

# Summer Transition Task

We tailor the Art and Design A-Level course to the individual students and the skills they need to develop, given their wide variety of proficiencies and interests across art, design, photography and textiles. To help Miss Sharpe and Miss Harris plan the art projects and lessons specifically in term one for the strengths and opportunities for you, please can you:

select TWO paintings from the following list, produce a copy of the painting (or a detailed section of the artwork), and write 300-500 words about them in your own words.

You may write more than 500 words if you feel this is appropriate. Do not worry if you feel your work is not your best or you are unsure about what size or media to use: this task helps us identify where your practical skills need work. We will also use your writing to ascertain how you are able to select research and ensure we help you achieve your best in the 3000 word essay in year 13. Some of you may be excellent essay writers and some of you may not be - we will plan your writing tasks around where your artwork analysis and art history need improving, and perhaps where you struggle with selecting ideas and the execution of your project overall. We really look forward to welcoming you to the course and seeing what you produce.

Common advice you will hear us say almost every week on this course:

- No art teacher has ever said “there is too much tone in this piece of work”. Frequently if you feel that you can work into a piece of work more, you probably can.
- There is no such thing as a “wrong choice”. No art teacher has ever said “this work is amazing, too bad it was a waste of time!”. It is our job to help you make sure your project links and gets the marks it deserves. If you do work, we will find a way to grade it.
- You should be enjoying this and we encourage you to pick the things that YOU like, so that you are motivated to do the work and find it easier to talk/write about. The MORE WORK YOU DO, the HIGHER YOUR GRADE WILL BE.
- Deadlines are important. They will prepare you for University courses and job deadlines working for clients and design teams

