ART TEXTILES

Transition Activity: Start a sketchbook over the summer

AS Level Textiles: Transition Activity / Holiday Project

Over the holiday, I'd like you get an A4 or A3 sketchbook and do **at least** six double pages in it.

I am attaching some examples of pages from some of the A/S students sketchbooks to inspire you.

There are two titles that you can work from:

Old and Battered – this could be anything – an old biscuit tin, rocks from the beach, leaf skeletons, fossils, old clothes…..

And

Collections – this could be fashion collections, your collections from your childhood or collections of things in a museum.

So please think along those lines when you are working in your book over the summer.

Here are some ideas for your sketchbook:

Please go to at least one exhibition of some sort – **it does not have to be a London gallery** - it could be a local art/craft show, a little museum, a small local gallery, a National Trust house - anything like that. Look at the items/the building/the wallpaper/the fabrics, do some drawings/ take some photographs, collect some postcards or leaflets and put them into your book. Do quick drawings from them. Think about what you've seen and write down your thoughts about it. You don't have to like it but you need to explain your view. **There is no right or wrong answer, it is subjective.**

Do some drawings of places you go to. Again – you do not have to go to anywhere special as inspiration can come from anywhere – the collection of plates and cups on the table after breakfast, an area of the garden, a corner of your room, your friends sitting chatting, a shop display, a view that you like, a leaf, the inside of a cupboard, animals at the zoo, the fair, a festival, a car boot sale, a pile of stones on the beach, a tree…..

Stick things in, draw from them, experiment with pens/pencils/colour.

Look at artists whose work reminds you of what you have been doing.

Use sites like Pinterest to start making boards of things that interest you.

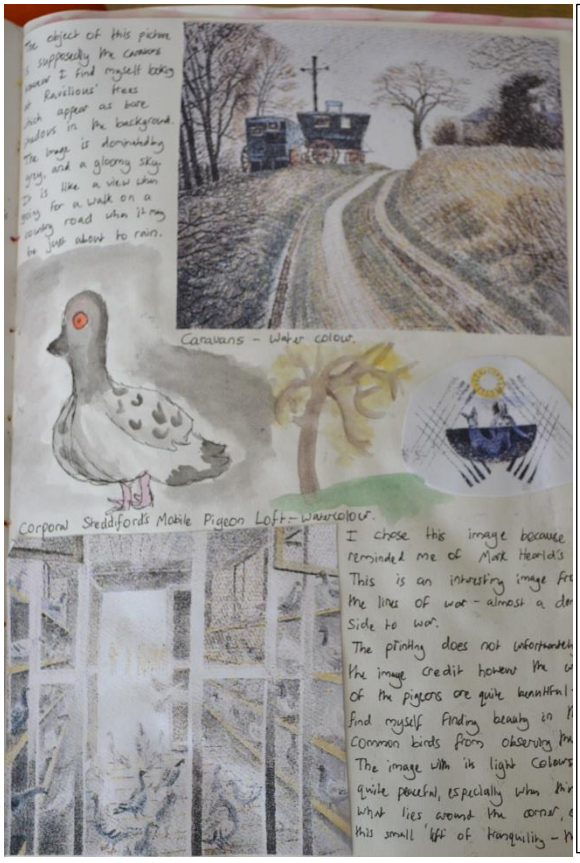
Do a bit of sewing or designing and think about how what you have done might translate into a textile print/a piece of clothing/a bag/a

piece of embroidery/a felt piece/a hat/a tablecloth/a hanging/a weaving/a cushion cover/a three-dimensional piece…
Try to do a little bit every day and think of your book as a kind of journal. Don't worry about it – there is no right or wrong. Do not be afraid of drawing or painting, just have a go.
When we get back in September, we'll be using what you've done as a starting point so it's very important that you get **something** into your book.

