Year Five art project: Printmaking

Printmaking

Printmaking is one of my absolute favourite ways of creating art work whether it's a simple potato print or a many layered etching. Artists have used printmaking from the earliest cave paintings with hand prints on the walls to the colourful digital printing of artists such as David Hockney (with many in between!)

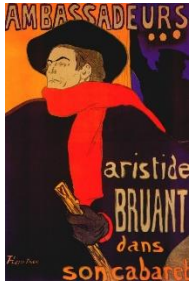
Some of the things that we will learn about will be impossible to do at home at the moment but we will become experts so that you are ready to go when back at school.

We will be doing some research projects and of course there will be some art tasks for you to do along the way.

Printmaking

- Fine art printmaking involves the creation of a master plate from which multiple images are made. Simply put, the artist chooses a surface to be the plate. This could be linoleum, styrofoam, metal, cardboard, stone or any one of a number of materials.
- Then the artist prepares the printing plate by cutting, etching or drawing an image onto the plate. Ink is applied (in a variety of ways) and paper is pressed onto the plate either by hand or by way of a hand-run printing press. The finished print is pulled from the plate.
- Often the first three or four prints of are different than the rest of the edition. These first prints are called artist's proofs. The number of prints pulled from one plate is called an edition.

Printmaking



- Once a certain number of prints are made, the plate is destroyed so that more prints won't be printed later, thus ensuring the value of the edition. Imagine if there were millions of Mona Lisas, we'd all have one and it wouldn't be worth much or any money. Because there's only one, it's rare and so people pay more to own it!
- At the bottom of a print are two to three things always written in pencil. On the left is a number that appears as a fraction (e.g. 6/25), this means that the print is number six of a total of twenty five prints pulled from one plate. This number excludes the artist proofs which are designated with an A/P. In the centre of the bottom of the print is the title (if any). At the bottom right, is the artist's name and sometimes a date.

Andy Warhol

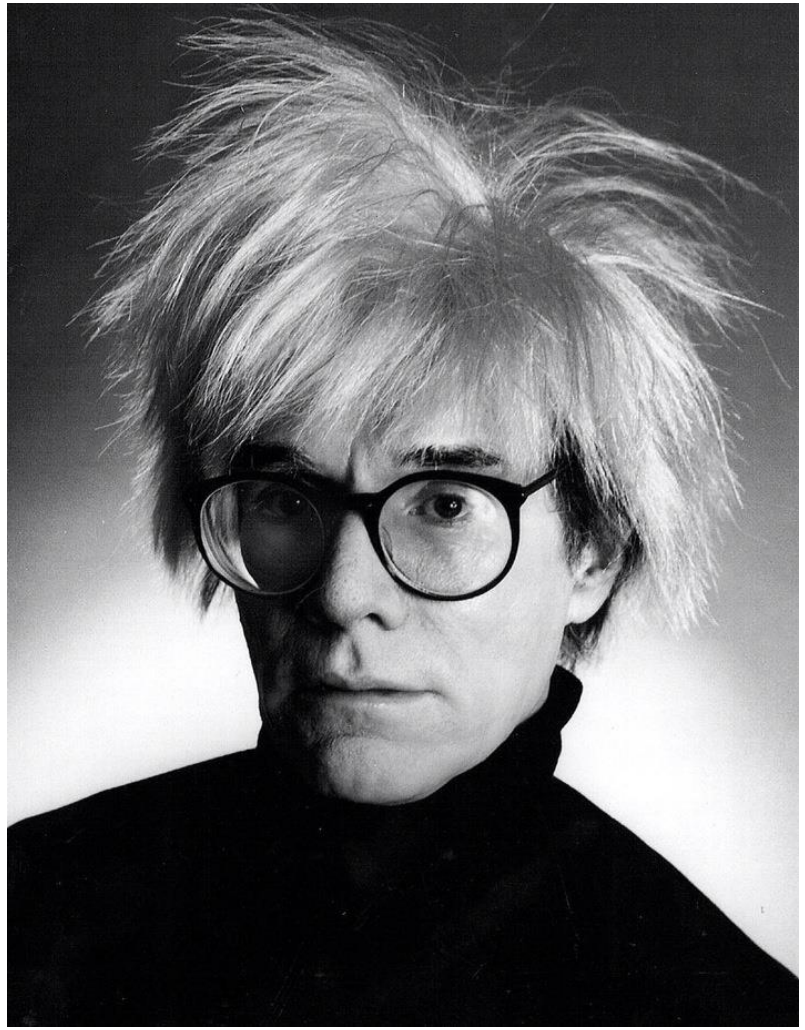
Occupation: Artist, Painter, Sculptor

Born: August 6, 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Died: February 22, 1987 in New York City, New York

