

Pearsons A Level Art and Design Themes 2019

Resource Pack

Variation and Similarity

opposites · the same · patterns · broken · differences · likeness · combinations · hints · oddities · trials · familiar · changes · bits · hidden · camouflaged · disguised · noticeable · variations · transformations · reproductions · consistencies · inconsistencies

It is usually the case that Artists and Designers use materials specific to the theme of their work, so they can illustrate a specific **meaning, mood** or **story**. They may also consider **composition, scale, colour, text** and **style**. They will develop their ideas, refine them through testing, reflect and record their work in writing and practical outcomes and present their work to reflect the theme running through it.

When collecting research and contextual influences:

- Consider **how** the artist has made the work.
- Look at **what materials** have they used.
- **Why** do you think they used these materials?
- Do you think the medium effectively portrays the **concept/ theme** of the work?
- Do you think there is **more than one** theme in the work?
- Do you see **inspiration/ influences** from other artists, art movements or events in the work?

The following artists particularly illustrate the theme of Variation and Similarity within their work:

Laura Buckley

Pierre Carreau

Tom Howse

Mia Feuer

Peter Linde-Busk

Tillman Kaiser

Laura Buckley



Buckley's *Fata Morgana* combines installation and video. The piece is totally immersive, being made up of both endless visuals and an accompanying soundtrack which leaps through human, mechanical and natural sounds. The viewer's need to understand the swirling mass of image and sound becomes part of the kaleidoscope's appeal. Buckley seems to use the audience as 'persons against pixels', as part of her ongoing exploration of digital image-making. The smooth, mirrored surfaces of the tunnel's interior amplify the audience's participation in the

piece, so that they are sucked in further and further. The seemingly endless formation of geometric shapes and colours emphasises a playful element to the work. The impact of the interactive piece is instant, enticing and exhausting.

- **Variation** of colours
- **Variation** of sight and sound
- **Varied** states of being
- **Variation** of angles

Pierre Carreau



Carreau's Aqua Viva series, floats somewhere between hyperrealism and painting with its sharp photographic style.

The artist moved with his family to St. Barthelemy in the Caribbean in 2004, where the small paradise became his open air studio.

Carreau sees the goal of his work to "transfer the waves' energy to those who view them. Water is amazing, basically it has no colour, but through reflection and refraction it can

possess all of them, the entire spectrum of light" Pierre Carreau.

There is a sculptural quality to his photographs, which he describes as "liquid sculptures". This is achieved through the play of light on the curves of the water's surface.

- **Varied** colours, shades and tones produced through light
- **Similarity** of repeat images

Tom Howse



Howse explores our domestic settings against our methods of understanding the complexities of nature, humans and the universe.

He is interested in how humans are often drawn to cosmological explanations (like horoscopes) and folklore to sooth a fear of the unknown.

Reality and fantasy co-exist in Howse's paintings. Each painting has a single narrative that 'the viewer is forced to confront'. Flat planes of colour and shape allow for a feeling of moving through one singular world, adding a linear narrative.

- **Similarity** in the domestic space and objects
- **Variation** of locations
- **Variation** on how we view the domestic space

Mia Feuer



Feuer's work makes connections between society's ongoing material dependency and the accelerated environmental impact non sustainable materials are having on the planet.

Many of her works stem directly from specific places that she has visited.

Many pieces are also made on location and then transported, emphasising the journey of the materials.

- **Variation** of original materials
- **Similarity** to objects being created
- **Variety** of materials and methods
- **Various** ways of viewing the work

Peter Linde-Busk



Busk's works are dark, reflective, semi-abstract portraits of different mental states including pride, fear, and defeat.

His work references literary or mythical characters such as Hamlet or Don Quixote.

He incorporates a wide range of mark making and kaleidoscopic colour and patterns, highlighting his inspiration from Pablo Picasso and Paul Klee, as well as icon painting from the late Middle Ages, Expressionism, Art Brut, and the dark sides of Cobra art. He is also known for gluing his canvases to his studio floor, where they could gather dust, paint drips and other daily marks. This adds a sense of specificity and personal history to the work.

- **Variations** of lines and shapes
- **Variations** of patterns
- **Similarities** of images
- **Similarity** in tones and colour ways
- **Various** feelings evoked through the work

Tillman Kaiser



Kaiser creates work as a painter, sculptor and photographer. He will always listen to music while he works: “Music doesn’t influence my work directly, but its essence most likely enters my work. My picture compositions are often based on repetitive elements, translated into music they would be extremely rhythmical songs. Rhythm cannot only be found in music, but also in the fine arts, literature, and poetry. Rhythm is very important. I am interested in the psychological effects that repetition can trigger” Tillman Kaiser.

Some of Kaiser’s 3D objects are based on the classic children's paper folding game ‘fortune teller’: “I am interested in symmetries, there is an element of rhythm where there is no above and below, no back and no front resulting in forms that resemble the folded paper game” Tillman Kaiser. Kaiser is always aware about the space in which the art is displayed, viewing this as part of the work. Kaiser’s manifestation of form (3D) is created using symmetrical compositions and reduced colour. “I have always been very interested in Surrealism, it appeals to my inclination toward reflection. One may not recognize it in my work, but I have a great appreciation of the work of Giorgio de Chirico and of René Magritte” Tillman Kaiser. Kaiser also regularly explores and challenges the themes present within Cubism and Surrealism.

- **Variations** between 2D and 3D
- **Similarities** between 2D and 3D
- **Similarities** in colour and tone used throughout work