

IB Art

Art Themes

You DO NOT have to work in a theme but all of your work must have ideas that back it up. Use these themes as a jumping off point to develop one or a series of artworks.

Identity

Sounds - from Nature, Music, Songs

Words - Poetry, Literature, Quotes, Phrase

Vignettes of nature - observation

Observation - Realism

Imagination - dreams - fantasy

Expression - emotions

Beliefs and values - Cultural traditions

Events - tragedy - war - life experiences

Symbolism - Culture - Environment

Layering

Nature - Landscape - What is beautiful

Nature - Conflict - Storms - Sun - Stars

Nature - Man and animals - animals

Environment - Interiors

Seascape - Marine life

Time - passage of time - cycles of life

Concealment

Internationalism

Cityscape - city life

Family - mother and child - family love

Religion - Spirituality - beliefs and values

Still life - observation - realism

Still life - abstraction

Slice of life - people at work - or play

Collections

Fantasy - imagination - inner worlds

Mythology - Folk tales

Figure - portrait-personality

Historical subjects - War - Peace

Narrative - tells a story

Abstraction - Non-objective

Identity (a different kind of portrait)

Power and authority

Social Concerns - Issues

Metamorphosis – life cycles, change, alteration, transfiguration, mutation

Music – sound, making tone visible, music culture, what do music and art have in common?

Dance – movement, rhythm, repetition, physicality, meaning in gesture

Legend/mythology – ancient, primitive, modern, stories, archetypes, moral lessons, religion, ritual, social obligations

Nature vs. Science – current issues (bioethics) technology, how do we understand the world? Our place in the universe, limits of scientific knowledge, art and science, Cubism, Futurism

Myself - memories, esteem, place in the world, pride, shame, family, heritage, ethnicity, self-portrait, friends, loves, enemies.

Gender – male & female, role in society, in family, in evolution. Advantages/disadvantages of being one or the other.

Stereotypes, cultural roles, sexuality, gender in politics, gender reversal.

Going beyond stereotypes

Scale – close-up/magnified, objects blown out of proportion, large vs. minuscule, other worlds of scale, space, positive/negative, color and texture.

Other worlds – underwater, space, extraterrestrial, microscopic, imagination, computer/virtual world.

Animals – other life, instinctual, life cycles of, physical/spiritual power in, ecology, animals as symbols, cultural associations with animals.

Art and the senses – ways of knowing, art that smells, tastes, feels, etc. Art that appeals to alternative senses.

Cryptography – art as code, codes in life, symbols, signs, text, sense in nonsense, order, mathematics, key to understanding.

God/religion – creation, destruction, judgment, what is holy? Role of religion in society, metaphysics, personal sense of god, mercy, forgiveness, justification, sin, sacrifice.

Kitsch – what is kitsch? What is beautiful? What is not? Value, mass production, pop culture, your own personal sense of kitsch, aspects of society as revealed in its kitsch.

Graphics – use of line, color and composition to create a graphic identity, advertising, mass media, manipulation of imagery, the (blurred) line between what reality and the graphic representation.

Human anatomy – body, muscle, bone, skin, weight distribution, issues of beauty and human body, use/abuse of the body, skin (color?), aging, disease.

Dreams – meaning, analysis, associations, truth in, the bizarre, wish-fulfillment, imagery, Surrealism, the subconscious, Sigmund Freud.

Chance – allowing chance to dictate art, automatic drawing, the Exquisite Corpse, Surrealism, Dadaism, kinetic art, image association.

Emotion – human feelings, expression, knowledge through emotion, emotional situations, culture and emotions, controlled/uncontrolled emotions, conveying emotion, color, line and shape and emotions, Expressionism, Fauvism, Abstraction.

Collection/series – repetition, repeated objects, objects in a series, objects that share something in common, distant vs. close relationships between objects, association.

Beauty/ugliness – what defines these? What constitutes the appealing or the repulsive? Manipulating materials so that they take on appealing/repulsive qualities.