Famous works: Campbell's Soup Cans, Moonwalk, Marilyn Monroe, Che, Eight Elvises

Style/Period: Pop Art, Modern Art



Andy Warhol

- Andy grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the son of a construction worker. His birth name was Andrew Warhola.
- When he was 8 years old he caught a liver disease that caused his limbs to sometimes spasm uncontrollably. While recovering his mother, an embroiderer and artist, taught him to draw. He was a quiet and shy child, but loved drawing, photography, and movies.
- In 1961 Andy came up with the concept of using mass-produced commercial goods in his art. He called it Pop Art. He would use commercial images and reproduce them over and over. One early example of this was a series on Campbell's Soup cans. In one painting he had two hundred Campbell's soup cans repeated over and over. Andy often used **silkscreen** and **lithography** to create his pictures.

Andy Warhol

- Andy also used pictures of famous people. He would repeat the same portrait over and over, but use different colours and effects in each picture. Some of the celebrities he had as subjects include Marilyn Monroe.

Who would YOU choose to use as a repeated portrait? Either take a photo, find a picture on line , cut out from a newspaper/ magazine or draw a portrait of someone you admire (could be yourself?). Repeat it at least 3 times using different colours.

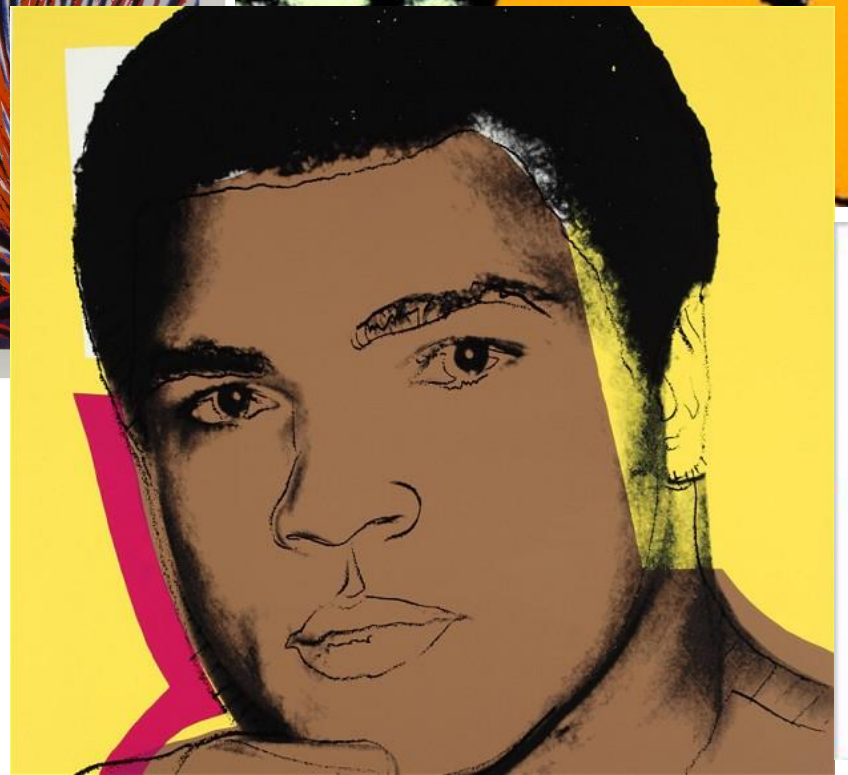
Andy printed his with special inks but you could use any felt tips or coloured pencils ? Of course you could try to do it digitally which would be much closer to Andy's idea. Have fun with it.

Andy Warhol

https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-andy-warhol

I'd like you to research Andy Warhol further to make a fact file about his art work. Try to find out as much about Warhol as you can.
You can present your fact file in any way you like. Make a book, a power point presentation, an information page or a poster.

