

Winchmore School
Class of 2021
A Level Art & Design
AH

My own dream home

My dream is to live in a modern, spacious house with a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport. I would like to live in a modern, spacious house with a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport.

If I own my own home, I would like to have a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport. I would like to live in a modern, spacious house with a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport.

One of the benefits of owning a house is that you can customize it to your own tastes. You can choose the size, location, and features of the house. You can also choose the materials and finishes. Owning a house also allows you to build equity over time. This means that the value of the house will increase as you pay off the mortgage. This can be a great way to save money for the future.

There are many reasons why people want to own a house. Some people want to live in a quiet area with good schools and transport. Some people want to have a large garden and a swimming pool. Some people want to have a garage for their car. Some people want to build equity over time. Some people want to have a house that is customized to their own tastes. Owning a house can be a great way to achieve these goals.

I am looking for a house that is modern, spacious, and has a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport. I would like to live in a modern, spacious house with a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport.

2. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport. I would like to live in a modern, spacious house with a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport. I would like to live in a modern, spacious house with a large garden. I would like to have a swimming pool and a tennis court. I also want to have a garage for my car. The house should be built in a quiet area with good schools and transport.

Root

Rotting

Mushrooms / oyster mushrooms

Dying

Fungus / fungi

Algae

Buried

mould

Decay

Nature

Decomposition of fruit/veg through the action of bacteria and fungi.

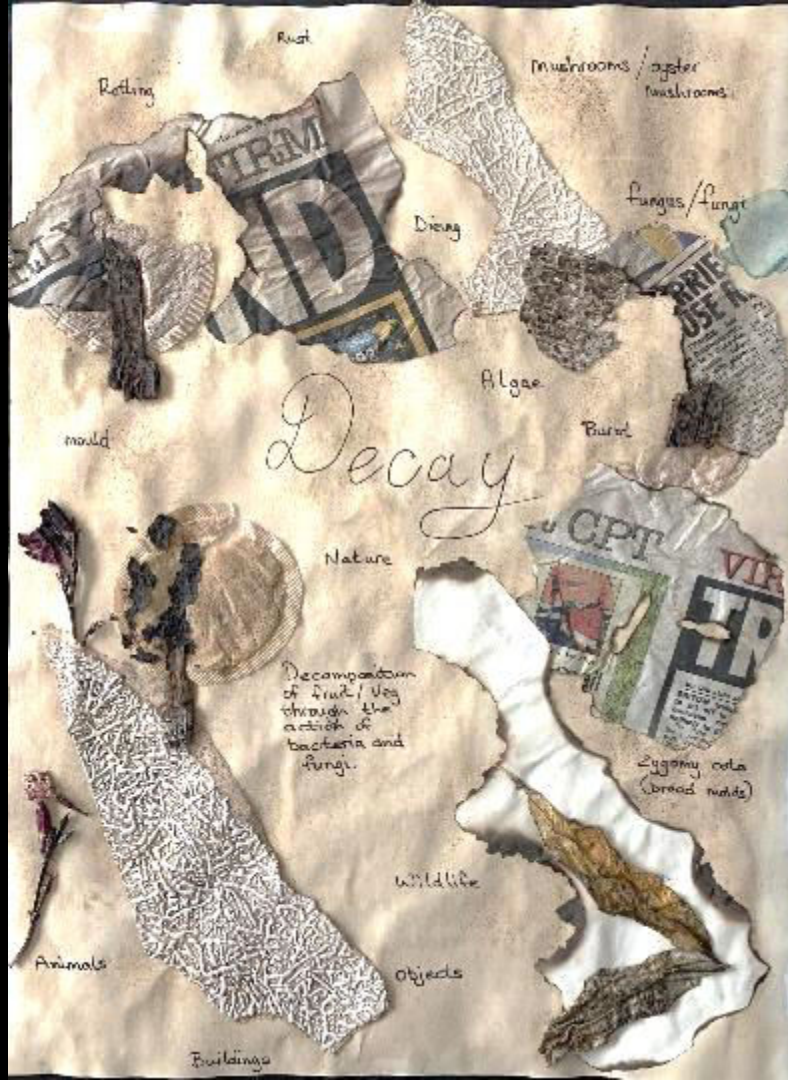
Zygomycota (bread mould)

Wildlife

Objects

Animals

Buildings



Zhang Xiaotao



Zhang Xiaotao is a cross-media artist. He is very active in Chinese contemporary art circles, whose creative forms range from painting and photography to animation and installation.



Approaching painting as an archetype of beauty, Zhang's surfaces are lively in their intensely rich detail. Zhang magnifies the conception of space and physicality, creating a sense of infinity within the minute and claustrophobic.

Xiaotao's art has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions across the world. The artist currently lives and works in Beijing and Chengde.



