

Natural Arts

Suitable for KS3 students, March to November

Using the Arboretum as inspiration, the students explore the contrasts of the natural world through a selection of hands-on activities, and focus their attention on the visual and tactile elements to be found in our trees. They will discover how the picturesque style of planting at Westonbirt has created a natural gallery of landscape 'pictures' before creating pieces of environmental art that represent the moods and feelings they have experienced during their visit.



Key Concepts

Visual and tactile qualities – colour, shape, pattern, form, space and texture, communicating moods and feelings, environmental art

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students should be able to:

- Produce creative work using natural materials
- Experiment with the visual and tactile qualities of natural materials
- Represent feelings and ideas through sculpture

Before you come

What is an environmental artist?

What are the key features of environmental artwork?

Programme Outline

Learning Objectives	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess students' knowledge about different visual and tactile qualities 	<p>Window on Westonbirt</p> <p>Introduces students to the creation of Westonbirt, its picturesque planting style and how different visual and tactile qualities have been combined into a natural art landscape</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discover the diversity of colours • To explore personal responses related to colour 	<p>Woodland palettes</p> <p>Student choose one colour that represents how they are feel and then search for as many shades of that colour in the natural woodland materials. These woodland palettes will then be combined to create mood boards that represent the moods or feelings of groups of students</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop ideas by working from first-hand observation and experience of patterns and textures 	<p><i>Pattern search and texture gallery</i> In pairs, students search for a variety of tree bark patterns, amongst Westonbirt's tree collection before discussing and creating a small picture that represents and depicts one of the patterns or textures explored</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop ideas by working from inspiration and imagination To explore how meaning can be conveyed through environmental art 	<p><i>Environmental sculpture</i> Groups of students will be challenged to create a temporary sculpture, with strong 3D elements or incorporating a tree within it, that communicates a feeling or experience</p>

National Curriculum links

Art and design

- Develop creativity and ideas, and increase proficiency in their execution.
- Develop a critical understanding of artists ... expressing reasoned judgments that can inform their own work
- Increase proficiency in the handling of different materials
- Analyse and evaluate their own work, and that of others, in order to strengthen the visual impact or applications of their work