Today we are going to be looking at expressionism. This is what we have been focusing on for the last few weeks of the term. And it is our second and last assessment task for Art. Does anybody remember or can anybody tell me something about expressionism? What does it involve? Or what even is expressionism?

Yes. More like abstract. Abstract, an abstract kind of art. Yeah. Excellent. So, it is a kind of art, a type of art, and particularly the way that expressionism art was created, it looks at how art is created, very expressive or very emotional kind of motivated artwork.

So, our learning intention is to analyse expressionist artworks and learn techniques to apply to a trial artwork. So today we're actually going to make a little practice trial artwork before we create our assessment task final artwork in a few weeks. And our success criteria, so by the end of today's lesson, you should be able to analyse expressionist artworks to find key characteristics, and I will trial pastel techniques and apply them to a trial expressionist artwork.

So, for today's lesson, we have a few different tasks. Our first task we're going to be working in partners or in groups of three to do an artwork analysis. Then we'll be doing a little brainstorm in our art diaries or a mind map of ideas of things that will going to, the things that we will include into our artworks. Then we're going to do an oil pastel technique trial. So, we'll get to learn how to actually use oil pastels in different ways before making a mini artwork. And then we'll continue with the assessment task if we have time.

So, we're going to be working in partners and you should all have three different worksheets. The first worksheet is for you to look at to find the colours in the artwork. The second one is looking at the lines or the shapes, and the last worksheet is looking at the characteristics. So, you also have here some words to kind of help you. What colours can you see in this artwork? Write in the box below. Dusty, warm, bright. Excellent. Is there anything else that you could potentially use from there? Could you use bold? Bold? Yeah. Excellent. I guess you could use this. Where do you see the bold colours, Oliver? You see any colours that are bold here? I don’t think so. You don't think so? Did you write this word here? Dusty?

Yes.

Excellent. Where do you see dusty colours?

Around the...

Around the background. Yeah. Yeah. Fantastic. Well done. You can maybe find two more words and add it onto, into your box. So, you may actually just write the names of the colours that you see, or you may write some adjectives to describe the colours. For example, we have ‘dusty’ in the background of the artwork. The colours are quite dusty, very earthy, or dusty colours. So, think about some adjectives or descriptive words that you can use instead of just listing the names of the colours.

So, artwork number two asks you what types of lines and shapes can you see in this artwork? What do we have so far? It shows symbolism with the crown and trumpet. Fantastic. And you can see both of those things. Do you remember why he used to include the trumpet in his work? What music did you like listening to? Jazz music. Yeah. Great. Now, is there anything else that we can see thickly applied paint? Where can you see the thickly applied paint? Yep, all around the sides. Great. Alright, well done, everybody. Hopefully you were able to kind of identify some different characteristics or art elements in the work.

The reason why we're having a look at breaking that down is because when you have to plan or create your own artwork, we want to make it as similar to this style and technique as possible. So, if we just go in blindly and not really understand how the artworks are broken down, we wouldn't really be able to get a good grasp on replicating the style. So that's the whole point of us trying to look at specific things in the artworks ourselves. So, when we make our own, they are as realistic or aligned with expressionism.

So, let's have a quick discussion about artwork one. What colours do you see in this artwork? Oliver, you said a really good adjective at the beginning. What was the first adjective you wrote down for the colours?

Dusty.

Dusty. Fantastic. Dusty. And where can you see the dusty colours?

In the background.

In the background of the work. Excellent. What about you three at the back? Give me two different words or ideas you have for colour.

We wrote ‘warm colours.’

Warm colours? Definitely warm.

And they're also contrasting.

And definitely contrasting.

Where can you say contrasting colours?

The white and black on top.

Yeah, the white and the black against the more kind of warmer colours create a bit of a contrast. Excellent. Now we have the next one, which is lines and shapes. For this artwork we see probably most more lines than we do shapes. I'll go back to front this time so you guys, can you give me something for lines to begin with?

The straight hairs.

The straight hairs.

We have lots of straight repeated lines at the top. Definitely. That's the first thing that I see as well. What about you three?

There's lots of curved lines that form irregular shapes.

Curved lines that form irregular shapes. And can you explain where you might see that? What kind of shape?

Mostly in the skull.

The skull. Yeah. Maybe around here. Or even over here to create the eyes or the nose. We can see how the lines have been joined together to create an actual facial feature as well. Jackson?

Scribbly lines.

Scribbly lines. Fantastic. And we can see lots of layers of scribbles. And this is something that's very easy that you can include on your own artworks. Even at the end, just add some scribbles. Depending on how you're feeling they might be soft and wavy ones, or if you're not in the mood, they might be more aggressive, right. To express lines in a certain way.

For the next step, you're going to have a bit of independent time to work through some ideas for your assessment task. So, we know for our assessment task, we have a few different steps and before we actually make our artwork, we have to create a brainstorm and a mood board.