Zhang makes paintings with sexual imagery often involving small animals such as frogs and snakes and incorporating images of post-apocalypse and pollution.

Zhang Xiaotao's "A Terrible Time" displays huge oil and watercolor paintings inviting viewers into a bright underwater world of frogs and intermingled human forms. In the display amphibious creatures float in washes of blue, green and orange paint with their outlines making eye-pleasing shapes. Perhaps this is a reflection of Xiaotao's background as he nearly drowned as a child and is afraid of water.



This is an artist copy using oil pastel.

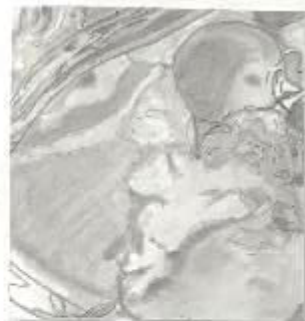
I found that the white did not cover the red as much as I would have expected it to. But I was still pleased with the outcome.



White shows the
me at his

the page
like me
marked me
small.
the way make we must look
like its dripping and melting.

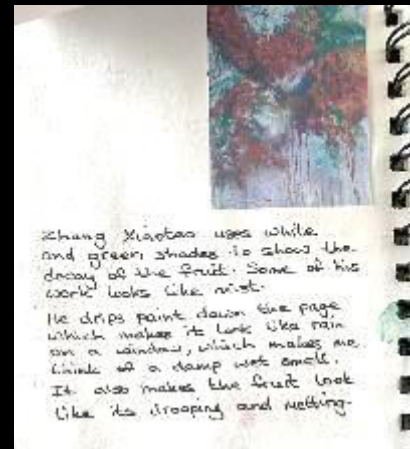
I wanted to experiment with
how different media can make
the same image look different.
This helped me practise
different ways to make a
decayed look, and also decide
which paint works better.
The top left is done with
water colour and the bottom
right is acrylic paint. I
concluded that the water
colour is more effort to use
and the end result looks more
decayed and realistic.



For these pieces I used
oil paints, in my opinion
the oil paints is the
media that works the
best with this style
and the texture of
decay.

Primary
Source





Nathan Bacon 1585-1627
 cookmaid with still life of
 vegetables.



The thing in the painting that caught my eye first was the big pile of vegetables. As I looked closer I could see that there was some kind of mold on some of the veg as my eyes wandered more I saw new things in the piece and many details that I would not have seen if I didn't stop and analyze the piece.



Tate Britain



When I first saw this painting I was immediately focused on the animals.

Andrea Bardi



Portrait of Henry Lanning Hunter in oriental dress resting from hunting with manservant holding game 1733-6.



John Singer Sargent
 Carnation Lily, Lily Rose 1886



Contaminated



Frozen



Melting



Rotting



Irreversible



Ice Experiments



Mashed



Preserved





Freeze in Time



These are drawings from my ice experiment. I have attempted to show the texture of the ice. I see ice as a form of decay as when the ice melts the fruit and flowers that were in them come out mushy and melted. Also when the ice is frozen it preserves the state that the flowers were in whether that be blooming and fresh or rather and decomposing.



When I started experimenting with ice I found it hard to make it so that I could see what was frozen inside, but as I did more I tried different things to see what would enable me to see the inside. So first I tried square cubes and they worked but not as well as I hoped, then I tried a circular mold that worked a little better as I could start to see the flowers.

For my last attempt I used ice lollies however the thing I did differently was that I didn't leave them in the freezer as long.

In my opinion the ice lollies turned out the best as they were the clearest and you could see straight through them.

My favorite ice are the ones that you can see through and also the ones that have begun to melt as it is nice to see the effect the ice has while frozen and melted at the same time. I enjoy seeing the tops of the flowers poking out.





Valerie Hegarty



Valerie Hegarty is a Brooklyn based artist. In her work she uses American history and addresses themes of memory, pain and art history through painting and sculpture.

She collects objects from the streets and works with mixed media. Valerie says that she used foam and paper mache when she first started because these materials were familiar to her and she did not have any experience with sculpture.

Hegarty uses historical references as a way to approach subjects such as anxiety around climate change.

She felt like she finally understood what people meant when they said they were "passionate" about something.

Hegarty was passionate about art but did not know it could be a career. She pursued graphic arts and after illustration, however she did not like it.

This is when she started creating art.



This is my first attempt at burning a drawing. I did a quick line drawing as I did not want to risk doing a more detailed piece for it to catch on fire and burn.



I burnt these pieces because I wanted to show that although the drawings are of decay, the viewer's attention would be on the burnt parts as the decay of the paper is more visible and eye-catching.







Helen Wells is an artist who is very inspired by nature she says that she is mesmerised by the beauty, colour and pattern in our natural world. She describes her work as intuitive and intricate and often features motifs from nature.

