

Demystifying, exploring and adapting the Oak art & design curriculum

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Mixed media collage from the year 7 lesson [Body adornment](#), from the unit [An overview of craft](#)

To understand how the Oak art and design resources can support teachers to plan and teach a flexible curriculum





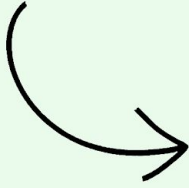
From the year 2 lesson
Representing relationships,
from the unit Me, myself and
others: clay sculpture

I used Oak resources during the pandemic, it is a pandemic relic.

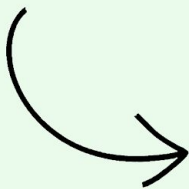
I like to create my own lessons and plans, Oak content is too rigid and prescriptive.

Oak lessons are knowledge rich, which means they won't teach art skills or be creative.

What is Oak National Academy?



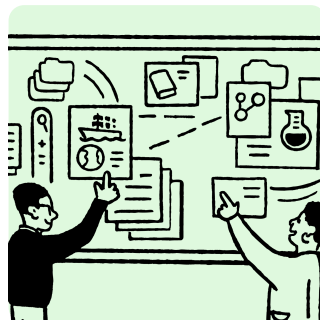
Partnership



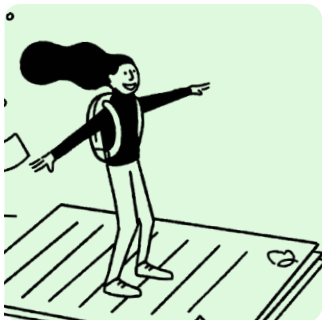
What's on offer?



Full curriculum plans for every national curriculum subject across KS1-4 by Autumn 2025



Lesson resources created by subject experts: including slides, teacher guidance, videos, quizzes and worksheets



Online learning for pupils to support homework and revision



All the content is **free and adaptable** for teachers, and available on an Open Government Licence

Website tour



0

Sign up

Teachers

Pupils



New Subjects added

See curriculum plans >



Teaching resources



Curriculum plans



AI experiments **New**



Pupils

1

The qualities of different textiles

I can use stitch and embellishment to design a textile pattern



1 Slide deck



1 Worksheet



2 Quizzes



1 Video




My library

All your content in one handy place. Whether it's units you're teaching this term, or ideas and inspiration for curriculum development and lesson planning. Save what you need to your library.



Unit sequence

 **KS1 & KS2 art and design curriculum**

[Unit sequence](#) [Explainer](#) [Download](#)

Filter and highlight

Year group

All

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Year 1

1

Mark making: using drawing tools and techniques

Unit info >

2


Reflections on water: introducing painting

Unit info >

3

Watery weavings: intro textiles

Unit info >

 All exam boards (KS4) **KS3 & KS4 art and design curriculum**

[Unit sequence](#) [Explainer](#) [Download](#)

Filter and highlight

Year group

All

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

Year 7

1

An overview of art

Unit info >

2

An overview of craft

Unit info >

3

An overview of design

Unit info >

Highlight a thread

1

2

3



Where in our current sequence could this/these unit(s) sit as a starting point, bridge, or extension?

Do any of these units stand out with potential to fill a missing area in our current plans (e.g. textiles, 3D work, graphic design)?

Are there any specific lessons that I could use as a starting point, bridge, or extension?

Use the **library** feature to save units.



Deck design

Textured marks with charcoal



Art and design

Unit Mark-making: using drawing tools and techniques



Outcome

I can create and describe a wide range of textured marks with charcoal.



Keywords

curved	something which has a bend or a rounded shape
patterns	something that repeats in a regular way, like shapes, colours, or numbers
circular	something which is round and shaped like a circle

Lesson outline

Circular weaving



Observe a range of underwater creatures

Create a circular weaving



Create a circular weaving



Some weavings are made on a square or rectangular loom.



Weavings do **not** have to be made on looms with straight sides. They can be **curved**.



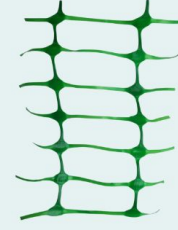
Create a circular weaving



Which loom should Izzy and Sam use to make a **circular** weaving?



a



b



c



Task A Making a loom



Make a loom from an **everyday object**.