- Andy soon became a very famous celebrity himself. He opened a new studio called "The Factory". He not only worked on his art there, but had large parties with wealthy and famous people. It became one of the cool places to be in New York City. Andy was also selling a lot of his art.
- Andy was a different kind of artist. While many artists focused entirely on their art with no interest in personal fame or fortune, Andy wanted to be rich and famous. Some artists accused him of making art in order to make money. However, many of the images he created have become iconic in American culture. His paintings have grown in value as well. One of his portraits called 'Eight Elvises' sold for $100 million in 2008.
- Despite having made a lot of money off of his art, Andy can also be credited with bringing art to the masses. He would mass produce prints of his art so it was affordable to everyone.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Andy Warhol-Your opinion

Facts are important but I think that your opinions about Warhol's work will make your fact files even more interesting.

What do YOU think? Why have some of these prints become SO famous around the world? Do you like them? Are they art? Does the fact that they can be mass produced lessen their value?

Anita Klein

Anita Klein was born in Sydney, Australia in 1960 and studied at both Chelsea School of Art and Slade School of Art.

Anita's art is an archive of personal moments that everyone can identify with. Witty, charismatic, warm and poignant, many believe she is one of Britain’s finest and most prominent artists and printmakers of the 21st century.

Anita Klein

From 2003 - 2006 she was president of the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers (PRE). She has work in many private and public collections in Europe, the USA and Australia, including the Arts Council of Great Britain, the British Museum and the British Library. She has had many solo exhibitions in the London as well as worldwide

Compare the two…

Anita Klein

Pablo Picasso

These two prints are undoubtedly similar. Which do you prefer and why?

Eduardo Paolozzi

Sir Eduardo Luigi Paolozzi (Italian: 7 March 1924 – 22 April 2005) was a Scottish sculptor and artist. He is widely considered to be one of the pioneers of pop art.

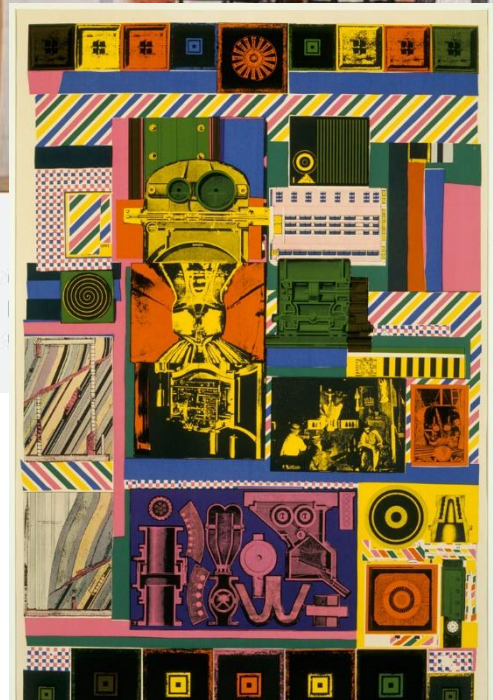
Paolozzi studied at the Edinburgh College of Art in 1943, then moved to London. He was briefly at the St Martin's School of Art in 1944, and then at the Slade School of Fine Art . He lived in Paris from 1947–1949. There he met Alberto Giacometti, Georges Braque and Fernand Léger. They were a big influence on his later work.

Eduardo Paolozzi

He was a major figure in the international art sphere. Paolozzi investigated how we fitted into the modern world.

He revealed our fragmented civilization through imagination and fantasy.

He was a print maker and sculptor. He was made Her Majesty's Sculptor for Scotland in 1986, which he held until his death.