She creates abstract pieces which feature repetition and rhythm, layers of complexity and organic forms by using expressive mark making.

A lot of her work incorporates watercolour paint as she loves the unpredictability of this paint and the way the colour and paint mixes with the water on the page. Also Helen likes the transparency of it and how she can build up layers of paint.

Wells enjoys mixing art supplies and creating mix media pieces. She does this to create layers of interest. She uses ink pens regularly in her work.

She gets creativity from invertebrate structures, to patterns on shells, or the colours and patterns on fish scales, or antique Indian textiles, or bird feathers or butterfly wings, or the patterns on mud. She likes to gain inspiration from everywhere.

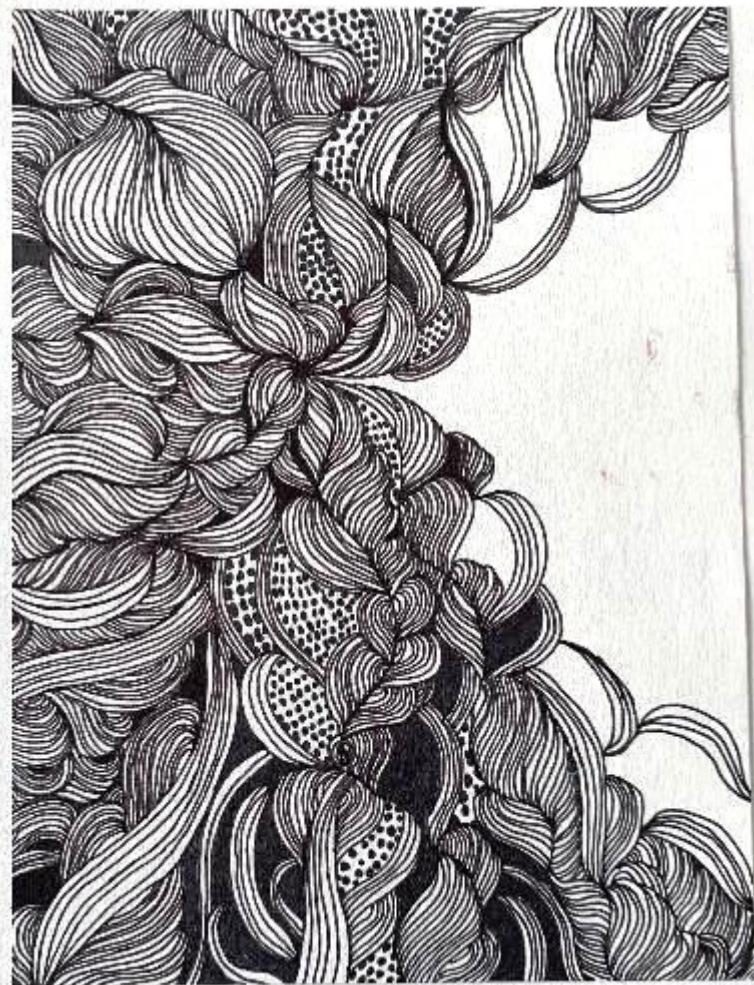
She is always looking out for colours, patterns and tiny inspirations that she can collect and expand upon to use in her paintings. She looks at the details of plants and the shape of the leaves, patterns on petals, or the way the water creates lines in the sand.

I can relate to her as I am also inspired greatly by nature and I like to look around for things I can use in my artwork and get inspiration from when I walk around outside or as I'm traveling somewhere I always look around for any creative inspiration.

Helen also loves collecting words and wonderful objects and picking up old or unusual objects in junk shops.

I really enjoyed recreating Helen's work as they are relaxing to create and they look so good when they are finished. The lines that she draws with an ink pen are very precise and need a steady hand. I found it challenging at first but it became easier as I went on.

HELEN WELLS

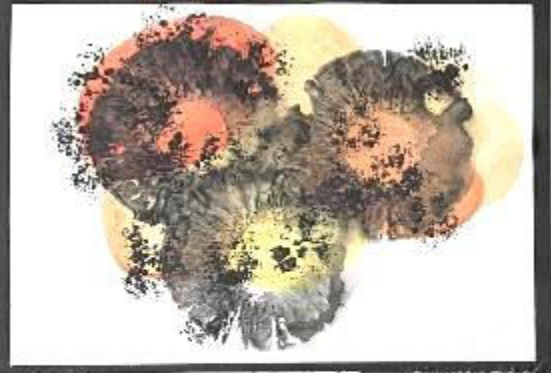




Helen's work is interesting to look at as there are so many small details that something is always catching my eye. I like her work because she is inspired by nature so you can try and guess what inspired her, but you will probably never know unless she discloses that information, this is because nature is so unpredictable that there are so many possibilities.