Choose your loom shape and size.



Make changes to your loom shape if you need to, cutting **carefully**.



Choose your warp **thread**.



Make your **everyday object** into a loom.

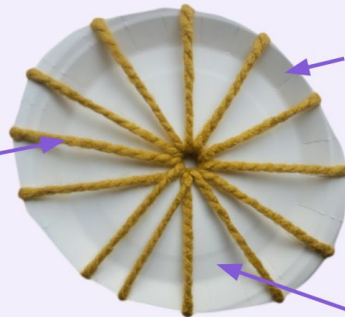


Task A Making a loom



You might have:

chosen a strong, thin warp **thread** rather than fabric.



cut your loom to the shape you wanted.

used an **everyday object** for your loom.



Year 8

Unit title:

Textiles and the creative industries

Lesson: Exploring embroidery and stitch


Year 3

Unit title:

Recycled robots: drawing and sculpture

Lesson: Create a maquette of a robot



From the year 3 lesson Create a
maquette of a robot, from the unit 
Recycled robots: drawing and sculpture

Adapting and delivering

Would I need to make any changes to better suit our pupils (e.g. ability, age, cultural context, interests)?

Are there any materials, artists, or outcomes I would swap to make this more relevant or accessible?

Could this be simplified or extended depending on my learners' needs?

Would I feel confident delivering this lesson as it is, or would I need to practise or modify elements?



Resources

Are the resources (slides, worksheets, videos) something I would adapt and use with my class?

Would watching the video support my own subject knowledge or technical confidence before teaching?

Could I use part of the video in class to model the process or introduce an artist/technique?

Might this video be helpful for mentoring ECTs or non-specialists in our team?



How we reference art and artists



Year 10 [lesson](#) Recording from the lesson observation and first-hand sources, unit Foundation workshops: selecting primary sources and recording observations



Sketching and planning an insect carving

Artists and designers who have been inspired by insects in their sculptures include:



- **Nicola Hicks** created 'Beetle' 1999 inspired by the Rhinoceros Beetle which is installed in Bristol.
- **Gary and Thomas Thrussell** have created a series of metal insect sculptures.
- **Amador Montes'** 'El lago de las típulas' 2022 is a series of giant mosquito sculptures.
- **Kate Kato** manipulates paper to create a wide range of insects.



Carving soap to create a relief sculpture



Carving is an ancient artform and continues to be popular with modern sculptors including:



- **Valda Jackson** who has created a number of carved **relief** works over her career which adorn public spaces.
- **Kim Lim and Ronald Moody** who are well known for their **carvings**.
- **Antoni Gaudí's** Sagrada Família church in Barcelona features intricate **carvings** of various insects.



