

Angela Davies

## Teacher

'It is fundamental to me, to continue to develop my own creative practice'

GCE A levels, BTEC Foundation, Degree, GTP/PGCE

Providing information and advice



**Who I am:** I am an art and design teacher working in a high school in Chester

**How I work:** Art has always been a great passion of mine. From a young age I would transform old, discarded objects - anything from functional pieces of art to totally abstract forms. My earliest memory of Christmas is the year I made the decision that I wanted to become an artist. That year, at the age of seven, I spent all my time standing at my easel with paintbrush in one hand and palette in another. I was so proud of my creations, there was no stopping me and that is where my journey began. Along with teaching I still continue to work as an artist and I exhibit regularly and most recently have had a solo show. I have recently tutored young artists in Italy.

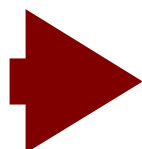
**Getting there:** For my GCSE option choices, I was encouraged to opt for Art and so I did – for one day! At the time, the course didn't feel right for me so I opted for Business Studies instead. I didn't regret this choice but it did seem to delay my journey.

At A Level, I thought that I should become a teacher. I hadn't really received any careers advice or guidance so I almost felt I was walking into sixth form college blind. After a year of doing the 'wrong' A Levels, I realised there was something missing and after an appointment at the career office I decided to chose A Level Art and BTEC Fashion and Pattern Making. For the first month of my A Level Art I was on probation but I soon proved my capabilities! I gained a broad experience of drawing, painting and printmaking and specialised in textile art. From A Levels to BTEC Foundation at Yale College, Wrexham: this was an intensive but brilliant course! This was the year I found my style and I found myself drawn towards the work of collage and assemblage artists.

After the loss of my grandmother that year, I became particularly interested in using books to contain memories. I began to create my own miniature three-dimensional books with 'memories' - this would be in the form of black and white photographs I developed from old slides, old envelopes and dressmaking items. My love of making led me to look at Craft and Applied Art courses. After a number of visits to various Universities, my instincts drew me towards the Contemporary Craft course at Manchester Metropolitan University. Towards the end of my degree I felt anxious about my future, I knew more than anything that I wanted to be an artist but I wasn't sure how to pursue this. After working abroad for a while I decided I would look into teaching. I secured a Teaching Assistant job at a local secondary school who then agreed to support me in my application for the Graduate Teaching Programme (GTP). I was accepted so in the September I began my training. I successfully passed my teaching assessment and started my first teaching job. It is fundamental to me, to continue to develop my own creative practice, to bring my experiences into the classroom and to make strong links between the artwork that I create to that of the students.

What are the Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) that Angela needed to succeed?

What pathways could learners follow in order to enter this career? Learners could draw a progression pathway and consider their options.



For further information please visit [www.angeladaviesartist.co.uk](http://www.angeladaviesartist.co.uk)

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