Architectural renderings- showing (exploring) the interior and exterior space with a strong focus on light, perspective and structure

Exploration- using realistic and non-objective animals (stipple technique....a series of black and white ink drawings moving into color)

Portraits and the human form

Junk yard still life- waste-reuse

Tomatoes, from seed to fruit

Fantasy characters – gargoyles, fairies, dragons, etc. – convincingly rendered

Circus life

My ancestry

Crime and punishment

Women in feminine roles- not in feminine roles

Men in masculine roles-not in masculine roles

“Seven deadly sins”

Historical events

Reflections of images wherein the reflections are an emotional exploration (of literal reflections)

Instruments that make music

Icons w/in our society

Strength of women (Cindy Sherman, Barbara Krueger)
Dreams and dream images (Chagall, Dali)
Dance -movement (Degas)
Struggle to find one's self (identity)
Figure studies in strong lights/darks
Car interiors, mechanic,technology
Abstract portraits
Illustrate a classical character or story in a new or modern way
Childhood memories and feelings
Evolution of an item as it deteriorates or decomposes
Portrait/figure distortions in color/shapes
Personal or social issues
Cultural diversity – social issues (diego rivera)
Visual puns/hybrids (Magritte)
Self (you, your identity, self image, self-esteem) or dark self (see C.G. Jung)
Family or ethnic group (not necessarily yours)
Science & Technology
Dreams/the surreal world,/alternate reality/questioning reality
Society/Public vs. Private
Capitalism/ (Free)Trade/Economic equality/Globalism
Epistemology (ie. how we know what we know)/TOK
Conflict/resolution/war/peace
Art/History/Art History/Interpretation
Origins/Beginnings/Endings/divisions in time
Age/Adolescence/Biological growth/evolution
Location-place, sense of place
Symbols/Systems of Meaning/Codes
Taste/Fashion
Story/Narrative
Humor/dark humor/
Shock/Horror/Ugliness
Action Historical Moments Celebration
Ant's Eye View Silhouettes Kaleidoscope

Clouds Strange Reflections
Roots (real, metaphorical)
Inspired by Music Rhythmic Lines
Greek Mythology
Quilted Images Folklore Giant Objects
Hybrids Nightmares Illustrated Story
Maps Metaphoric Drawings Ravages of War
Explosions Monkey's in suits Events from Childhood
Macro Drawings Escher Tiling Aerial View
Incongruous Lonely & Lost Trains
Paradox Trees like People Muscles
Ordinary Beauty Large things made of small things
People on the beach Combining Opposites Mother & Child
Friendship Precarious Water
Stuck together Circus Optical Illusions
Liquefied Sacred Fire & Ice
Puzzle Pieces Exotic Landscapes Hats
Self Portraits Exaggerated Dancers City Scenes
Anachronisms Squashed & Crumpled Obscured
Elegance Ruins Bible Scenes
Bare Feet Extreme Foreshortening Clusters
Stark Contrasts
Doorways & Windows Construction Machinery Sea Creatures
Evolution Symbiosis Negative Space
Underneath Order & Disorder Entwined
Sanctuary
Illustrated Poetry
Improbable
Textures
Floral Designs
Micro world Inside the Human Body
Motorcycles
Abandoned

Surreal Unusual Comparisons
Something's Missing
Radically Cropped
Seemingly Unrelated
Human Figure
Collaged Figures
Patterns
Technology
Gnarled Hands
Reversals
Repetition with Variation
Backs of heads
Transformations
Food
Floating Things Extreme Perspective
People Sleeping
Royalty & Pomp
Hidden Images
Fantasy Cities
Herds & Flocks
Shadows
Plumbing
Flying things
Geometric Animals
Inspired by Love
Aged People
Urban Blight
Animated Toys
Family Portraits
Extreme Elongation
Masks
Exaggerated Expressions
Mobs & Crowds

Costumes

Symmetry

Meticulous Detail

Fabric & Folds

Miniatures

Death & Dying

Junkyard Objects Gloves Primitive

Musicians

Progressively

Abstract Tangles

Identity can be about reinvention.

