

Art and Design Network

Diversifying the Art and Design Curriculum



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Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Overview
3. Example project
4. Q&A and open discussion





In this online network event, we will discuss a range of ideas and resources for diversifying the Art and Design curriculum. The session will help teachers support their students explore voices from a variety of backgrounds and artistic traditions, looking at research and resources to inspire creative journeys.





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How can we
make art and
design
inclusive and
diverse?



Consider our planning carefully
Be mindful of bias

Be prepared to challenge
ourselves





What do we mean by 'diversifying the curriculum'?

- Bringing in a range of different perspectives to every scheme of work/project
- Ensuring all students can see themselves represented across all styles and movements
- Broadening the artistic canon



Task

Think of a scheme of learning you have written, or a project/activity you have completed recently. To what extent did you consider the following questions?

- Cultural norms and assumptions associated with an activity?
- The ethnic origin of any artists referenced?
- Gender or orientation of identity of the artists? Non-Binary? LGBTQ+?
- Neurodiversity? Physical or learning disability?

Example scheme of work: Identity

Project aim

- Making connections with community and heritage through visual language

Example tasks

- Investigations into artists and/or contextual references.
- Creating responses to their investigations.
- Experimenting with media techniques and processes appropriate to their line of enquiry.
- Recording their ideas through a variety of visual and, where appropriate, written means.
- Realising intentions by presenting personal, meaningful and informed outcomes.

Considering different perspectives

- Hew Locke
- Njideka Akunyili Crosby
- Martin Parr
- Zanele Muholi
- The Singh Twins



Hew Locke

Collaborative Work, Sculpture, Print, Mixed Media, Collage

The Procession unpacks some of this problematic history, as well as taking Caribbean carnival, the story of post-colonial trade, empire and the current environmental disaster in its stride. Past and present collide and intermingle, throwing up echoes and asides'.

Adrian Searle (Guardian)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/hew-locke>



Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Painting, Collage, Mixed Media

Njideka Akunyili Crosby's paintings explore a hybrid cultural identity, reflecting her strong attachment to her Nigerian heritage and her current home in Los Angeles, although here the setting is a distinctly British one. Working with photography and painting, Akunyili Crosby's multi-layered images of domestic scenes are built upon the artist's personal reflections on history, community and politics.

<https://www.njidekaakunyilicrosby.com/>



Martin Parr

Photography, Observational drawing.

Documenting workplaces, temples, churches, shops, and more, Parr's photographs celebrate the unique mix of cultures and traditions coexisting in the Black Country. In this project, Parr embraces the role of a community photographer, connecting with the locals, sharing prints with subjects. Students may use this starting point to consider documenting their own community or that of one less familiar and explore people and places or objects that represent identity or specific cultures .

[Martin Parr](#) - Black Country Stories



Zanele Muholi

Painting, Mixed Media, Photography, Film

In *Faces and Phases* each participant looks directly at the camera, challenging the viewer to hold their gaze. These images and the accompanying testimonies form a growing archive of a community of people who are risking their lives by living authentically in the face of oppression and discrimination.

[Zanele Muholi](#) – Faces and Phases



The Singh Twins

Painting, Drawing, Printmaking,

The work of these sisters is accessible and uses familiar consumerism in its' iconography, which can be approached through observational drawings or photographs as starting activities and uses traditions from South Asian painting in its form but references globalisation, sustainability and environmental issues.

<https://www.singhtwins.co.uk/artwork/mixed-media-categories/slaves-o-fashion-series.html>

The Singh Twins - 'Because You're Worth It'

Pearson Edexcel resources to support you diversifying the curriculum

Artist Directory

This resource aims to share an initial list of artists from a variety of backgrounds and communities to help students explore a wide range of voices within different artistic traditions. These practitioners can be searched according to specific endorsed titles and areas of study, enabling students and teachers to find the most relevant examples. The directory is not exhaustive but can be used to stimulate discussion and further research, supporting each student on their personal creative journey.

Diversifying the curriculum guide

This resource is designed to support teachers in the planning and delivery of the Art and Design curriculum by providing a range of resources that promote a diverse, inclusive, and equitable curriculum. It is intended to provide starting points for research and discussion, making teachers and students aware of a rich range of artists and designers from all backgrounds.



Links from our 'Diversifying the curriculum guide'

[Art2Day - Artist Search](#)

[Art UK – Discover Artists](#)

[Centre for Creative Explorations](#)

[Making Sense - South London Gallery](#)

[NSEAD - Anti-Racist Art Education \(ARAE\) Resources](#)

[Schools - Southbank Centre](#)

Share practice

Seek out help
and resources



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The Curriculum

- The Art and Design Curriculum is well positioned to address diversity in our wider culture.
- The flexibility of Art and Design qualifications means we can teach students to understand how different voices have used Art and Design to express ideas, and to ask difficult questions of ourselves by contextualising learning activities with diverse references.
- Our museums and galleries are good resource and are often at the forefront of promoting diversity: [The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure - National Portrait Gallery \(npg.org.uk\)](https://www.npg.org.uk/exhibitions/the-time-is-always-now)
- The art curriculum supports learning across the wider curriculum by encouraging cultural awareness, critical understanding and acceptance of different voices from history .
- Pearson Edexcel provides resources and training to support curriculum planning through its subject advisors and training materials.

Q&A and discussion

- Questions?
- Thoughts?
- Feedback?



Further support

Contact us at TeachingArtandDesign@Pearson.com

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Join our Art and Design communities:

- [Art & Design: GCSE/A Level](#)
- [Art & Design: International GCSE](#)

Watch our Art and Design bitesize videos:

- [A Level Art and Design \(2015\)](#)
- [GCSE Art and Design \(2016\)](#)
- [International GCSE Art and Design \(2017\)](#)

Sign up for additional training at [Pearson Professional Development Academy](#) and watch recorded training at [Art and Design Training and Network Events - YouTube](#)



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