

The Ashington Group

This amateur art group was founded in 1934 by local miners. It began as a "Workers' Educational Association Class" The miners felt able to show their thoughts and emotions about their lives through art, rather than in writing. They left work which shows the everyday lives of pitmen in Ashington. The art world became fascinated by what it considered to be a rare and admirable exercise of working-class art.

Pitmen Painters



See the Original Artworks

Some art was sold to help fund the group, but the best was kept for the 'Permanent Collection'. This was originally kept on the hut used by the pitmen, but is now in a specially-built gallery at Woodhorn Museum.



Example of an Artist's Work



Whippets
George Blessed

Whippets were popular dogs with northern mining families, sleeping in children's beds to help keep them warm and used for chasing rabbits. They were also used for racing.

Example of an Artist's Work



Proggng the Mat
Oliver Kilbourn

Progggy mats were a common sight in working-class homes, helping to keep feet warm before fitted carpets. They were made by proggng (poking) fabric through a piece of sackcloth.

Example of an Artist's Work



Pigeon Crees
Jimmy Floyd

A pigeon cree is a shed or loft where pigeons are kept. These pigeons are usually kept as racing birds; they will be taken to distant places in baskets, then their return to the cree is times.

Key Vocabulary

- Texture** Showing how a drawn object might feel, if the real thing was touched.
- Contrast** The effect when two very different artistic results are placed next to one another, such as dark and pale colours.
- Blending** Rubbing of drawn marks to create a gradual changing gradient, rather than sharp contrast.
- Stippling** Use of dots at different distances from one another to show lighter and darker areas.

Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

Charcoal

- Plan, refine and alter their drawings as necessary.
- Use their sketchbooks to record visual information from different sources.
- Draw for a sustained period of time at their own level.
- Use different techniques to show texture, tone, colour, shape and pattern.

Examples of Existing Art



Durham: The Central Tower
Dennis Crenfield (1931-2018)



Home Worker
Kathy Kollwitz (1867-1945)

Charcoal Techniques



Cross-Hatching

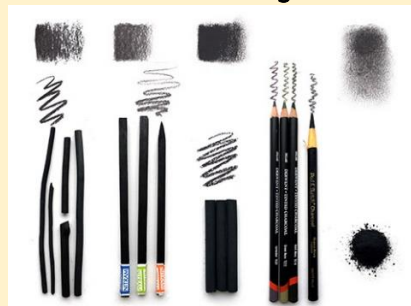


Parallel-Hatching



Blending

Charcoal Drawing Tools



Sleeping Mother and Child
Henry Moore (1898-1986)