These pieces are inspired by Helen Lees. They were better examples however they reminded me of what I like because the more part is her backgrounds. I like that the paint comes out of the black lines.





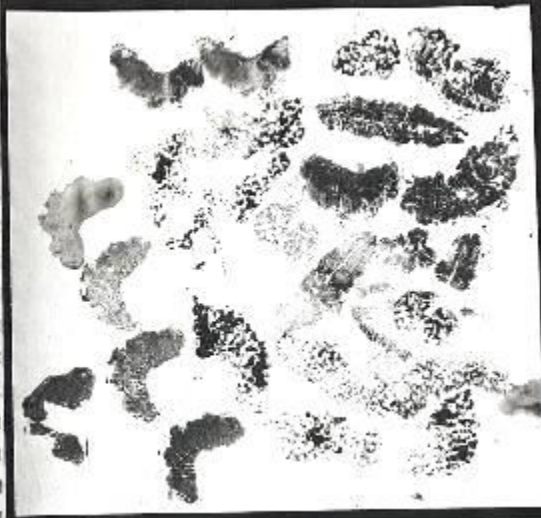
These pieces are inspired by Helen Wells. As she is inspired by nature and her pieces have repetitive patterns, I got the idea to attempt printing with fruit and veg. I like how these pieces turned out and wanted to experiment with printing fruit and veg further.

For this first piece I used pineapple rings and broccoli. I found that the pineapple prints better when it has been dried out. I like the print that the broccoli creates as I don't think it can easily be recognized as a broccoli print at first glance.

For the piece below I did not use fruit however I did use a fork to create patterns and different lines.

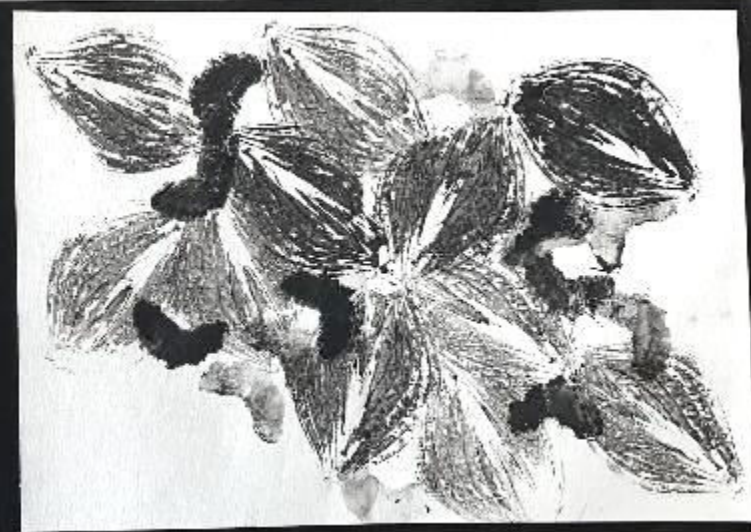


EXPERIMENTING WITH PRINTING



This piece is different prints of a mandarin orange. I wanted to see what side gives the best print. I also learnt that by pushing the orange down too hard it causes it to burst and the juice inside can ruin the print.

The piece below reminds me the most of Helen Wells art work as it is a repetitive pattern. For this I used onions and mandarin. I used onions because they have many lines when cut open and so I thought they would create a great print.



Development



Fresh tomatoes
I put one in each mesh added
no extra small cut slices
to the plastic bag

Starting to decay
I put holes in them
to speed up the
decay process.

I placed them in a plastic bag to see
if that would affect the speed of the
decomposition at all.



Tomatoes are mostly decayed. The
small cut slice is completely decayed.

The juice of the tomatoes started
oozing out and the green stem was
almost all grey.



Close ups of the cut tomatoes.

Through pictures I
documented like different
stages of the tomatoes as
they decayed. At the start
I realized that the tomatoes
were not decaying as fast
as I would have preferred. I
saw what the cut tomatoes
had started to change, so
I put holes in the plastic
bag whole tomatoes to speed
up the decay. I used a small
cut slice near the stem.
After a few days I put
the tomatoes into a
plastic bag as I thought
this may also have an
effect on the speed and
spread of the decay
process.



The yellow-grey decay
is the small cut slice.
This is where I have
the inspiration for the
background of my final
piece from.
I did this because it is
part of the tomatoe
and I thought it
would be a color that
brought out the red
of the tomatoes skin.



This is my final piece.
Inspired by Zhang Xiaobao.
I used oil paints as I
found from previous paintings
that this gives the best
decay effect.
I needed to make the tomatoes
more spherical by adding
high and low lights in.

I decided to paint this stage of
the decay as it has the detail
of decomposition, but you can
still see the structure of the
tomatoes.