For your brainstorm, this is just written and all you need to write down is thinking of different symbols. You might include a piece of writing or text as well. For example, I might put a symbol of a butterfly because that's my favourite animal. Or maybe I will find my star sign and add that as a symbol as an example. You said to me before ‘a wolf.’ Maybe you can write down ‘wolf’ as your first idea. So, what else could you potentially write? You have an animal as an idea. What else could you potentially write? So, you have animal. I'm going to write a little list. Animal, birth month, favourite sport. Oh, favourite food, maybe. I have four other things that you could potentially write about as your brainstorm. So, you have animal. You can tick that off, please. So, we have February. And actually, for every month there's a gemstone that relates to your month. I can have a Google and find what yours is. I think it's amethyst. Amethyst. Excellent. Do you want me to double check? Yep. So, you can write down February and maybe amethyst. What birthstone is February? Yeah, you're right. Amethyst. Do you know how to spell it, or do you want me to show you?

Can you show me?

Pardon?

You can show me.

Amethyst. That's a red stone, isn't it? Ah purple, purple quartz.

So, do I just write that?

Tick, you can write that.

Oh, you can also write amethyst. Then after that, you can think of what's your favourite sport or favourite food? Maybe you can include a symbol of those things as well in your work. Okay, so anything else we should add to the list. Do you have a favourite song?

I'm not sure. I listen to a lot of different...

A lot of music.

So maybe we can just write music as a whole. Because you like music. What do you reckon?

Sure.

Okay, so you've done tick, tick. You can tick that off now. Now you can go into your next three and write them in your brainstorm list.

So, we're going to be looking at oil pastels and how to use them in different ways to practice our techniques before creating our own artworks. Okay? In a second, I'm going to ask for you all to go up to this side of the room and take three different colours of oil pastels and also a skewer. So, the skewer, this is what it is. So, you should have three different coloured, coloured pastels and one skewer as well. On this side of the worksheet, you will be filling in the technique. I will run through them with you and if you're a little unsure, you'll be able to see on the other side exactly what you should be doing. So, we'll start off just with one colour and just lightly grab your oil pastel. So, you can all make sure you have your worksheet flipped over to this side with the boxes, please. And just start off with one colour and to make sure you're applying light pressure, you can kind of just practice with your wrist, just kind of flicking it like this. And then when you go onto your page, you're just adding very light quick front and brush strokes. See how my hand is moving front and back like that. And then you're going to also lightly apply and blend the colours together.

Now because I have two colours that are kind of close to each other, they might just disappear. We have orange and yellow, they kind of disappear together. If you have two different colours, you'll be able to blend them and see them in a different way. So maybe use one that's a little bit different, up to you really, if you want it to be different or similar and lightly blend it in.

Yeah, that's a good colour to use.

Was that your first colour?

Yep. So which colour you going to use next? You might have to peel it a little bit and lightly apply. And you have this here with you Oliver as well. So, you can see what it looks like if you can't see the TV. Okay? Excellent. Just lightly. We don't want it too dark. That's good.

Oh, you're even blending it with your fingers.

We're going to do the next one now, which is called ‘scumbling.’ So scumbling is where you have kind of a controlled scribble. So, imagine doing lots of repeated little, tiny circles over and over and over. So, make sure you have looked. Look at the TV while I do this one when I have a look as well. So, you can just start off kind of like imagine you're trying to draw like a ringlet, right? Like a curly ringlet. And then if you add more pressure, you can build up the texture as well and you can mix to college with this, if you like as well. So, you can fill up that whole square rectangle, sorry with your different scumbling. So, building up with lots of tiny kind of circles. Start soft and build up with more of a heavy pressure.

So, the next one we’ll be doing is tone. Making tone from light to dark. So, we're going to start with a light pressure and build up to a darker or have more of a heavy pressure. And as we know, tone is one of our art elements. So, whenever we try to find tone in an artwork, we try to make sure you can see things that have a lot of dimension or darkness to lightness. And it usually is able to create a bit of form or something that's three dimensional as well.

Okay? So, to do this, you're just going to use one colour. On the instructions it does say to use white and black, but that's okay. We don't have to use white and black. Any colour can have a variation of tone. Okay. So, you're going to kind of leave a little bit at the start and then you're going to start very lightly applying up and down vertical application. And then you're slowly building it up and adding more pressure. And as the adding more pressure, what's happening to the colour or the pigment of the pastel? Is it lighter or darker? Darker, exactly.

So, we're creating that variation of tone and you might just go over that end bit to make sure it's nice and dark and you have a bit of a variation of light to dark with tone. This one is a little bit trickier, but just try and make sure you have vertical up and down strokes and start very lightly. Yep. Good. So, when we look at this picture, we see that it’s much darker on this side isn't it? So, what can we do to make it even darker? We put very heavy application.

Do you want to try that?

Yes. Excellent.

Now this is where we get to use our our skewer, you've all been waiting for. This is called sgraffito, and this is where we're going to overlap two thick layers of different colours. So, you have to use two different colours. So, for me, I'm going to be using yellow underneath and then green on the top. Okay. Once we have done our two thick layers, you then can use your skewer to scratch away and reveal the other colour that you've put underneath. So, I'll show you first before you try. I'm going to do a nice, thick, dark application. Just very quickly, of the yellow, then the green on top. They might blend together a bit, but that's okay.