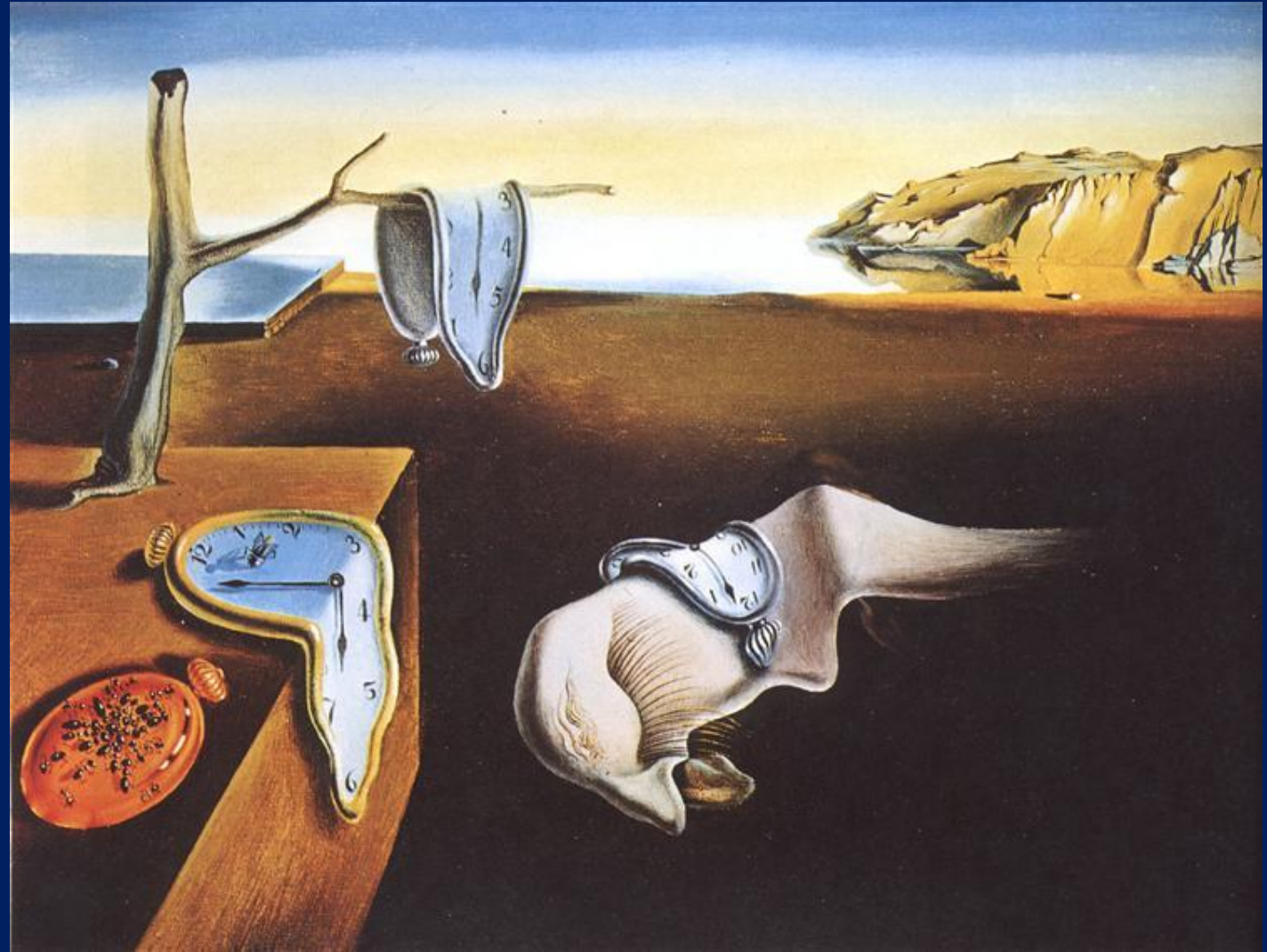


## Option 1: The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dali

Suggested reading points:

Dali was a surrealist Spanish painter, who worked heavily on the idea of dreams (which had not really been done before in art). Art in Europe in the early 1900s often responded to the seriousness of the war and the invention of the black and white camera.

This painting was said to be inspired by melting camembert cheeses after Dali watched them melt in the Spanish sun. See if you can find more about his dreamscapes



## Option 2: The Great Wave off Kanagawa by Hokusai

Suggested reading points:

This is regarded as “possibly the most reproduced image in the history of all art” and “the most famous artwork in Japanese history”, having influenced many artists and musicians around the world. Research the art of woodblock printing, and see if you can ascertain why this print is so famous



## Option 3: Starry Night by Van Gogh

Suggested reading points:

