

# Visual Arts

## **Nature of Visual Arts**

The course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries by exploring the visual arts within and across a variety of local, regional, national, international and intercultural contexts. It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media. Through inquiry, investigation, reflection and creative application, visual arts students develop an appreciation for the expressive and aesthetic diversity in the world around them, becoming critically informed makers and consumers of visual culture.

## **Teaching Approach**

The visual arts course is student-centred and places student exploration at the heart of a holistic learning experience. Students have a free choice to identify, select and explore artists, artworks, cultural contexts, and media and forms for study which interest and excite them. They also have freedom to present their studies in a variety of creative ways, including presentations, demonstrations and exhibitions.

Students are required to investigate the core syllabus areas through exploration of the following practices:

- theoretical practice
- art-making practice
- curatorial practice.

The table below shows how these activities link with the core syllabus areas at both SL and HL.

	<b>Visual arts in context</b>	<b>Visual arts methods</b>	<b>Communicating visual arts</b>
<b>Theoretical practice</b>	Students examine and compare the work of artists from different cultural contexts.  Students consider the contexts influencing	Students look at different techniques for making art.  Students investigate and compare how and why different techniques	Students explore ways of communicating through visual and written means.  Students make artistic choices about how to most effectively

	their own work and the work of others.	have evolved and the processes involved.	communicate knowledge and understanding.
<b>Art-making practice</b>	<p>Students make art through a process of investigation, thinking critically and experimenting with techniques.</p> <p>Students apply identified techniques to their own developing work.</p>	<p>Students experiment with diverse media and explore techniques for making art.</p> <p>Students develop concepts through processes that are informed by skills, techniques and media.</p>	<p>Students produce a body of artwork through a process of reflection and evaluation, showing a synthesis of skill, media and concept</p>
<b>Curatorial practice</b>	<p>Students develop an informed response to work and exhibitions they have seen and experienced.</p> <p>Students begin to formulate personal intentions for creating and displaying their own artworks.</p>	<p>Students evaluate how their ongoing work communicates meaning and purpose.</p> <p>Students consider the nature of "exhibition" and think about the process of selection and the potential impact of their work on different audiences.</p>	<p>Students select and present resolved works for exhibition.</p> <p>Students explain the ways in which the works are connected.</p> <p>Students discuss how artistic judgments impact the overall presentation.</p>

**Where does it lead to?**

The course is designed for students who want to go on to study visual arts in higher education as well as for those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through visual arts. Careers for art students include, but are not limited to: Graphic Design, 3D Product Design, Fine Art, Fashion/Textiles, Spatial Design, Digital/Multi-Media and Photography.