Once you have added both of your layers, think about what kind of design you might just do some lines, or some little spirals and we should be able to scratch away. I'm just doing little circles. You can scratch away the green, the first layer, the first layer of the pastel. So, make sure your application is nice and heavy. Start with one colour underneath and a totally different colour for the top before using your skewer to sgraffito the detail out.

Nice and dark. Yep, good. Nice and heavy application.

So, to blend our two cool colours together, we're going to be adding the lighter colour first. So, between these two, the blue and the green, I would add the blue first because it's a little bit lighter and softer. And then on the other end of my box, I'm going to be adding the green. So, we're trying to blend two cool colours together. I'm going to actually just use the flat side like this and just bring it along. It just fills in the box nice and quickly and then I'm going to go with my green and blend them together. So, I start with the green on the other side. So, find which of your colours is cooler or lighter. Start with that underneath. Then you can build up with the other cool colour on the other side and use a flat pastel like that just is nice and quick and you can brush it along really easily.

So, you can put your pastel flat Oliver. So, kind of hold it like this. Yeah. On the side. And then you can, yep that's fine. Okay, well done on finishing off your oil pastel techniques. Hopefully you were able to learn some new techniques before you actually create your own mini artwork.

So, we're going to do our own mini artwork now. And for our mini artwork you should all have been given an A5 sheet of paper which looks like this. And it's the same kind of paper as what you just used before. So, it's cartridge paper. Okay? So, you should be using your brainstorm or your mood board ideas to act as inspiration. Okay? So, look at what symbols text or ideas you have listed, and you would like to incorporate. And I also want you to think about the colours to express your mood. So, kind of think about how you're feeling today depending on what colours you would like to incorporate onto your artwork.

Okay, so I put some pictures on the PowerPoint of some examples of expressive use of oil pastels. So, make sure you’re having a look, just up here, guys. Oliver, do you want to have a quick look up on the TV? Okay. So, we see three different uses or different colour schemes of pastels and different application of techniques as well. So, when you're using your oil pastels today, you might want to think about using some of the techniques that we used and learned just before. Start with a rough or a gradient background so you can just stop by layering in a particular colour of your choice in your background, and then you may add some symbols and layers using the pastels.

I think I’ll start.

You’d like to start? Okay, that's great. So, if we're starting, we're going to start with the background. What colours are you feeling today? What kind of colour scheme would you like to go for? Do you want to have a look at some of the extra colours out there? Come take a look and maybe you’ll choose a different one.

Yeah.

You got an extra colour? Jackson, do you want to take a look at any of the colours? Are you happy with what you got?

Yep.

I'm taking a pink.

I’ll take a darker green.

Darker green. Great.

If you're happy with your background, you can go on and start adding some symbols or also trying some of the other techniques that we just did onto your artwork. Are you going to try and add a different colour for this sgraffito? Or do you like just going? Oh, is there a colour underneath? Oh, that's paper. And paper.

I tried doing this.

I tried doing this.

I just.

Yeah, maybe because it's dark.

What if?

It's kind of a little blue.

Yeah, that will work.

I think that green is a really dark one.

I actually thought that was blue.

But this one's purple.

Yeah, it’s purple.

Okay, try here. Yeah, that's working. Can you open up your brainstorm please? So, we have a wolf, amethyst, football, sushi. Should we draw a footy or a piece of sushi? It doesn’t have to be perfect. It can be an abstract version. You going to sgraffito it in? Great.

Okay, that's fine. So, what could we add to yours to make it a bit more expressive? What kind of layer might we add on? Which colour? You know, I was going to say the red as well. Perfect. What should we do? Should we draw a red footy actually?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Why don't you draw a big red footy to take up this corner? Awesome.

Nice layering.

That kind of reminds me of a sunset, actually. Your colours.

How do you like the chalk? Isn't it pretty?

Yeah.

You prefer it more?

Yeah.

Alright, before we pack up, can you please make sure that your name is on the back of your artwork. And I would like for you to bring it over here so we can have them all out on a little display. Okay, so we have all of our artworks here together, and we can see some different ideas or different techniques that we've used relating to expressionism. Who would like to tell me something that we can see that connects expressionism?

The techniques that are used.

The techniques that are used. Excellent. Oliver, what about you?

The shading.

The shading of the...?

The shading and the blending of the colours.

Of the colous, fantastic.

We also have blending as well, which is something that we would see together in a lot of expressionist artworks. The way that colours kind of blend. What about you?

Symbols.

Symbols that have been used. Excellent. So, we can see some good interpretations of expressionism. Some works probably need some more layers or symbols included, but overall, we have some really good pieces with some different layers.

So, when we have to plan our artworks next week, we can think about how we've used our composition or our overall artwork from our trial before planning our actual practice one before during our final artwork in the next couple of weeks as well. So well done. Hopefully you enjoyed using the oil pastels today to make your own little artworks. You did a great job.