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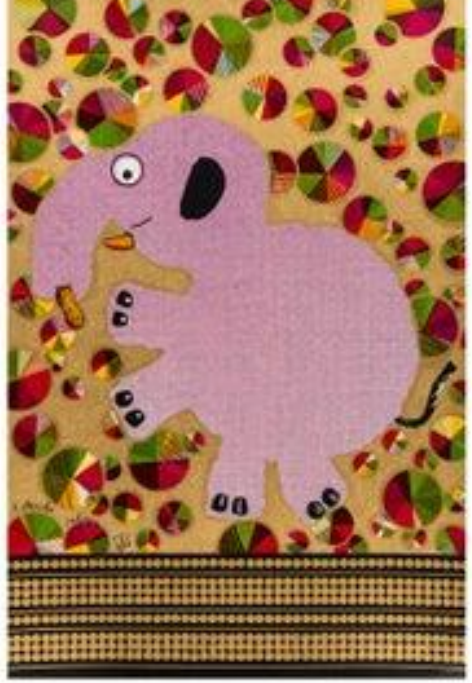
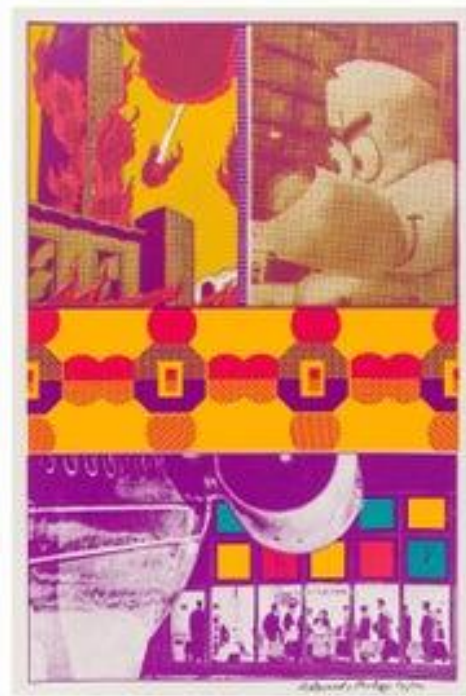
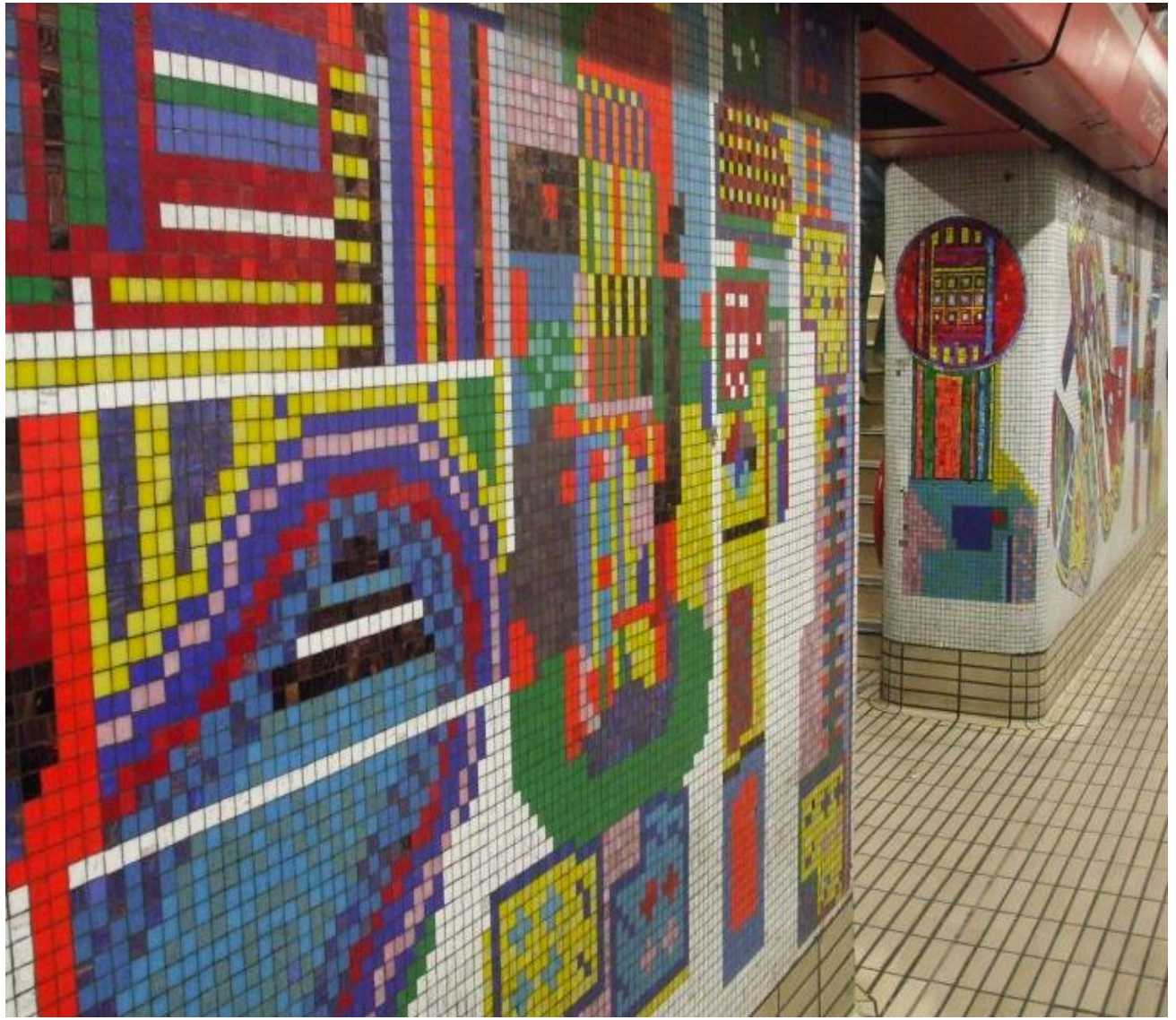