These are the materials I used to create the decay texture background. The wallpaper and the baking paper were mainly used as background for the tomatoes.

I did not paint the baking paper as I thought it would make the piece unique by having pencil observation along with paint in one piece.

For the rest of the background I stuck down toilet tissue and painted over it, but I used two different techniques to apply the tissue. For the left sample I stuck down a whole square of tissue and as I painted the tissue it started to peel and since this created a nice texture when it dried. In the painting you can identify when I have done this as there is a crinkle on the bottom left.



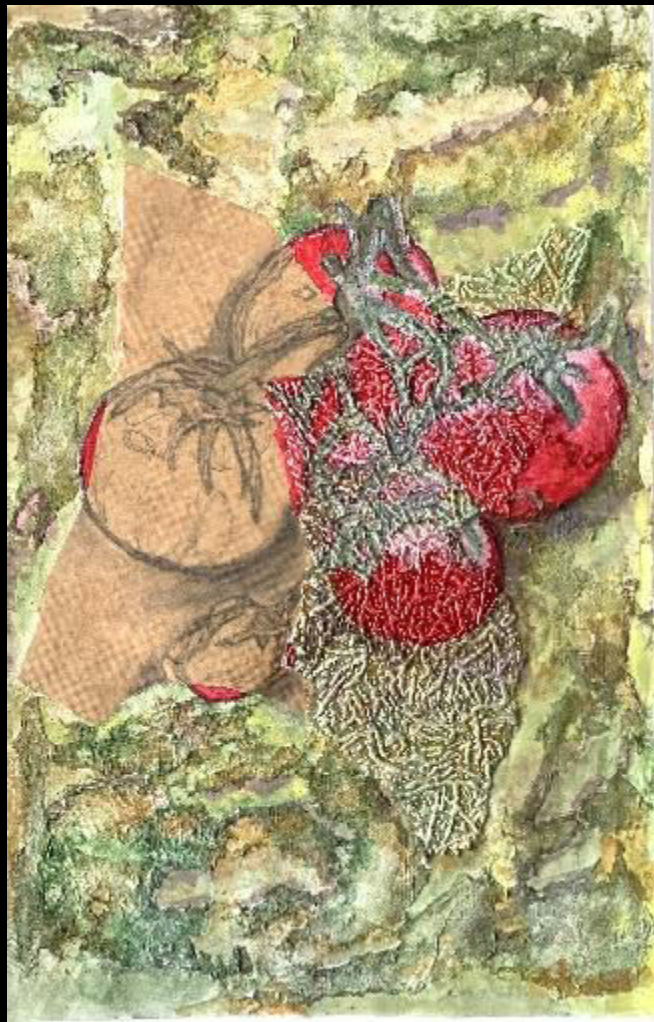
The right sample is what I used for the rest of the piece because after I realised the tissue was coming apart I decided to peel off parts of the top layer of tissue in different places after sticking down the tissue. This gave me more control over the piece when painting.



Texture Experiment



I created this piece by using all of the materials on the left page and technique I used in the experiments to create the background of this piece. I did this because it creates a decayed look and also to create something different.





This is a digital model piece. I used lots of shapes to make this because of this the piece had to white to make.



I have used tissue again as I know that a strong texture can be created with it. The wadded tissue fibres and this replicates the decayed tissue. In my opinion this turned out well as I like how the tissue dried in a way which you can see the decay but also imagine how it feels as the tissue bumps up all the page. I used colour to add to the decayed look. The use of these shapes and big shapes help the focus stay on the texture that is created.



I have experimented with sewing because it is a good way to sew and create texture. I like how as I was sewing the paper bunched and showed something a bit soft. I found that it is difficult to add details to a sewing piece.







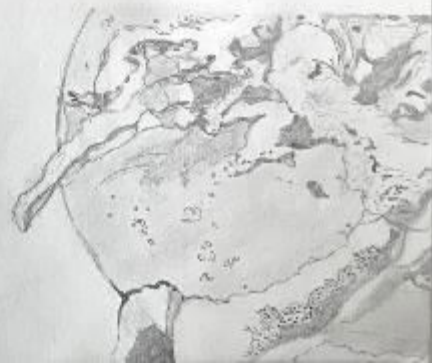
This is a quick sketch with water
color. I like how this piece is less
detailed and more focused on the
shape of the tomato. Also I like
how it has a scribbled effect.