Identity is about status.

Identity is about assimilation.

Identity is about the inside and outside.

Identity can be about the fear of loss.

Identity is about stereotypes.

Identity can be about pecking order.

Identity can be about insecurity.

Identity is about change.

Identity is physical.

Identity is about models.

Identity is a tension between self and others.

Identity can be about internal dilemmas.

Identity is a search.

Identity is about occupation.

Identity is about mimicry.

Identity can be about denial.

Identity is about multiplicity.

Identity is about contradiction.

Identity is both public and private.

Identity is both individual and group.

Allegory (Winter, Night etc) / Narrative

Architectural Drawings, Designs, Feats
Artists at Work - Studios etc
Dealing with Death
Gardens
Historical Paintings
La Toilette / Nudes
Literature
Music
Night Light
Occupations
Portrait Genre
Religious Subjects
Rustic Vignettes
Scapes (Land, Sea, Sky & City)
Scenes of Antiquity
Scenes of the Exotic
Scenes of War
Social Scenes
Still Life
Supernatural (Faeries and Witches etc)
Technology
Along for the ride
Glassed over
Metallics
Food (you are what you eat)
Skeletons
Over the edge
Mythical creatures
Conflict of interests
Color outside the lines
Layers
Quite an Entrance
A moment in time

Magnified beyond recognition
Imagine the impossible
Pairs (another city)
Up close and personal
Preserve and protect
Warped
Take cover
Strength and Stability

One word prompts to spark your imagination

1. Happiness
2. Beauty
3. Sleep
4. Garden
5. Imagination
6. Secret
7. Give
8. Thankful
9. Kindness
10. Inside
11. Outside
12. Jump
13. Friendship
14. Love
15. Fire
13. Light
14. Darkness
15. Dream
16. Believe
17. Hope
18. Faith
19. Focus

20. Clean
21. Angry
22. Work
23. Music
24. Stars
25. Mystery
26. Envelope
27. Book
28. Dare
29. Choose
30. Beach
31. Forgiveness
32. Disaster
33. Dance
34. Mistake
35. New
36. Yes
37. Path
38. Horizon
39. Mountain
40. River
41. Open
42. Heart
43. Soul
44. Tear
45. Spiral
46. Up
47. Go
48. Be
49. Seek
50. Learn
51. Balance
52. Grow

53. Strength
54. Seek
55. Passion
56. Move
57. Today
58. Awaken
59. Angels
60. Laughter
61. Listening
62. Pause
63. Peace
64. Relax
65. Space
66. Wisdom
67. Difference
68. Begin
69. Time
70. Brave
71. Breathe
72. Childhood
73. Discovery
74. Mind
75. Energy
76. Flower
77. Health
78. Harmony
79. Recovery
80. Stand
81. Nowhere
82. Soar
82. Skip
83. Fresh
84. Delicious

85. Power
86. Complete
87. Grace
88. Legend
89. Ecstasy
90. Hug
91. Proud
92. Simple
93. Machine
94. Victory
95. Vibrancy
96. Leadership
97. Alive
98. Bloom
99. Fame
100. Enormous
101. Independent
102. Unique
103. Metamorphosis
104. Silence
105. Tranquility
106. Project
107. Smile
108. Miracle
109. Amazing
110. Game
111. Connected
112. Muse
113. Dazzle
114. Determination
115. Free
116. Help
117. Intuition

118. Smart
119. Sweet
120. Honesty
121. Useful
122. Safety
123. Ready
124. Vision
125. Cycle
126. Discipline
127. Promise
128. Patience
129. Destiny
130. Rejuvenate
131. Shine
132. Talk
133. Stress
134. Missing
135. Age
136. Success
137. Motivation
138. Family
139. Loneliness
140. Experience
141. Future
142. Vintage
143. Wings
144. Letter
145. Wandering
146. Factory
147. Rainbow
148. Ask
149. Self
150. Locket

