

Year 8 Art and Design Group's trip to the Castle Fine Art Gallery

On Tuesday the 1st of February, the Year 8 Art group had the amazing opportunity to visit The Castle of Fine Art Gallery's showing of modern and contemporary art, at the top of the Grand Arcade. As we arrived, we were greeted by their pleasant art consultant. He sat us down and introduced us to some of the gallery's most popular pieces and gave us background information on the talented artists. He gave us the opportunity to find out how some of the pieces were made so skilfully and diversly, from Richard Rowan who created his own unique technique of painting on glass to the comforting images of Paul Cornfield with his signature white house with the red door that warmed everyone's hearts.

We were allowed free reign of the gallery for an hour to experience and see all of its incredible artwork. We were amazed at all the different genres of art that we had yet to encounter with the likes of Bob Dylan's classic north American images using mixed media, John Myatt the 'master of forgery' whose journey to success captured our interest and to the most expensive piece, a sculpture by Wu Ching Ju - a Taiwanese artist – a bronze sculpture which cost a whopping £135,000!

The purpose of this trip was for us to explore the gallery, and each select our favourite artist, or piece of art, that we would then use for inspiration - to produce our own creative response to. We will now have three Art lessons to create a unique, inspired, and wonderful piece of art that we can then later present to the gallery for judging, when we go back in a month's time. The gallery will judge all of our pieces and collectively decide on a winner (and some runners up). The winner's artwork will be proudly displayed in their gallery later in the year for everyone to see.

Overall, it was a thought-provoking and eye-opening experience to see today's modern artists' work in a gallery setting. We enjoyed the trip thoroughly, and we know our peers did too.

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