VCE Art

Year 11

Unit 1: This unit focuses on artworks as objects and examines how formal qualities such as art elements, materials and techniques communicate meaning. Students examine artists in different societies and cultures, and historical periods, and develop their own points of view about the meanings and messages of the studied artwork. They explore the work of artists who have been inspired by ideas relating to personal and cultural identity. In this unit, students will study at least three artists and at least one artwork from each of the selected artists.

Unit 2: In this unit students become aware that artworks can be created as forms of cultural expression for specific contexts, such as street art, public art, art produced for festivals, newspaper cartoons, art prizes, curated exhibitions and performance art. Artworks can celebrate specific events, ideas or beliefs or they can commemorate people, institutions and social movements. They can reinforce a social group’s sense of its own power and importance or they can challenge social attitudes and assumptions. Students begin to see the importance of an artwork’s cultural context and analyse the varying social functions that art can serve. Students use the Formal Framework and the Cultural Framework to examine the different ways that artists interpret and present social issues.

Year 12

Unit 3: In this unit, students study selected artists who have produced works before 1970 and selected artists who have produced works since 1970. Students use all the Analytical Frameworks for interpreting and analysing the meaning of artworks. Applied together, these Analytical Frameworks help students to appreciate how an artwork may contain different aspects and layers of meaning and to acknowledge the validity of diverse interpretations. They explore ways in which ideas and issues can influence the making and interpretation of art. Students link their growing theoretical understanding of art in Area of Study 1 to their own practice in Area of Study 2. Students apply imagination and creativity to develop their ideas through a visual language. Their artmaking is supported through investigation, exploration and application of a variety of materials and techniques. Students develop confidence in using the language and content of the Analytical Frameworks in their reflection of the formal, personal, cultural and contemporary aspects of their own developing artworks.

Unit 4: In Unit 4 students continue to develop personal points of view and informed opinions about art ideas or issues and support them with evidence. They build their learning and conceptual understanding around the discussion and debate of broad themes or issues, such as the role of art in society, and consider how themes and issues are communicated through artworks. They discuss and debate how art may affect and change the way people think. They examine and analyse their own viewpoints and those of others through commentaries and use this information to formulate and support their own developing points of view. Commentaries include information from visiting artists and speakers, lecturers or guides in galleries, film, pod- or vodcasts, online programs devoted to specific artists or styles, printed material in newspapers, periodicals, journals, catalogues or texts by art critics and historians.

Assessment: Each unit has two outcomes that must be satisfactorily completed in order to pass each unit. Students will need to satisfactorily complete both the practical and theoretical components of the course.

Suggested Pre-requisites: There are no pre-requisites for the study of Art. It would be beneficial if the student had completed a year 10 visual art or a unit one or two art subject (to complete unit 3 and 4).