

An Introduction to the Leeds Art Scene

This resource is designed to inspire learners to create a piece of art – an artistic response to the theme of the heritage of art in Leeds.

Who is this learning resource for? KS2 Learners

What you'll need:

- Creative resources- paper, pencil, air drying clay, pots of water
- Images by artists – the links are in the teacher notes
- Teacher notes (at the end of this resource)

Lesson objectives	To understand the sculpture and to develop appreciation of the artist Antony Gormley, using this as a stimulus for the creation of a piece of art
Lesson outcomes	All learners will know what a sculpture is and use the Brick Man as a stimulus for creating a piece of art Most learners will understand the importance of the maquette in a creative process and use the Brick Man as a stimulus for creating a piece of art Some learners will understand the importance of the maquette in a creative process and use the Brick Man as a stimulus for creating a piece of art, developing ideas for how this could be positioned in the Leeds landscape

National Curriculum links:

- Art and Design KS2: *pupils should be taught to use drawing...and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination; pupils should be taught about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.*

Activities:

1. You could introduce this session by sharing the images of artwork by Leeds/Yorkshire based artists in the teacher notes. You could ask if learners are familiar with any of these local artists? You could ask learners what these artworks have in common (they are all sculptural, and local) Do

learners know where they can access art in Leeds? You could build on this discussion by creating a mindmap of Leeds or Yorkshire based artists if the learners have this level of knowledge. (15 mins)

2. Next, show the short film and explain that the focus will be on The Brick Man by Antony Gormley (5 mins)
3. Discuss what the purpose of a Maquette is – there is more information on this in the teacher notes. (5 mins)
4. Explain to learners that a lot of Gormley's work is inspired by the human body and using his own body as a starting point to reconstruct and play with shape, scale and materials. You could look at more examples of Gormley's work by visiting his website – links are in the teacher notes, you could discuss these pieces with the group. (5 mins)
5. Now you could set the task of creating a sculpture design of a Person, inspired by the work of Antony Gormley. The Person should be a literal or abstract version of the human body, using the learner's imagination to create a design which is personal to them. This can be designed on paper using pencil to begin with. (15 mins)
6. As an extension or if time allows, learners could develop their paper sketch into a maquette, showing knowledge of the process of developing a piece of art, using materials such as air-drying clay (*this process may need to take place over more than one lesson*)
7. As a plenary, learners could share their pieces of art with their peers and give feedback to each other, giving strengths and areas for improvement on their designs (10 mins)

Differentiation:

- If learners need extra support, a basic outline of a human body could be provided as a starting point – learners could label this with ideas for materials, colour, texture for design
- As an extension, learners could consider different materials and textures which their Person sculpture could be made from, and the strengths and weaknesses of each material.
- For extra stretch and challenge, learners could consider where their Person sculpture could be placed in the landscape of Leeds – could it sit on top of a building, on a hill, by a body of water? They could consider what their sculpture could add to the landscape and present their ideas to a peer, group or the class.
- In the teacher notes are some additional links to art works which explore the human body as a starting point, these activities could be extended to a scheme of work exploring the human body in art.

Teacher Notes



Introduction to this session

In this session, learners will explore the heritage of visual art in Leeds and will learn about some of the key pieces of art in Leeds Art Gallery. Through watching a short video, they will see some examples of art, including *The Brick Man* by Antony Gormley. As part of this session, you could explore what sculpture is and its role in public art (artworks in the public realm), connecting this to other works by Antony Gormley, many of which are in public places and are based on the human body, such as *the Angel of the North* and *Another Place* in Liverpool. Learners will produce a creative response to the theme of the session.

Teacher Notes on the Film

In this film Youth Curator Angie Thompson from Leeds Art Gallery helps us learn about what a gallery is, what visual art is, and introduces us to some of the collection, we learn about the temporary exhibition *Desire Lines* by Jill McKnight and also about *The Brick Man Maquette* by Antony Gormley 1986, which is the focus of this activity. Maquettes are a mock up or practice of making a sculpture at a much smaller scale. Many sculptors work with maquettes. This is a maquette of a proposed piece from the 1980s which was originally designed to stand in Holbeck, welcoming people to Leeds. The sculpture would have been a hollow shape of a man, over 100 feet tall. For various reasons the piece was never built, but the maquette is in Leeds Art Gallery.

Useful links

As part of the Jill McKnight exhibition, Leeds Art Gallery have provided an online exhibition which contains a digital sketchbook, video and audio elements of the exhibition. Have a look at it [HERE](#).

Antony Gormley's website contains lots of images of his work. Have a look [HERE](#).

If learners want to explore more about the human body in art, the Tate provides a useful resource [HERE](#).



Further work by artists with a connection to Leeds or Yorkshire:

1. Damien Hirst, Charity, 2002-2003
2. Stephanie Jeffries, Tiny Tetley Studio, 2022
3. Henry Moore, Reclining Woman: Elbow, 1981
4. Pippa Hale, Heaven, 2021