151. Home
152. Cloud
153. Hunger
154. Possibilities
155. Boredom
156. Innocence
157. Charge
158. Rhythm
159. Date
160. Consequence
161. Prescription
162. Goals
163. Lost
164. Found
165. Cry
166. Parade
167. Party
168. Ice
169. Dragon
170. Alarm
171. Understanding
172. Uncomfortable
173. Serious
174. Opposites
175. Playful
176. Attention
177. Caring
178. Hero
179. Lace
180. Clue
181. Ideas
182. Junk
183. Collection

184. Radio
185. Interview
186. Zoom
187. Puzzle
188. Landscape
189. Advice
190. Memories
191. Communication
192. Compassion
193. Universe
194. Loyalty
195. Sharing
196. Travel
197. Voices
198. Sidewalk
199. Tree
200. Story
201. Why
202. Maybe
203. Antique
204. Action
205. Culture
206. Fuel
207. Desire
208. Weather
209. Directions
210. List
211. Ride
212. Wish
213. Breakfast
214. Touch
214. Sadness
215. Comfort

216. Circle
217. Reflection
218. Optimism
219. Anxiety
220. Shadow
221. Spirit
222. Stretch
223. Challenge
224. Five
225. Messy
226. Adventure
227. Fun
228. Surprise
229. Illusion
230. Mischief
231. Shy
232. Lesson
233. Whisper
234. Fight
235. Castle
236. Protect
237. Shop
238. Wheel
239. Pieces
240. Leaves
241. Fool
242. Productivity
243. Overcome
244. Encouragement
245. Watch
246. Lighthouse
247. Mild
248. Mouth

249. Rare
250. Target
251. Boat
252. Box
253. Grief
254. Heavy
255. Zeal
256. Color
257. Brilliance
258. Enthusiastic
259. Approval
260. Enchanting
261. Attraction
262. Photograph
263. Waterfall
264. Moment
265. Paradise
266. Parachute
267. Social
268. Zingy
269. Number
270. Little
271. Sound
272. Reach
273. Money
274. Staircase
275. Lemon
276. Wood
277. Try
278. You
279. Quote
280. Weakness
281. Bridge

- 282. Building
- 283. Clothes
- 284. Prepare
- 285. Teach
- 286. Window
- 287. Drive
- 288. Middle
- 289. Microphone
- 290. Definition
- 291. Shout
- 292. Catch
- 293. Release
- 294. Balloons
- 295. Sharp
- 296. Crowd
- 297. Cute
- 298. Cheery
- 299. Glow
- 300. Apple
- 301. Pictures
- 302. Swing
- 303. Wave
- 304. Joke
- 305. Cope
- 306. Accomplish
- 307. Special
- 308. Neighborhood
- 309. Wonderful
- 310. Service
- 311. Calling
- 312. Magic
- 313. Spontaneous
- 314. Fluffy

- 315. Organic
- 316. Silly
- 317. Thunderstorm
- 318. Toys
- 319. Butterfly
- 320. Buzz
- 321. Vine
- 322. Shock
- 323. Enjoy
- 324. Craving
- 325. Respect
- 326. Abstract
- 327. Rainbow
- 328. Train
- 329. Invention
- 330. Perspective
- 331. Genius
- 332. Circus
- 333. Ball
- 335. Crystal
- 336. Fairy
- 337. Cup
- 338. Reality
- 339. Forget
- 340. Priorities
- 341. Journey
- 342. Hands
- 343. Shoes
- 344. Television
- 345. Newspaper
- 346. Radiance
- 347. Hidden
- 348. Fright

- 349. Climb
- 350. Guess
- 351. Pretend
- 352. Turn
- 353. Shatter
- 354. Together
- 355. Adapt
- 356. Keep
- 357. Closed
- 358. Embrace
- 359. Blessing
- 360. Block
- 361. Pizzazz
- 362. Breakthrough
- 363. Curiosity
- 364. Distance
- 365. Zen