Year 7

1

An overview of art

Unit info >

4

The elements of art

Unit info >

Why this why now

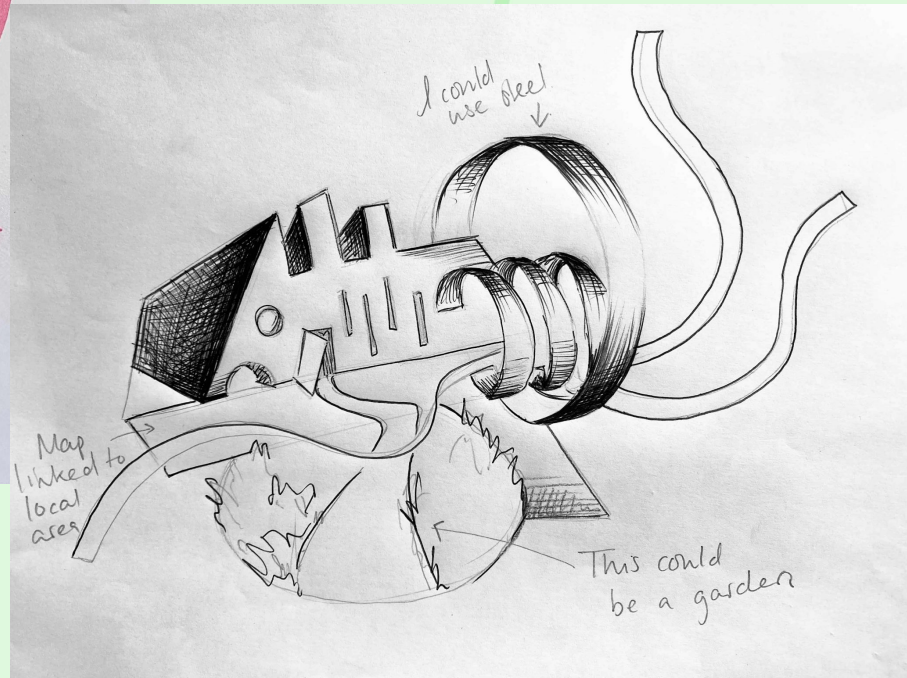
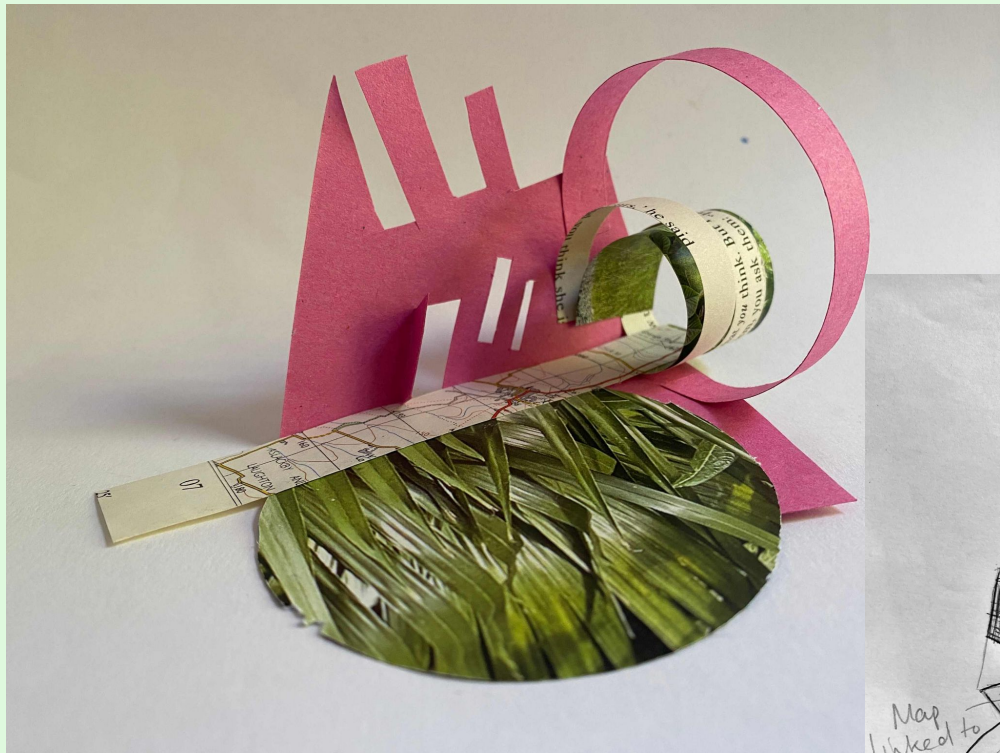


