

Art Practice Lesson

Just as Cotton used the angular handles of tea cups and the shadows they created to express her vision of ballet dancers, students are required to plan, arrange, edit and evaluate a photograph of an everyday object that evokes a certain idea, memory or concept to them.

Learning Outcome: At the completion of this lesson children demonstrate a better knowledge of art techniques specific to photography such as lighting and composition to represent an idea or feeling unique to them behind a common object.

Indicators: Children will explore different camera angles and positioning of their subject matter in relation to a light source to incorporate the element of light and/or shade in their photo.

Children will experiment with various ways to arrange the subject matter in an asymmetrical way in order to achieve an engaging and interesting photo.

Assessment: Children will discuss and be able to explain and identify the relationship between their subject and their idea or concept.

Students' reflective statements in their visual diaries are detailed and outline different techniques and strategies they used to create their final photograph.

Background to Learning

Teacher: for this lesson to run smoothly and successfully a good knowledge of the cameras the class is working with needs to be established by the teacher.

Children: This lesson follows on from the art appreciation lesson and is the second of three art practice lessons. Prior to this lesson students have already planned their photograph in their visual diaries/ sketchpads, recording what materials that they personally will need, how they will arrange their objects to create a photo that is both interesting and attractive as well as having recorded any other words related to ideas or concepts behind their chosen subject matter. In the previous Art Practice lesson students were also able to discuss the element of light and shadow, which is typical to the work of Cotton. Children discussed how to use torches or natural light, how different effects and moods can be represented using different amounts of light and how that could be incorporated into their own work. Children are already familiar with working with cameras however if not an introductory lesson on using cameras occurs.

Lesson Resources:

- Class set of cameras (or at a minimum 1 between 2)
- A range of torches of different sizes
- Large black and white pieces of cardboard (for backdrops or backgrounds of photos)
- Children's visual diaries (for children to refer back to)
- Subject matter (children are required to bring this from home, homework task is to find an object around the house or garden, can be singular or a set) that evokes an idea or feeling. Teacher may need to bring in other objects for children who forget etc.
- An open outdoor area for children who want to use natural light and/or a shaded or dark area for children who want to use torches

Before students begin their work the teacher models appropriate use of the camera and

other materials and takes a 'sample shot' to demonstrate to children what is required of them for the lesson. This time also allows for any further questions or problems students may have with the task.

Using the knowledge they have built from previous art appreciation and practice activities, and from the knowledge they have attained of the work of Olive Cotton, children begin working on their pieces in pairs (children work in pairs so they can assist each other with lighting and positioning, however still take individual photos).

Once students have taken an image that they are pleased with they are able to upload and edit and share their photo into a Picasa account where further art practice activities can take place.