Painted whilst in the asylum for the infamous ear-cutting scenario, this might be Van Gogh's most famous work. He actually imagined bits of the painting rather than painting the view from his window directly, and due to the brush strokes he is often described as an impressionist – you will need to find out what that means. Consider his painting technique and the emotions behind this painting in your research



## Option 4: Still Life (1946) by Giorgio Morandi

Suggested reading points:

For this you'll have to look at Morandi's whole body of work and consider all of the similarities between them – art teachers can look at any of Morandi's paintings even if they have not seen it before and say "ah, that's Morandi", so what might be the reason they can do that?



## Option 5: The Two Fridas by Frida Kahlo

Suggested reading points:

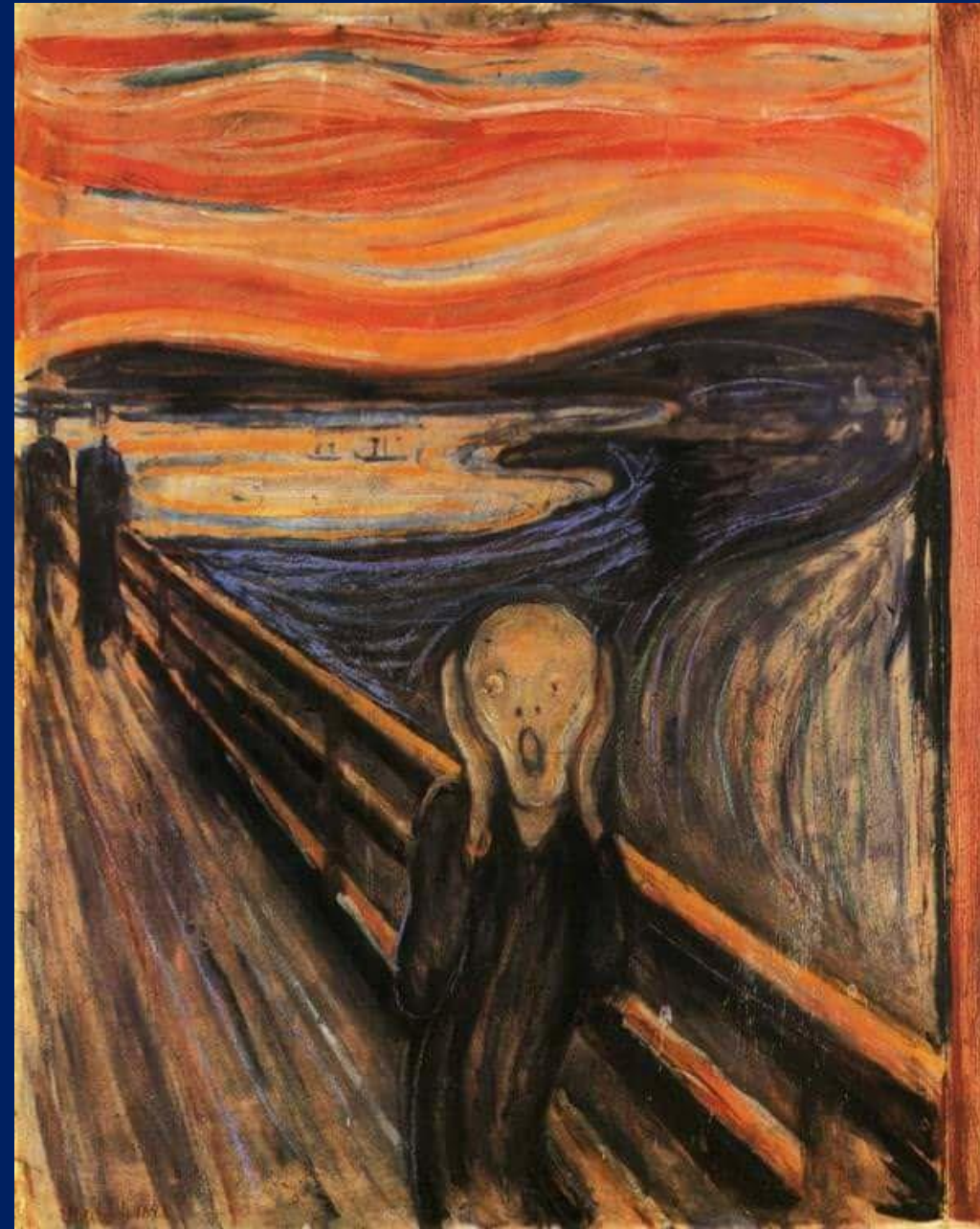
Frida Kahlo is infamous for her depiction of strength. Kahlo loved life and love in Mexico, but had a difficult marriage due to the affairs of her husband (including with her sister!) and she was unable to bear children or walk well as her pelvis was crushed in a bus crash at aged 18. She decided to continue making the best of life anyway. Kahlo painted herself many, many times with a stoic expression and her “ugly” features. See if you can find out why



