Home Makes: Texture

This activity is perfect for Art and Design students in Key Stage 4 (aged 14-16).

This activity invites you to explore and experiment with texture in your art, craft and design work. You'll create a series of samples that will help build your understanding of texture, try new things and add to your portfolio.

For inspiration, you could look at craft makers including Kate Haywood, Ann Sutton, John Moore, Katie Spragg and Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, who all use materials to create different texture effects.

Materials: This activity uses recycled materials from your house. See what you can find—you could try:

- Corrugated cardboard
- Scrap paper or card
- Tissue paper, newspaper or kitchen roll
- Toilet roll tubes
- Threads, yarns or wools
- Bubble wrap
- Clay, dough or plasticine
- Tin foil
- Cotton wool
- Scrap fabrics

Equipment:

- Pencil and paper for drawing
- Scissors (optional)
- Glue or sticky tape
- Coloured pens, pencils, crayons or paints (optional)
- Camera / smart phone

Keywords to explore: texture, smooth, bumpy, hard, soft, rubbery, spikey, wrinkly, fuzzy.

You will:

Create a series of 2D and 3D samples to create a texture portfolio; use surprising materials to create different texture effects.

Time: 2 - 7 hours

This activity is broken down into three sections—feel free to work on it over a few days.

Part One: respond to an artist's work

Choose an artist from the moodboard or find another artist or maker who uses texture in an interesting way.

Make a response to their work using a contrasting materials. If your chosen artist works in metal, a hard material, make your response from something soft, like cotton wool. Your response might reproduce a whole piece of work by an artist, a small section or it, or just be inspired by an idea or a feeling that their work gives you.

Top Tips:

- Can you use collage as a technique for this response?
- What would happen if you tried to draw or paint the 'texture' of an artist's work?
- Could you use colour to add 'texture'
- Can you combine different materials?

Part Two: develop your idea

Choose either a material (e.g. textiles, cardboard, plastic) or a process (e.g. collage) that you worked with in Part One. In this part of the activity you'll develop and extend your work from Part One.

Materials: if you are working with the same materials can you create responses to three different textures using your chosen material?

Process: if you are working with the same process can you create responses to three different textures using your chosen process?

These could be;
- Grass
- Bricks
- Steam
- Wet clay

Or explore different textures in your environment.

Top Tips:

- Take photos of different textures you want to explore. What happens if you zoom in?
- Try taking photos of the different stages as you make?
- What do your responses have in common and what are their differences?

Part Three: choose one of your three responses and develop that idea three times. This should include some sketching and can include photographs or small models.

1. Develop your idea using a different material that has different properties—for example, if your work is in card, a hard material, use a soft material such as a paint.
2. Develop your idea using two different techniques these could include:
   - Painting
   - Drawing
   - Collaging
   - 3D textiles
   - Clays or doughs
   - Modelling with card

3. Combine two of your previous ideas into one response.

You could try exploring textures through printing.

You could explore textures through photography.

You could try exploring textures through 3D modelling with textiles.

You could try combining materials and techniques!