

IB Visual Arts for the IB Diploma

Heather McReynolds

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Introduction

Introduction

0.1 Welcome

This student book is designed as a guide and companion to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) Visual Arts course (first examinations 2016). It will help you to understand the aims and objectives of the course, what is expected of you, and how to go about achieving it.

You will be introduced to the ideas and the language that underpin the course, and offered practical advice for navigating your way successfully through the requirements. The book will support and encourage you while you engage in your individual journey of inquiry, investigation, reflection and creative application in art.



Figure 0.01: *Daydream* by student Sage Dever (mixed media collage on board). With freedom to explore a variety of art forms, ideas and different approaches, students can discover their own modes of visual expression.

0.2 Who is this book for?

This book is for students taking the two-year Visual Arts course for the IB DP, part of Group 6, The Arts (first examinations 2016).

Although the IB Visual Arts course will appeal to students who wish to study visual arts in higher education, students with no previous experience will also benefit from it.

The course not only builds art-making skills and confidence but helps students to develop important analytical skills, divergent ways of thinking and creative problem-solving. Reflecting the IB emphasis on international-mindedness, students are

What is the IB Visual Arts course about?

encouraged to explore art from a wide range of contexts and practices, thus broadening their understanding and appreciation for the diversity of creative and aesthetic expression.

The study of art is much more than just a training of the eye. Through the study and practice of visual arts we are cultivating attention to the act of observing, and in doing so we learn to perceive the world differently, as well as art.

Art is about paying attention.
(Laurie Anderson)

Standard level or higher level

The course may be taken at standard level (SL) or higher level (HL). There are additional assessment requirements for HL: students explore art-making techniques in more depth and breadth and produce a larger, more considered body of work, with added awareness of the viewer's relationship. They also reflect more on how other artists have influenced their own work.

0.3 What is the IB Visual Arts course about?

The course revolves around three main aspects of art practice: theoretical practice, art-making practice and curatorial practice. As an IB Visual Arts student, you are all of these: a critic, a maker and a curator. Let's consider what these mean and what your learning objectives are for each one.

Theoretical practice (the critic)

Using investigative strategies, critical thinking, comparative analysis and reflection, you will examine various art forms and artists from different times, places and cultures. You will investigate different techniques and processes, enquiring into their contextual evolution. You will explore ways of communicating knowledge in both visual and written forms.

Art-making practice (the maker)

Through exploration and experimentation you will discover and apply a variety of artistic techniques. You will develop your own concepts throughout this explorative process and, with reflection and self-evaluation, produce a considered body of work.

Curatorial practice (the curator)

Through careful, informed viewing of artworks and exhibitions you will develop an ability to formulate your own considered response. You will begin to articulate your intentions for developing and displaying your own work. You will also consider the relationship between artist and audience and what it means to exhibit work; learn to select and present your own work effectively; and articulate your intentions and the connections between your artworks.