## Option 6: The Scream by Edvard Munch

Suggested reading points:

A famous but tiny painting, the original of which is here in London. The scream is an autobiographical painting of Munch going for a walk at sunset. Why might he have depicted himself as depersonalised, with no identifying features or clothing? Can you find which gallery it is in? Bonus points if you take a selfie with the painting over summer



## Option 7: Still Life With Apples by Paul Cezanne

Suggested reading points:

“Painting from nature is not copying the object,” Paul Cézanne wrote, “it is realizing one's sensations.” Cézanne once proclaimed, “With an apple I want to astonish Paris,“. He is said to have painted over 270 apple paintings.

Why did he, and other still life artists with multiple paintings, do this? Why would he be obsessed with apples of all things? What could your trademark still life object be?



## Option 8: Femme Au Beret Et A La Robe Quadrillee by Pablo Picasso

Suggested reading points:

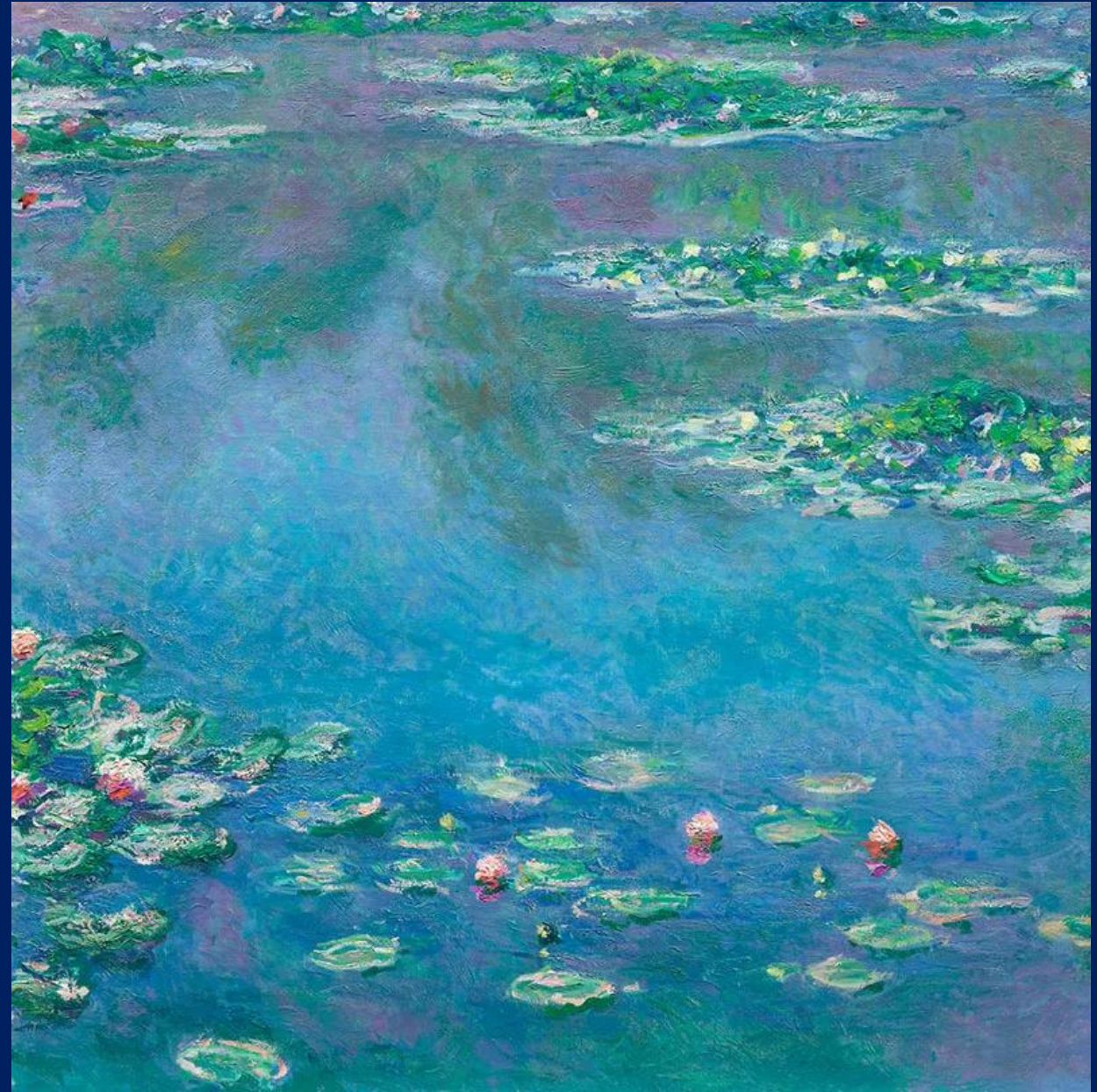
At first glance, students often describe Picasso's work as "abstract" but actually, he painted things in multiple viewpoints within one painting and so his work is very deliberate. Cubism was a heavy response to the invention of the camera – now that we had black and white still images, artists had to be extra creative and colourful to avoid being redundant and to captivate audiences. See if you can find information about cubism and Picasso's models



## Option 9: The Water Lilies by Claude Monet

Suggested reading points:

One of many, many, many paintings of water lilies. Monet was one of the founders of impressionism – they were the first group of artists to go outside and paint using the light, but as the light in the day and throughout seasons rapidly changes, they had to paint with quick brush strokes. This is why impressionist paintings look a little fuzzy and choppy in texture. Look into Monet's haystack series and you can see the clear changes in light and colour within his work, to help you understand his waterlily studies.



## Option 10: Jimson Weed by Georgia O'Keeffe

Suggested reading points:

O'Keeffe is recognisable for her large magnified flower paintings. This particular flower has toxic seeds, so you could also look into the symbolism with the flower. Her technique is also very smooth and warm - how is it that O'Keeffe was able to paint white flowers without using black paint to darken them? How has she instead made shades of grey?

"When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not."



## Option 11: Wheel of Fortune by Audrey Flack

Suggested reading points:

Almost all photorealist and hyperrealist artists (including Audrey Flack) paint objects much larger than real life to give them the details they need, but also to give the paintings a strong visual impact.

Consider symbolism here – you could start by looking at Dutch Vanitas paintings (they were the first painters in the 1500s to look at death and skulls in still life, and every single object they chose had symbolism to life and death). There are lots of analyses on the web for her paintings that can help you with the symbolism, particularly of the red grapes, the tarot cards and the skull, and the dice



## Option 12: John James Audubon's birds of america

Suggested reading points:

Audubon's Birds of America prints are considered to be the "archetype of wildlife illustration". You could look at scientific illustration to help you understand these kinds of artwork – look at the work of Maria Sybilla Merian and Katie Scott and compare. In art when we compare artworks from the same genre or movement (in this case, scientific illustrations) we can assume that any similarities are then typical characteristics for that movement. For example, all 3 artists have used a cream background. Through research you'll see they often have a cream background as they were printed on cream cartridge paper (white printer paper didn't exist back then!)



Task: Two 300-500 word analysis and a copy of the two chosen paintings or painting sections

## Option 13: Confections by Wayne Thiebaud

Suggested reading points:

Thiebaud does not like to be considered part of the Pop Art movement but he is often placed there due to his paintings of sweets and cakes, as in the 1960s artists wanted art to appeal to the mass consumer rather than just the rich audience that art had been created for in the past. Thiebaud's work is recognisable for the composition and colours. Look carefully at the glasses and their outlines, see how he uses bright yellows and lime greens to outline the glasses, and his shadows here are royal blue rather than grey. What is Pop Art, and why does Thiebaud consider himself *not* part of it?