Lessons in unit

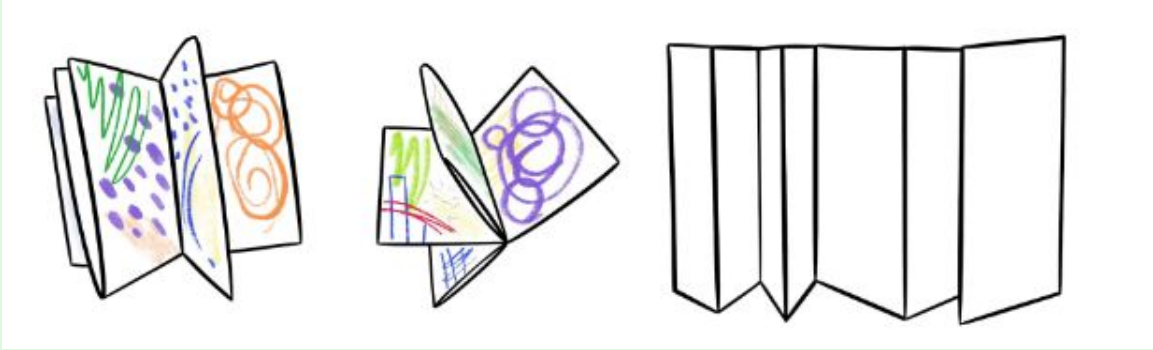


1. This is art: the power of collaborative making
 2. "I can't draw!" Building confidence through drawing techniques
 3. Viewpoints and techniques: disability and art
 4. Art can change the world: text based art
 5. That's not art!
 6. Art, empire and museums: who owns art?
-

