

London Art Expedition

Thanks to the trust, me and my friend James were able to travel to London and explore the V&A and the National Gallery. My interest lay in the V&A, while James's did in the National Gallery. By joining our two ideas, we were able to see a more diverse selection of art that we might not have seen otherwise, and this meant we could share our expertise with each other.

James is a History of Art student at hills road and has an incredible understanding of the Renaissance period specifically. The National Gallery had a great selection for him, including works by his favourite artist Caravaggio- this was the first time he had seen one in person. He used this trip to help influence the writing he does on many artworks both inside and out of school. He has published many of these articles on medium.com and is working on a collection of them in the form of a book. He wanted to gain museum experience from this trip along with a better understanding of these art works and I think he managed that.



James and Supper at Emmaus



The National Gallery

For me, the extensive fashion within the V&A is what I came for as an Art Textiles student at Long Road 6th form. The history of clothing is just as important to me as the many different ways you can create a garment and the V&A pleasantly surprised me with their range of pieces. I hadn't expected to see as many modern pieces as I did, or the diversity of materials (from lace to wool). As I walked around the dedicated area for fashion pieces in the V&A I was awed by the pieces and I felt almost light headed from the experience. It's one thing to read about certain work and a completely different thing to view it in person.

I think this trip helped me to learn how travel works in larger cities. We chose to use the black cab service for one of the trips because we were both still cautious about COVID-19 and thought it would be a simpler method of transport. We found it to be a very comfortable and scenic way to travel but not the best when working on a budget.



James & Raphael Cartoons

We had to use Navigational skills when making our way around London on foot and used google maps to find our way. We decided that the walk was a great chance to absorb London on a more intense level and we found many sights we wouldn't have seen by car or tube.



By placing the rings in a circle we can see the beautiful gradient of colour and it shows off the extensive collection jewellery the V&A holds. I picked out some of my favourite jewels to recreate in closer detail.

I chose the blue and pink rings because of their decadence and I loved the metal they were set into. The

purple one I chose because of the way the jewel had been cut so other colours came through like pink. I chose the scorpion because it was so unique and I've never seen a ring like it.



This Edwardian evening dress stood out to me because of its beautiful colour. The delicate lace sleeves are not a fixture I've seen many times compared to usual elbow length sleeves common to this era but I think it looks beautiful. I was very interested in the way the skirt hangs, billowing out in a beautiful pleats. The sash round the middle was usual for this style, used to keep form and draw attention to the waist. The folded collection of material around the bodice helped to make the feminine form more obvious without taking away from the soft and delicate edges of the piece. I found this dress very interesting and one of my favourites from the trip.



This piece was a miniature mock-up to test out the draping for a garment. The amount of pleats is very impressive and must have been incredibly time-consuming for the creator

For white fabric like this, I had to use a grey pen and focus on the shadows instead of starting with white. Using white paper means that negative space ends up being the high lights of the dress.



When I first saw this dress I thought it reminded me of the pleating used on Marilyn Monroe's famous dress from *The seven-year itch*. This bright white is often a colour we relate to Marilyn because of our pop culture connections.

This incredibly rare coat is made out of arctic fox fur. When I discovered that I was shocked, because I'd never heard of arctic fox fur being used as a material before. The embroidered pattern on the coat and the tassels sewn into the cuffs and hem give it a strange sort of elegance. Historically fur coats have been seen as a staple of wealth and prosperity and a coat this rare is a prime example of that. It's exactly the sort of jacket you could imagine some wealthy starlet wearing on her way to a red carpet event. I went for cream and yellow when trying to use pen to recreate this works to get that off-white colour.



As someone who has dabbled at both crochet and knitting I have a respect for these pieces and the time they will have taken. The use of squares made into an item is very common for knitting due to the ability to quality control and reorganise patterns more easily. I really liked the bold and bright colour choices here and the bulky way it sits on the manikin. The wide collar of the one closest to us reminds me of the collars often seen 70s shirts.



A painting from the National Gallery I liked due to its lighting and the detail in the windows shadow.



Overall from the experience I think I have learnt the importance of keeping on top of your navigation and making sure to stay on route, along with general city travel skill and respect for the privilege we have to be able to see these museums and the array of artworks we can see.



My favourite Van Gogh-
Sunflowers



James in the National Gallery

I would like to say thank you to the Henry Morris trust for the funding to be able to go on this wonderful trip. Opportunities like this would be inaccessible for so many people if it wasn't for the support you offer. Thank you, Sophie Smith