding. | figurative | Figurative art is clearly derived from real objects, such as real landscapes and human figures. |
| blending | The technique of mixing two or more colours to create a gradual transition or to soften lines. This is a useful technique to create a background of sky or sunset. | pure | Pure colour is a hue or colour that is unmixed with other colours. The three primary colours (red, blue and yellow) are often referred to as pure colours. |
| foreground | The foreground of a painting or scene is the part that is closest to the viewer. Finer details, such as the patterns on plant leaves, are often in the foreground. | density | In art, colour density is thought of as the amount of pigment, paint or ink used to apply a colour. A dense colour would block light and appear less reflective and more solid. |
| background | The background of a painting or scene is the part that is furthest away from the viewer. Sky, layers of distant hills or mountains are often in the background. | perspective | Persepective is a technique used in art for creating an illusion of a 3D shape on a 2D surface, such as paper. Foreground, background, shade and proportion can help create perspective. |

Art Outcome



The children will create one final piece. They will create a silk painting using real silk, gutta and specialist silk paints. The painting will be



based on a mountain or volcanic landscape inspired by Chinese and Japanese artists. The foreground will include details of plants and flowers. The background will use blended colours to help create a sense of perspective.

Cross Curricular Links

- ✓ English: Writing stories based on a journey to a volcano, set in Asia.
- ✓ Science: Rocks- investigating minerals and rocks and learning that some are used to make paint.
- ✓ Geography: Learning how mountains and volcanoes are formed. Using world maps to find the Asian continent.



Linked documents: [Class Overview](#), [Art Whole School Progression document](#) and [Class Medium Term Planning](#).