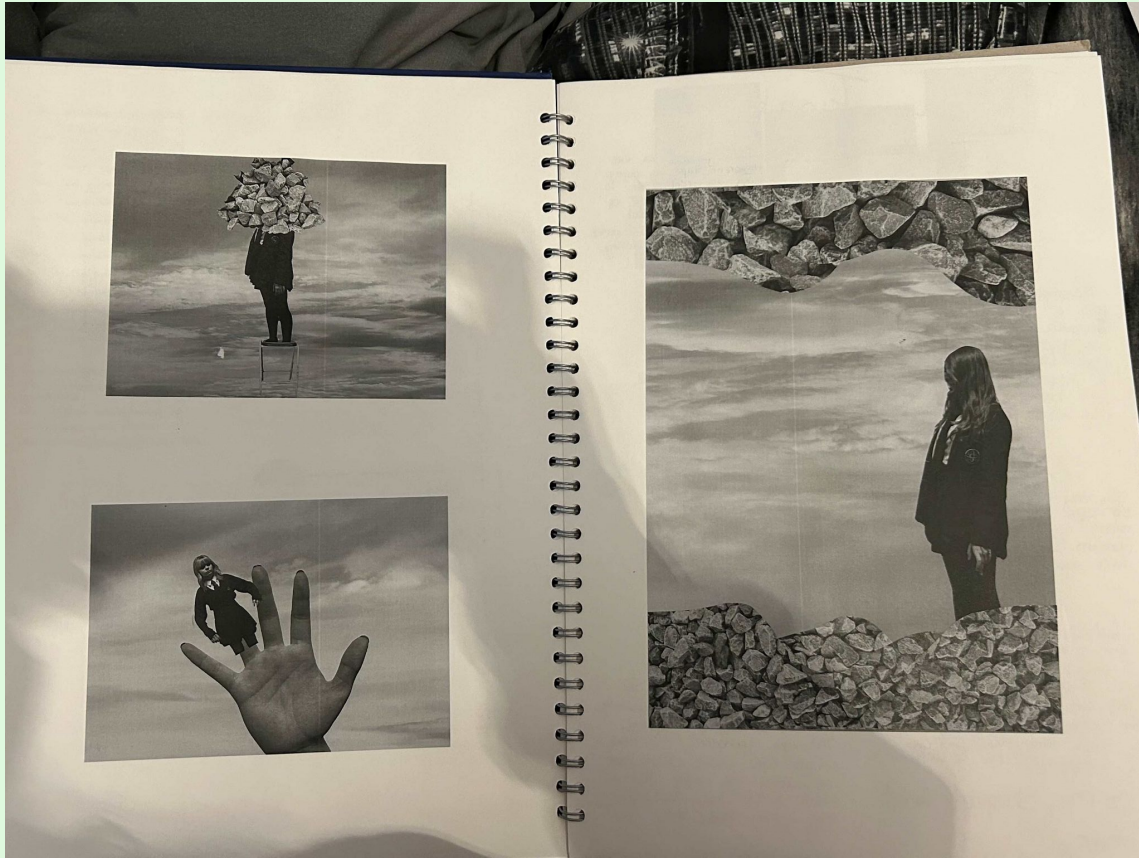




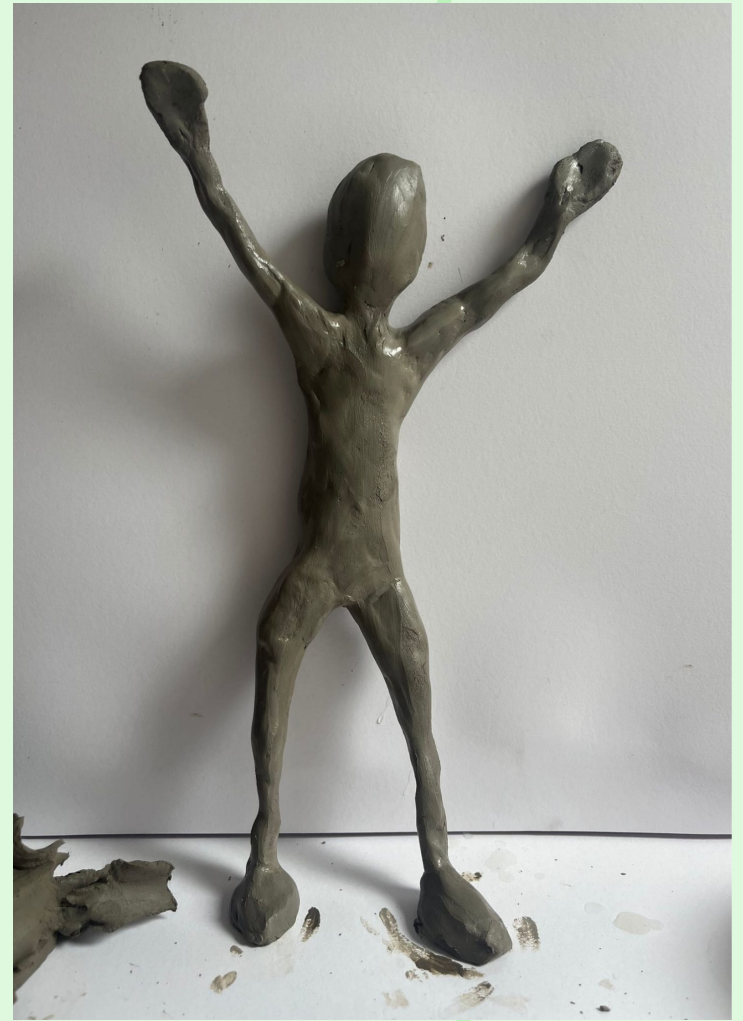