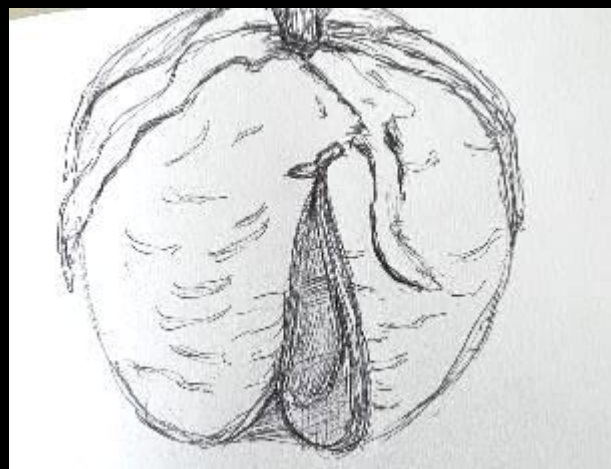


My drawing techniques
investigate decay and texture
through line and observational
drawing.

My use of irregular lines
and energetic mark making
creates unstable compositions.
I use tone to highlight
and exaggerate shadows
which creates depth and a
further insight into the
interior of my subjects.

My use of monochromatic colours show
the texture and details of the tomato,
through shade and shape. My use of
repetitive small lines in line some
direction show the wrinkled edges
of the tomato.







A04

Print Development

I want to experiment more with printing and how I can use fruit and vegetables to create decoy pieces, effects and patterns. I intend on researching a printing artist but also taking inspiration from Helen Wells art.

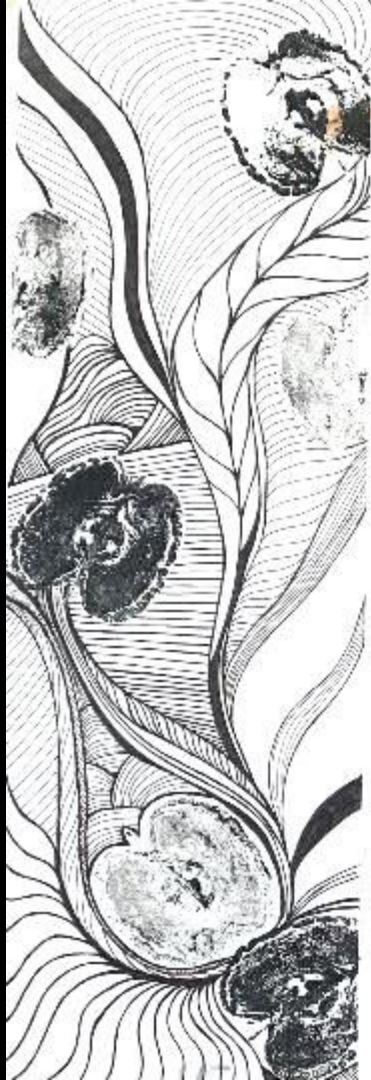
All food come in some kind of packaging, whether it be a plastic wrap, bag or cardboard box, etc. I will investigate what texture prints I can create using the covering of the fruit and veg. By reusing the wrapping I will be creating less waste as well as adding layers and texture to my pieces.



Printing Ideas











A04





This piece leads to my final piece as it's a small section of my printing. This piece is inspired by Helen Mills. Her work reminds me of printing fruits and vegetables. This is why I decided to print. Also I wanted to keep a similar texture that I had with my piece that was inspired by Zhang Xiaohua.

Helen Mills uses an ink pen in her work to create patterns. In my sketchbook I created organic shapes of things little work. I wanted to include this in my work. This is why I used some patterns as my background. Also I chose not to print in the background and to do the patterns because they bring out the tomato. I added more red vegetables into the background to give to the print. I also added in elements of decay such as mould.

I did not have a specific direction that this piece was going in for me. I found this very relaxing as I did not have to be precise when I printed. I did have when you look at this piece. Now for you can see the shapes of the tomato but not clear and you get the more details you see and you can see the different fruits and vegetables that I used to create this piece. Also on the orange prints parts of the design were the paper with the print. I think this helped create more texture.

I printed on this pot to show the finished designs I used
for my first series. The spacing between the prints is intentional
= shows up the texture and beauty of the glaze.





A04

Evaluation

In my project I explored different materials and the various effects I could create with them. I also looked at how artists show decay in their artwork. I found that each artist perceives decay differently and that along with completely separate outcomes in their artwork they all have the melting effect incorporated into their pieces. I learnt this through studying and comparing artists artwork but also through my own experimentation such as the flowers frozen in ice.

I found that artists communicate their views of the world or a certain theme through their artwork, this reaches many audiences and shows people a new perspective of things. Art is a way for artists to express themselves but also a way to let people see through their eyes and I understood this after investigating decay.

I looked at which different textures best create a decayed look. I discovered that wall paper and tissue are good ways to show and create texture in a piece. I explored the different texture outcomes I could get by dabbing different brushes and used this for my final piece. I also looked at which paint gives the best decay result.

