

Artistic Exploration

Abbey Pumping Station



Materials/Resources needed

- Cameras/smart phones
- Paper/sketch books
- Drawing boards
- A selection of drawing materials
- View finders (a useful device to frame a composition)



This illustrated prompt card will encourage students to artistically explore Abbey Pumping Station

Abbey Pumping Station was a hugely significant and important building to Leicester during Victorian times. It improved health and sanitation within the city, pumping sewage away from the city centre to treatment works. It's four massive beam engines, which dominate the decorative engine house, have been restored to their working condition.

Take inspiration from this unique building to support your art and design projects.

Explore

Record observations

Combine an experimental approach with formal elements such as line, shape, form, tone, perspective, composition and proportion.

Use a view finder to help you to select and isolate particular elements to get the best composition.

As a group discuss what each have recorded and how the ideas may be developed further.

Close-Up

Look at an object in a different way

Zooming in and cropping encourages close observation.

Look at an object from different angles and perspectives.





Shapes

Positive and negatives shapes

A subject is a positive shape, whereas the background around it is a negative shape.

Look for them within the machinery in the Beam Engine House and record what you see.



Pattern

Look for repeat patterns, mirror symmetry and geometric shapes within the elaborate Victorian decoration.

Document what you see.

Back in the classroom or at home, create your own art piece inspired by the patterns you have seen.



Details

Record the following themes and details found in the machinery

- strong
- dirty
- old
- worn out
- clean
- shiny
- textural



Atmosphere

Capture the atmosphere of the Beam Engine House with its mechanical engineering

- scale
- light
- tone
- ambience



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