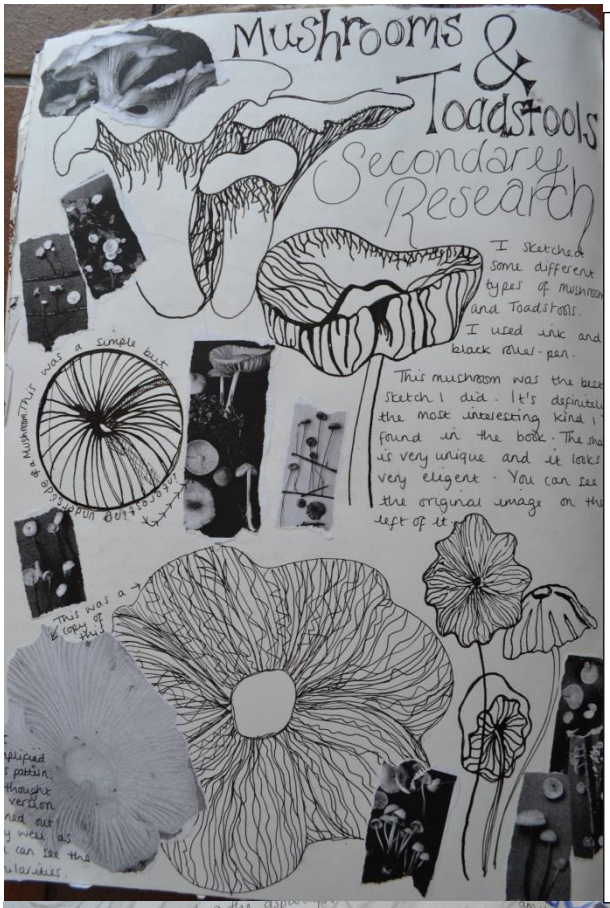
Please invest in a workbox with a padlock so that you can start to collect things -threads/beads/scraps/scissors/needles/pins/tape measures/pencils/paintbrushes etc. Jumble sales, car boot sales and charity shops are great sources for textile treasures. Make sure the box got your name on it.

If you feel stuck or daunted by any of this, please email me:
Claire@henleycol.ac.uk
I will check my emails regularly and will get back to you. Try to enjoy putting the book together – DO NOT WORRY ABOUT IT – and I look forward to seeing you in September.
Claire

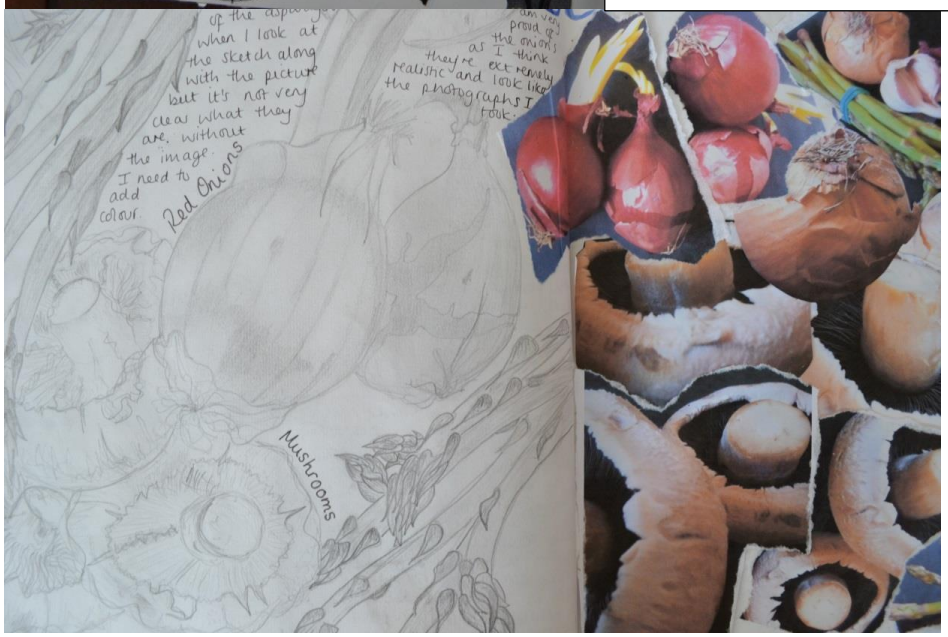
Quick sketch in pen and ink. Nice and lively and full of great areas which could be used as starting points for print/paint/batik designs.



A page with images from the artist Eric Ravilious. The student has used the colours from the paintings to colour the white page and has done drawings inspired by the paintings.

