Lesson Plan: British Contemporary Art

Age and Ability Level:

Designed for first years to link with the Headway section on Art.

Can be used across the age and ability range.

Target:

* Students will be introduced to well known British Contemporary Artists.
* Students will become familiar with well known British Contemporary Artists.
* Students will learn art related vocabulary.
* Students will practise using art related vocabulary.
* Students will discuss their own views on art and listen to the views of others.

Time: Two lessons

First Lesson

Complete the 'Contemporary Art' vocabulary matching exercise.

Go through the answers encouraging discussion and eliciting viewpoints and argument.

Students to work in small groups to discuss the questions on the format on the 'British Contemporary Art' sheet.

Follow the format on the student sheets to begin to explore the work of:

Tracy Emin [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg5ad44knPA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg5ad44knPA)

Damien Hirst [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRdpV7GqtrA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRdpV7GqtrA)

Andy Goldsworthy [www.culturestreet.org.uk/channel\_artist.php?channel=art&id=1](http://www.culturestreet.org.uk/channel_artist.php?channel=art&id=1)

Second Lesson

Public art from Scotland and the North of England

<http://www.thekelpies.co.uk/videos>  Andy Scott - The Kelpies

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uw3x-8Cojg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uw3x-8Cojg)  Antony Gormley - The Angel of the North

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pds2oPVquRw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pds2oPVquRw)  Antony Gormley - Another Place

Follow-up Exercise

Students imagine that they have been commissioned to create a piece of Public Art. What choices will they make?

British Contemporary Art

Tracy Emin – My Bed

1. When did you last sleep in your bed?
2. How do you feel about your bed?
3. How do you now feel about the bed you slept in when you were ten?
4. How will you feel about your 2015 bed when you look back at some point in the future (retrospective)?
5. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg5ad44knPA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg5ad44knPA) – note any reactions you have
6. What feelings do you have about Tracy Emin's – My Bed?
7. How do you feel about Tracy Emin?

Damien Hirst – Animals in Formaldehyde

1. Can artists be entrepreneurs?
2. Watch [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRdpV7GqtrA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRdpV7GqtrA) - Note any reactions you have
3. Why does Hirst create art?
4. What feelings do you have about his art?
5. What did you like and what didn't you like?
6. How do you feel about Damien Hirst?

Andy Goldsworthy

<http://www.culturestreet.org.uk/channel_artist.php?channel=art&id=1>

1. Who is Andy Goldworthy?
2. What material does he use?
3. Why is photography important?
4. What inspires him?
5. How do you feel about his work?
6. How do you feel about Andy Goldworthy?
7. Compare Andy Goldswothy with Damien Hirst?

Public Art

Look at these iconic pieces of Public art from Scotland and the North of England

<http://www.thekelpies.co.uk/videos>  Andy Scott - The Kelpies

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uw3x-8Cojg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uw3x-8Cojg)  Antony Gormley - The Angel of the North

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1. How do they make you feel?
2. What are they trying to communicate?

Imagine you are commissioned to create a piece of Public Art. What choices will you make?

Reflection on British Contemporary Art Lesson

The lesson has so far been used only with first years and it was appropriate. I believe it is relevant to all years.

Students were introduced to new vocabulary and had the opportunity to use it.

Students reacted to the art and actively engaged in discussion and argument.

One lesson is not enough to cover the vocabulary matching exercise and the first three artists. It would be better to begin with the matching exercise and then go onto the public art section from the second lesson. The controversial Emin and Hirst can be saved for the second lesson followed by the calming Goldsworthy.