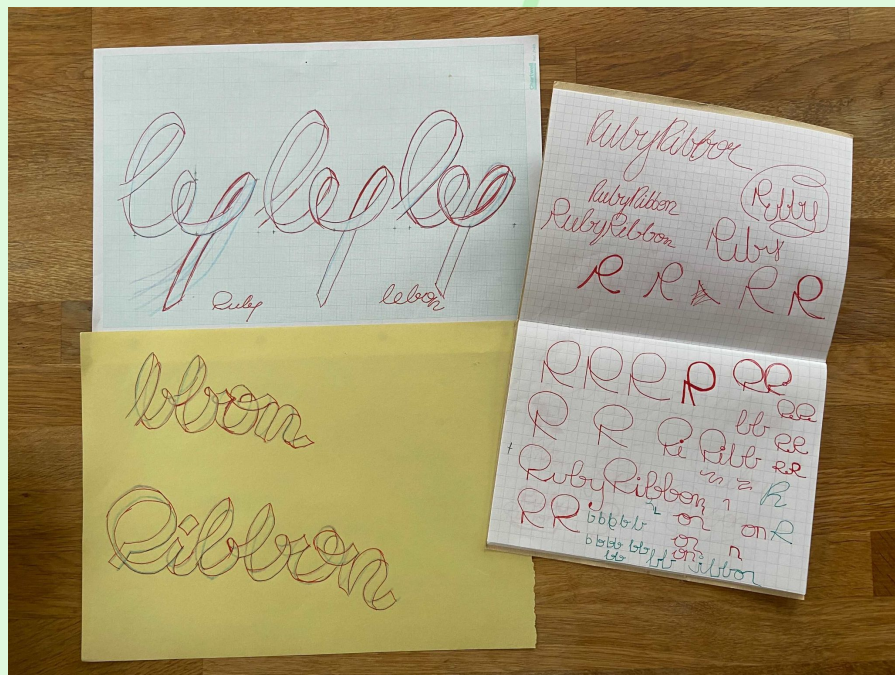
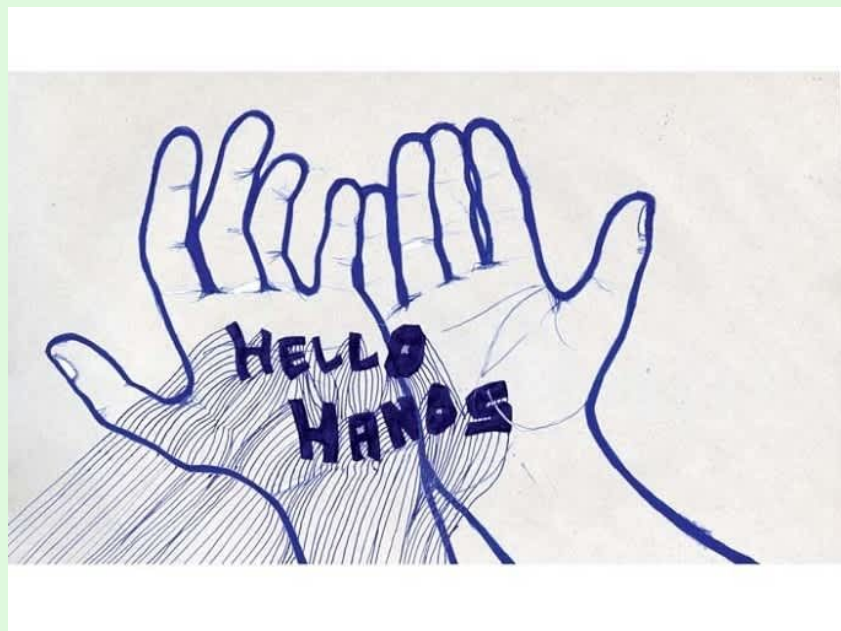