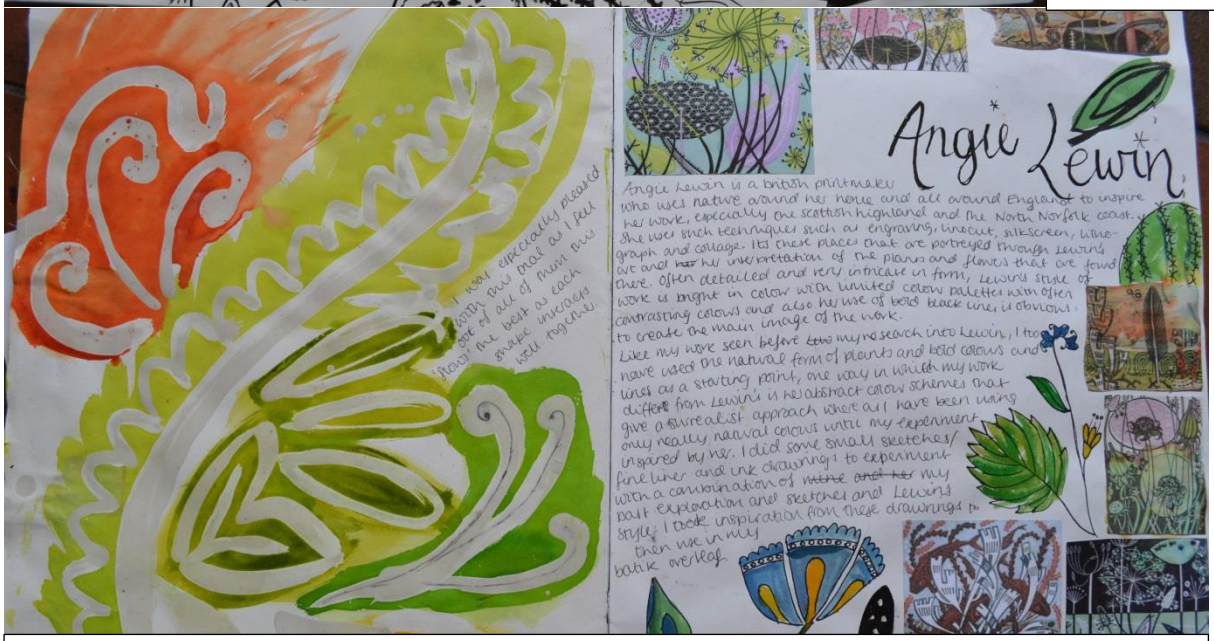


The students has looked at a book of toadstools and used the photographs as starting points for her own pen-and-ink drawings. These were subsequently turned into a screen print used to make some three-dimensional toadstools



Photographs from magazines used as inspiration for students' own pencil studies.

Drawings done from photographs which have been turned into embroideries.



The student has looked at Angie Lewin. She has done her own drawings and paintings and tried a batik.
Note all the comments she's made about what she has done!

Drawings and experiments.

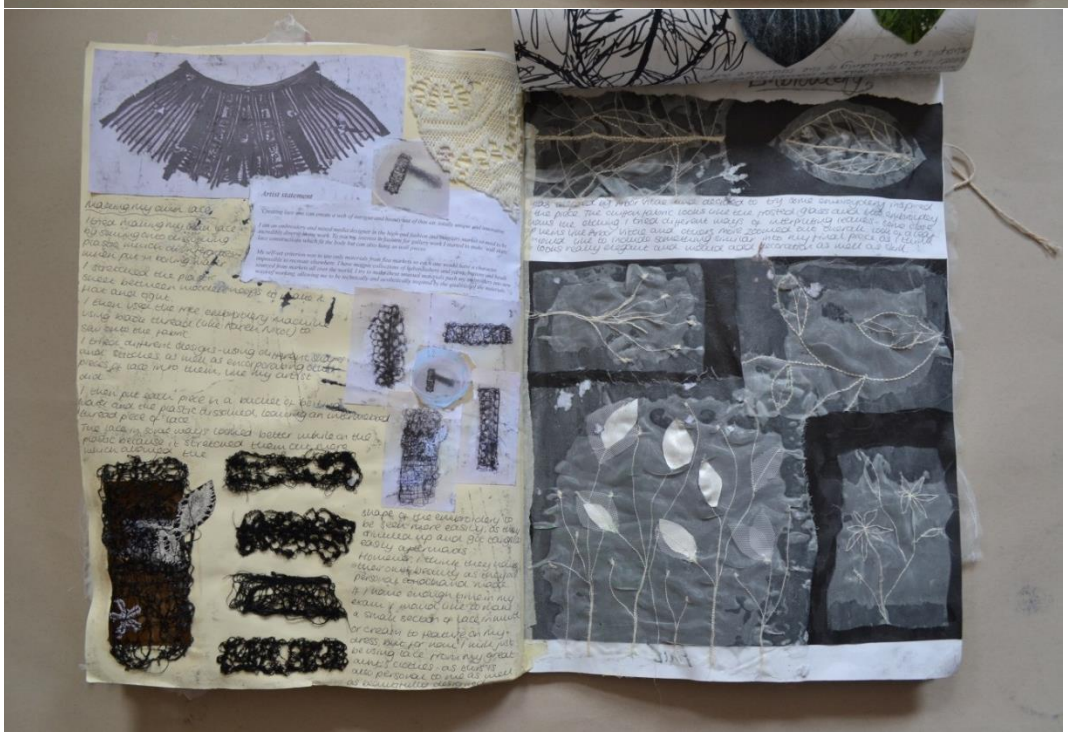
Photographs and drawings direct from a trip to Kew Gardens