I documented the process of decay through photos. For my final pieces I used these photos as references. I used Zhang Xiaotao and Helen Wells as the main inspiration in my sketchbook and for my final pieces. I created three final pieces, one inspired by Zhang Xiaotao. This piece was done in oil paint as I found this was the best paint to create texture. The other two were more inspired by Wells.

Also I learnt that decay art can come in many different forms from a traditional oil painting to a sculpture piece. Decay can be presented extremely beautifully but also gruesome.

How do artists present decay?



Introduction

There is a stigma attached to decay that it is nasty and should be disposed of. However, I want to show that something that people find so revolting can have beauty. Things that decompose are mainly associated with bad smell and are generally symptomatic of death, but decomposition and decay are vital processes in nature. Many artists create artwork inspired by or of decay and they each portray it in a different way. How is it that something considered so revolting can be made into an amazing piece of artwork?

Many people do not see the delicacy in tainted nature or objects, but some artworks create possibilities of rotten urban decay to be seen as artistry. Valerie Hegarty shows us what would happen to the art pieces if we neglected them. "I had taken paintings and sculptures from Art History and broken them down so that they looked as if they'd been through a natural disaster," said Hegarty. Other artists show us the decay of nature through a painting instead. Why are artists' artwork on the same thing so different?

Decay is a slow change from a state of soundness or perfection, and not only do artists see the beauty of decay but so do photographers this is a further example that decay is seen variously.

J. Dennis Thomas is a photographer who wrote "it's just the simple beauty we as photographers can dig out of the ugliness of a collapsing and deteriorating structure."

This quote shows that although there is a vile sight, artists and photographers choose to look past that and focus on the beauty of decay.

Main Text

Zhang Xiaotao belongs to a generation of Chinese artists that have been able to paint with freedom. He is one of many active cross-media artists in China's contemporary art. He focuses on the torment and struggle of souls that lie behind China's modernization. "Some of the paintings provide insight into China's current cultural, social, and political climate while drawing on methods and styles of traditional Chinese art". He often paints decaying strawberries in addition to other forms of decay, however, his strawberries are the paintings that I admire the most as they are so gruesome yet so colourful and beautiful at the same time. I believe these paintings are astonishing because every time I view them it pulls me in and captures my interest. The more I analyse them the more details I see. Also, the backgrounds in his work are sometimes blurred and droopy as if they were melting. This creates an abstract background as well as adding to the decayed effect.



Zhang Xiaotao. Decayed Landscape 2006
oil on linen

150 x 120 cm. (59.1 x 47.2 in.)

His strawberries are always overlapping. This painting has paint dripping down, this gives the impression of the strawberries melting and adds to the decomposition look and texture. When people think of decay the colours that come to mind are black, green, orange and brown, however, Xiaotao along with using these colours he uses pinks and purples, blues and yellows which would not usually be associated with rotting.

Artists portray decay in various ways; some see decay as something that is revolting and repelling however many see it as wonderful, the white mould that grows out of decayed fruit is considered magnificent as it is so white like snow and the texture has so much potential to be explored with many different painting techniques.

Kathleen Ryan is also an artist that creates decay pieces, however, her art brings a whole new perspective of decay. Ryan uses foam to carve giant fruits such as oranges, peaches and lemons. These sculptures measure from one to three feet in diameter.

One of her pieces that caught my eye the most is her Bad Grapes. I find them captivating because the grapes look like they are melting into the ground and each other as they are piled up. They are also the size of watermelons. This comparison helps us understand the scale of her work and how big her pieces actually are. Is the enlarged scale to magnify the beauty of decay?



Kathleen Ryan
Bad Grapes 2020

59.5 x 90 x 54 inches (151 x 228.5 x 137 cm).

She uses semi-precious stones to create colour and decay on her pieces. The New York Times described her use of semi-precious stones as "brilliant barnacle-like clusters" This article also points out that alone the stones are "hard and lustrous" but when put together they "simulate colonies of fuzzy mould."

This artist links to my artwork because she describes her sculptures as "beautiful and pleasurable, but there's an ugliness and unease that comes with them." This is exactly what I intended to communicate through my artwork, the beauty of decay.

Ryan is an example of an artist that takes something that the rest of the world sees as sickening and shows it to us in a different light, she creates 'beautiful decay'. Through her artwork, she is showing us how she sees decay and this causes many people to think about decay from a new perspective.

When you compare her work to other decay artists there is a huge difference in perspective and technique. Ryan's attitude towards decay is that it can be beautiful, however, to me artists such as Zhang Xiaotao show more of a dark side of decay. These are two different artists perceiving the same idea differently.

Artists use different materials to create their artwork therefore their outcome is completely different to other artists that focus on the same thing. Also, artists get inspiration from many places, this adds to why the artwork of two artists fixated on decay end up going in entirely separate directions. Another reason would be that each artist has their own view of decay.