HIGH LIFE



Eduardo Paolozzi

Have you ever been to Tottenham Court Rd underground station? If so, you MUST have noticed Paolozzi's enormous mosaics covering the walls?

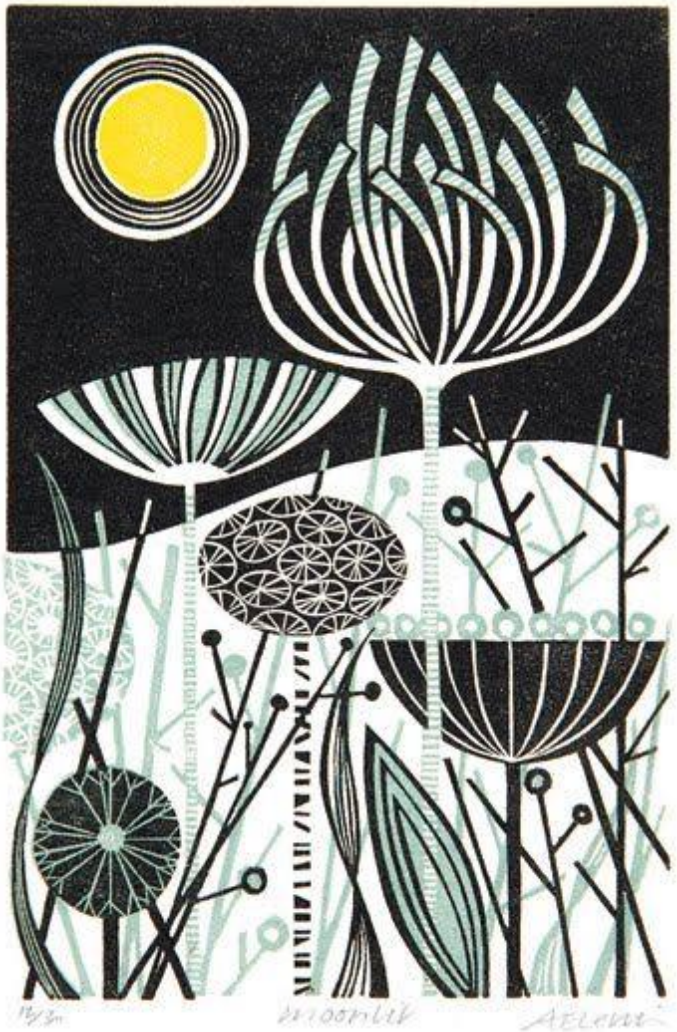


Angie Lewin

-Angie Lewin was born in Cheshire in 1963.

- Angie studied BA(Hons) Fine Art Printmaking at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design between 1983 and 1986, followed by a year's part-time postgraduate printmaking at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts.

-Angie's prints often incorporate seedpods, grasses, flints and dried seaweed collected on walking and sketching trips.



As well as Warhol I would like you to research another printmaker of your choice. It could be one that I have shown or someone completely different? There are some suggestions below to get you started. Try to add your opinions about the work and have a go at some of your own art work in their style.

- Hokusai
- David Hockney
- Pablo Picasso
- Henri Matisse
- Hogarth
- Lichtenstein