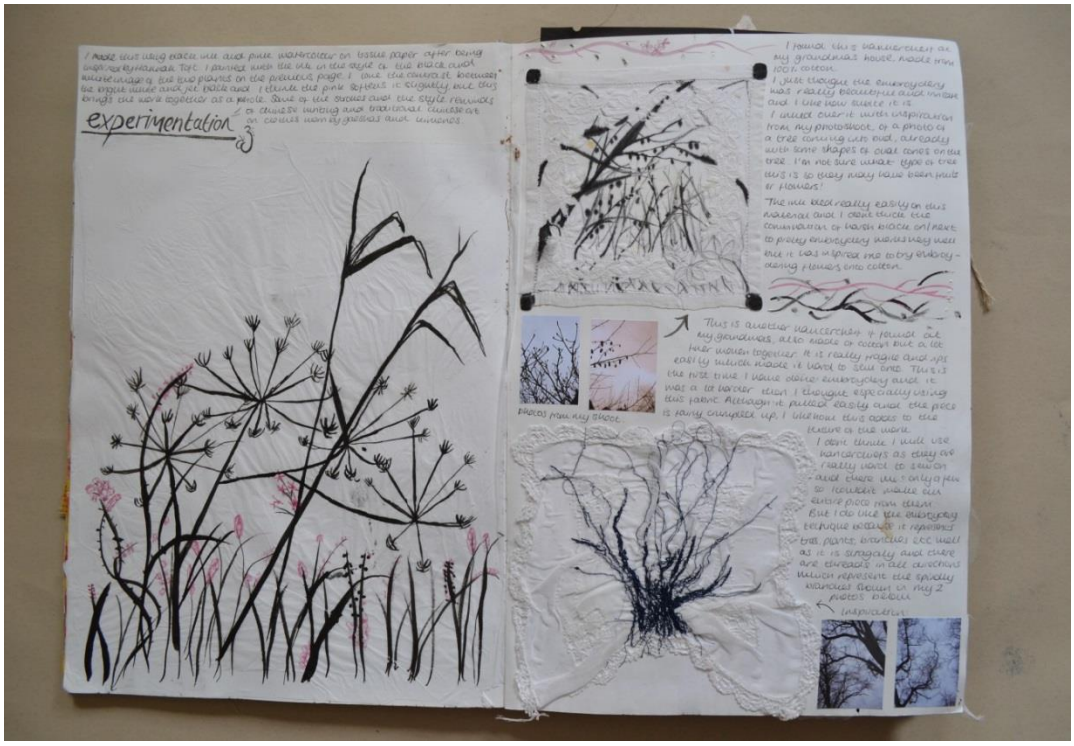
Photographs taken by the student, magazine images that tie-in all leading to drawings, felting, and embroidery.

A photograph and drawings from observation which led to an embroidery.

Look at the way the students have taken simple starting points and expanded them in a personal way.
Writing about what you have done is called annotation and it's a good idea to get into the habit as soon as possible. It helps to get your thoughts and ideas into order and shows the teacher and examiner that you are thinking and how the processes (felt/batik/printing etc.) are done.

