

Unit 2: Studio exploration and concepts

In this unit students focus on establishing and using a studio practice to produce artworks. The studio practice includes the formulation and use of an individual approach to documenting sources of inspiration, and experimentation with selected materials and techniques relevant to specific art forms. Students explore and develop ideas and subject matter, create aesthetic qualities and record the development of the work in a visual diary as part of the studio process.

Through the study of art movements and styles, students begin to understand the use of other artists' work in the making of new artworks. Students also develop skills in the visual analysis of artworks. Artworks made by artists from different times and cultures are analysed to understand developments in studio practice. Using a range of art periods, movements or styles, students develop a broader knowledge about the history of art. Analysis is used to understand the artists' ideas and how they have created aesthetic qualities and subject matter. Comparisons of contemporary art with historical art styles and movements should be encouraged.

The exhibition of artworks is integral to Unit 2 and students are encouraged to visit a variety of exhibition spaces throughout the unit, reflect on the different environments and examine how artworks are presented to an audience.

Area of Study 1

Exploration of studio practice and development of artworks

In this area of study students focus on developing artworks through an individual studio process based on visual research and inquiry.

In developing an individual studio process, students learn to explore ideas, sources of inspiration, materials and techniques in a selected art form, which is documented in an individual exploration proposal. Students respond to stimulus to generate ideas related to their context. They experiment with materials and techniques and apply them to a selected art form. They may use art elements and art principles to create particular aesthetic qualities relevant to their ideas and subject matter. Students learn to generate a range of potential directions in the studio process around which an artwork can be developed. Students analyse and evaluate these in a visual diary before the production of the artwork.

Outcome 1

On completion of this unit the student should be able to develop an individual exploration proposal to form the basis of a studio process, and from this produce and document a variety of potential directions in a visual diary for at least one artwork.

To achieve this outcome the student will draw on key knowledge and key skills outlined in Area of Study 1.

Key knowledge

- the nature and structure of an individual studio process
- a range of sources of inspiration to support ideas for art making
- a range of artistic influences
- strategies for generating a range of potential directions
- the characteristics and nature of materials and techniques
- a range of art elements and art principles to formulate an understanding of aesthetic qualities
- strategies for presenting and evaluating artworks.

Key skills

- develop an individual studio process that is recorded in a visual diary
- explore and use ideas, sources of inspiration and artistic influences
- explore and develop a range of potential directions
- use materials and apply techniques
- use art elements and art principles to demonstrate aesthetic qualities
- research, analyse and evaluate potential directions explored
- use terminology to annotate developmental and exploratory work in a visual diary
- present and evaluate at least one artwork.

Area of Study 2

Ideas and styles in artworks

In this area of study students focus on the analysis of historical and contemporary artworks. Artworks by at least two artists and/or groups of artists from different times and cultures are analysed to understand how art elements and art principles are used to communicate artists' ideas, and to create aesthetic qualities and identifiable styles. Students develop an understanding of the use of other artists' works in the making of new artworks, which may include the ideas and issues associated with appropriation such as copyright and artists' moral rights. In analysing at least two artworks by each artist, students further develop appropriate art terminology and skills in researching and using a variety of references that may include visits to art galleries and museums, online resources, books, catalogues and periodicals. Students are encouraged to use visual material when presenting their approach.

Outcome 2

On completion of this unit the student should be able to compare a range of historical and contemporary art periods, styles or movements, and analyse the ways in which artists communicate ideas, develop styles and demonstrate aesthetic qualities in artworks.

To achieve this outcome the student will draw on key knowledge and key skills outlined in Area of Study 2.

Key knowledge

- the art elements and art principles used in artworks to create aesthetic qualities
- ways in which artists from different historical and contemporary times communicate ideas and meaning
- ways in which artists from different times and cultures have developed styles in their artworks
- the ideas and issues that may arise when artists' work is used to make new artworks; this may include appropriation, copyright and artists' moral rights
- the methods of research and inquiry, including a variety of references and appropriate terminology.

Key skills

- identify, discuss and compare the use of art elements, art principles and the presentation of aesthetic qualities in historical and contemporary artworks
- compare ways in which artists from different times and cultures communicate ideas and meaning in artworks
- compare the ways in which artists from different times and cultures have developed styles in their artworks
- discuss the ideas and issues that may arise in the use of other artists' works in the making of new artworks
- use references and appropriate terminology.