Zhang and Ryan both show the decay of fruit, however, if we take a look at Valerie Hegarty's artwork she creates pieces and then destroys them representing decay.

Her artwork gives us another viewpoint to interpret the theme of decay. When we think about decay most people automatically focus on fruit and vegetable decay however, Hegarty shows us through her artwork that there are several variations of decay. Her exhibits go beyond the frame, leaving us to question the meaning behind this? When I look at her work I find it extremely fascinating as her artwork is very three-dimensional, and if compared to Zhang and Ryan's work Hegarty's has elements from both. Her artwork is mostly painting but also includes sculpture.

Valerie Hegarty uses American History as inspiration for her artwork, she addresses themes of memory, place and art through painting, sculpture and large-scale installations. Valerie describes her style as experimental and subversive. She gains inspiration from her daily life, observations in nature, American art history, and art history in general. She also gets inspiration from wider contextual issues, for example climate change.

Hegarty sees her work as living things undergoing change. She copies and then modifies iconic American paintings, making them look as if they had been smacked by waves, attacked by birds, or scorched by fire. She allows her pieces to evolve through spontaneity and improvisation. She used to pre-plan her works however she now prefers "sketching sculpturally." This is a process I incorporated into my practice pushing me out of my comfort zone, letting my emotional connection drive my work forward.

She says that her George Washington melting piece references the Oscar Wilde short story called "The Portrait of Dorian Gray". This is a story about a beautiful young man who has his portrait painted and then sells his soul so he can stay young and beautiful forever. Then the young man engages in criminal activity and eventually it is discovered that the portrait deforms and decays every time the man commits an illegal act.



Valerie Hegarty

George Washington Melted 2010

Wood, canvas, paint, paper, glue, gel medium

15"(h) x 12"(w) x 2"(d)

Hegarty's George Washington piece has half of his face melting, and the other half skillfully painted. I admire how the frame is not fully attached and that the part of the face that is melting looks shriveled and is away from the frame. To me this feels like the time lapse of decay, however others will interpret this differently.

Conclusion

I have discovered that many artists use melting as a way to communicate decay. Similar to Zhang and Ryan, Hegarty's work also melts to indicate decay. In my project, I studied and experimented with ice. I froze flowers and this process preserved them, however once 'melted' the flowers were spoiled and lost the trapped beauty of their frozen form.

Through my investigations of a melting as a process I felt able to achieve a decayed look which appealed to me. Also, it is fascinating to see how this is one main similarity in the artwork that decay artists create and these three artists all find an individual way to include melting in their artwork.

I have created three outcomes for this project using Zhang Xiaotao as my major inspiration. Time played an important role in my investigations as the decaying process was challenged and documented. As we know Zhang uses colours that do not usually associate with decay, I adopted blue, partially because for simplicity. I was sticking to the primary colours, yellow felt too fresh so I went with blue. I think the blue brings out the vibrancy of the red tomatoes. Texture became key too, the white mould of decay was developed by refining my painting technique, again time was key allowing paint layers to dry also signifying the time it takes a tomato to break down.



Student 2021

Oil paint

With all my time spent studying decay, I had learnt to physically let myself connect with the work in progress. This became very therapeutic for me and a complete contrast to my controlled, pre-planned painting and echoing Hegarty. Whilst in deep connection with my work I felt the need to draw. Helen Wells style drawing and mark making was applied to the surrounding blank areas of the composition. Through simple pen and ink I was able to incorporate some of the complex lines, shapes and patterns I had etched in my mind from hours of observations of decayed fruits. I feel this piece has truly captured both the beauty of decay and the time factor of decay to form in one. It is my intention for the viewer to see the tomatoes from afar and be drawn in to view up close and see the individual forms, just as under a microscope.

My "fruit bowl" is a play on words. After construction of the ceramic form I again turned to printing. A final change of directional thinking. I tried to combine spontaneous free prints whilst at the same time allowing the fruit to attach to the form of the bowl. The spacing of each print is deliberate to show the beauty of each natural form. However in contradiction the colour collected from the pallet was a combination of 'decay' colours. I feel this represents all my main artists but most importantly, what decay says to me.



Student 2021
Acrylic and ink pen



Student 2021
Clay and Acrylic

Through this project, I have discovered that many artists create artwork based on the same or similar topics and themes; however, they each put their own unique twist on their artwork. They all perceive things differently and this means that they will have different ideas, different reasons for investigating the theme. When I started this project I had no idea that artists use the effect of melting to show and create decay in their artwork. I found that some artists see decay as something that can be beautiful and some see decay the same as everyone else as waste and nasty. I used to see decay as disgusting in the world around me but now that I have gone through this journey of discovery I see that us artists can use our work as a platform to interpret and view the world differently, challenging others perceptions.

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