The HENLEY College

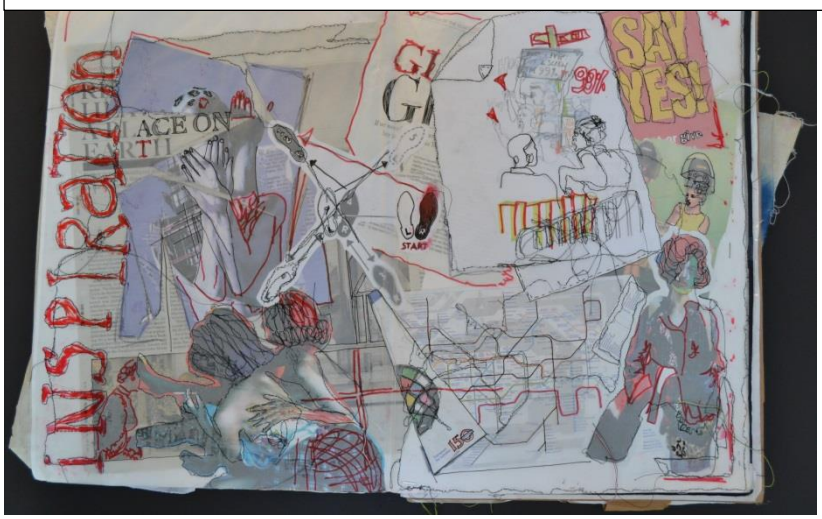


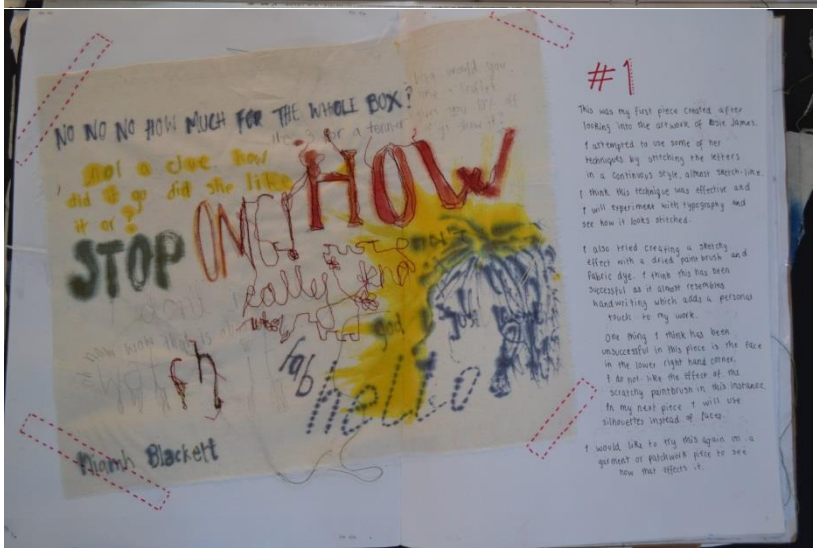


Above – drawings and student's own photographs from nature that have been translated into an embroidery onto an old handkerchief and a drawing onto cloth.

Left – the dress designs fold out to reveal a page of information about the artist Errol Le Cain. The scribbly bits on the left are embroideries of snowflakes onto paper. The student has used the artist and his work as a starting point for her own drawings and embroideries.

The photographer, Wilson Bentley was the inspiration for this page of drawn, fabric, batik and paper snowflakes. The student has used paper, ink, paint, pencil and pastel to depict the snowflakes.





pages that are full of ideas that could be taken further and developed.

I hope that by now you are beginning to get to grips with what makes good, strong sketchbook pages.
If you can include:
PRIMARY RESEARCH – research from real life – drawings/photos
SECONDARY RESEARCH – internet/library/magazines
DEVELOP your images and ideas
EXPERIMENT with drawing/sewing/ink/paint/whatever you have at home
And WRITE ABOUT IT ALL then you'll be well on the way!

Good Websites

V and A Museum

http://www.vam.ac.uk/

Search the collections – lots of textiles but lots of other things too.

Crafts Council

Craftscouncil.org.uk/

Explore the site and the collections

ETSY and FOLKSY

Websites where artists can sell their crafts

PINTEREST

A million ideas here…

?????

Send me any websites that you find and like!

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