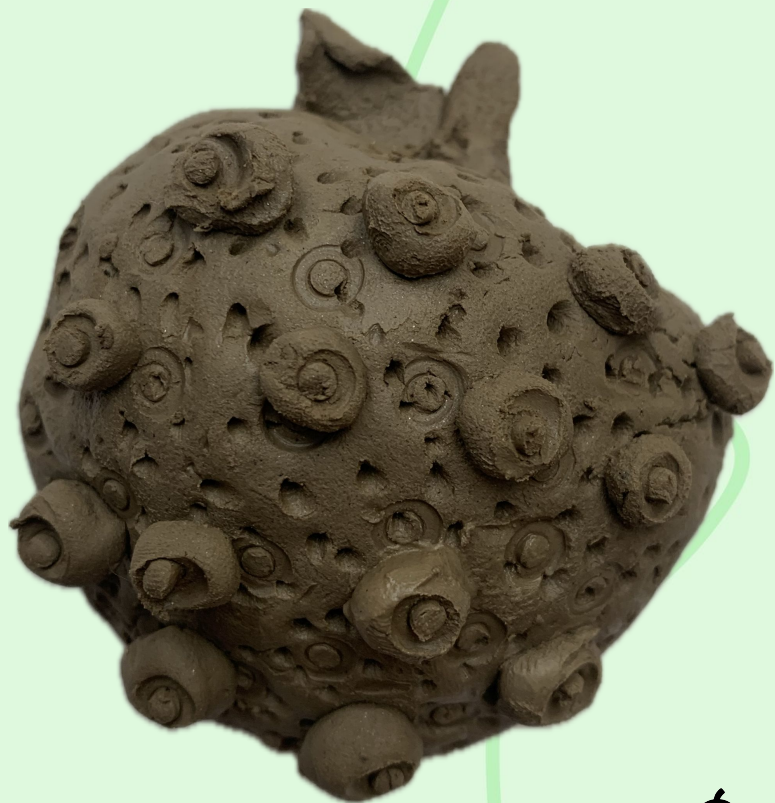




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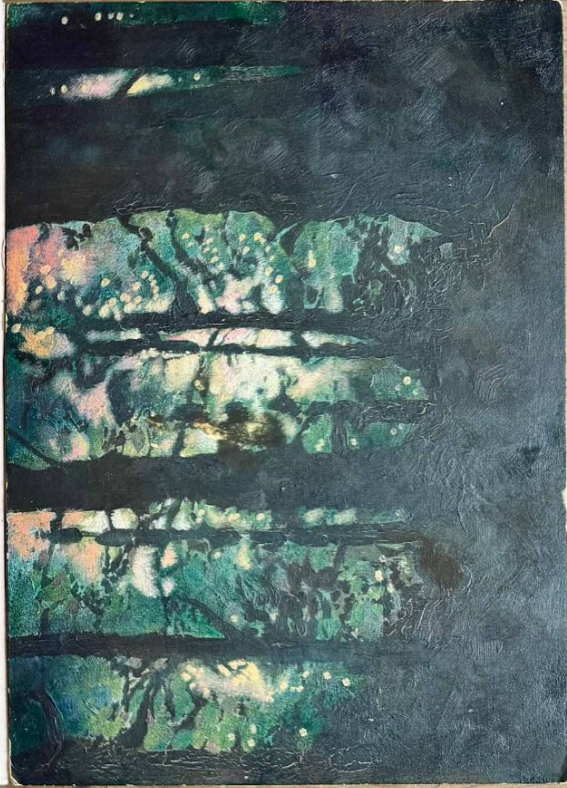
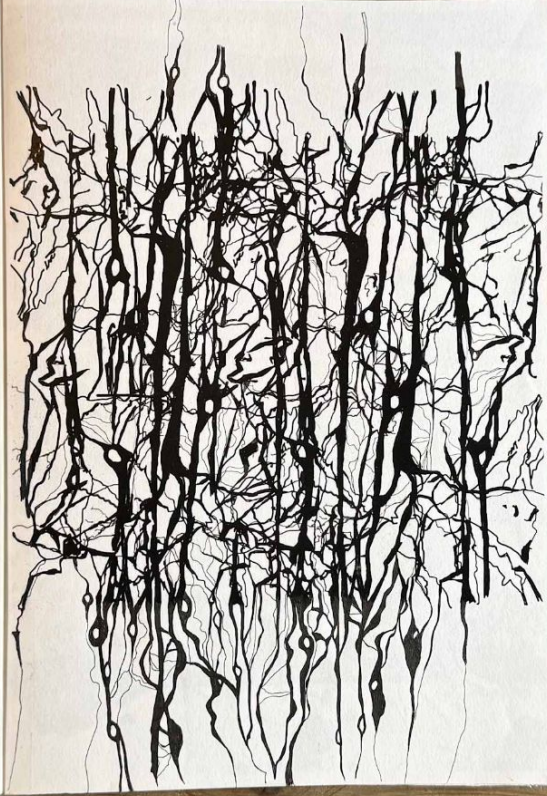
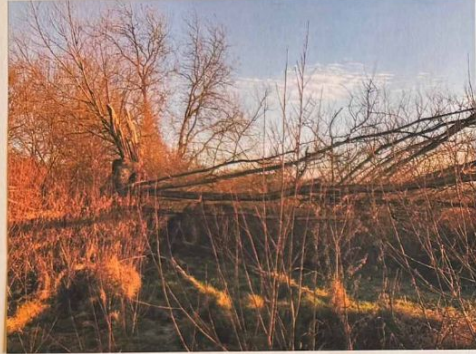








Developing ideas for a screen print of wood land
 where the trees are so dense that they can be overlapped to make
 a screen print more dense in parts - the drawing
 below has too large tree trunks that make
 repetition difficult rather than subtle - using
 the photo above might keep the woodland with
 less distinctive trees.



Why visit Oak

One-off lesson for cover / last minute teaching

A gap in your curriculum planning

An update to your curriculum/units/lessons

Setting home learning (pupil area)

Looking for inspiration

Sharing with other teachers as CPD

Year 7

Body adornment

Year 10

Recording from observation and first-hand sources

Year 2

Representing relationships

Year 5

Design an expressive letter form



Stay in touch:
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Visit Oak



From the year 5 lesson Design an expressive letter form,
from the unit Lettering: graphic design