

Arts Award Initiative: Monthly Round-Up – July 2025

Learning from Artists – Inspiration in Action

This month, we're celebrating the amazing ways your young artists have been inspired by others. At all levels of the Arts Award, young people are encouraged to explore, engage with, and learn from artists past and present, through viewing exhibitions, research, and practical experience.

Even the greats learned from those who came before. Did you know that Leonardo da Vinci became an apprentice in Andrea del Verrocchio's workshop at just 14 years old? Learning from other artists has always been part of the journey, and your young artists are continuing that tradition beautifully.

Artists have long inspired each other. Van Gogh, a Post Impressionist artist, learnt from the Impressionists and was friendly with many of them. He was the subject of two incredible portraits:

- 'Van Gogh' by Toulouse Lautrec
- 'The Painter of Sunflowers' by Paul Gauguin

E followed in their footsteps at **Explore level**, by learning from Van Gogh's world, and she created her own stunning version of *Starry Night*.



She then curated her very own exhibition for her relatives—an expressive and thoughtful body of work that clearly shows how deeply she has connected with her work for her Award. I'm sure you'll agree that this is an amazingly creative selection of work.

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Mathematics, Photography & Purpose

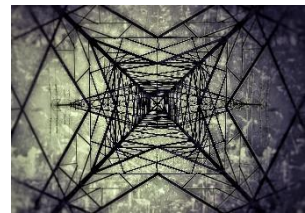
J, a talented mathematical artist, used photography to expand his creative mathematical practice as part of his **Gold level** challenge. His work was influenced by:

- A collaboration with **Ruth Purdy**
- The *Landscape Photographer of the Year 2022* exhibition
- The elegant forms in **Barbara Hepworth's** sculptures

His photographs captured visual patterns and textures, which he then transformed into mathematical art.



He took these patterns back to his mathematical art, which inspired him to create this amazing piece



But J's journey didn't stop there. His research into Ruth Purdy, **Executive Director of Make It Better CIC**, opened up new ideas for his musical and artistic future.

'Researching Ruth has helped me understand one of the pathways into being a professional artist. I am not yet sure of my future plans but I am encouraged to go to university. I think it is great that she specialised when she was older so you don't have to decide early on and as such I can see how my career unfolds and develops. ... Meeting Ruth and seeing her amazing work with community groups and neurodiverse people has put a seed of enthusiasm for community work in my musical career. I would love to engage more directly with my audience in a similar way.'

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Creative Research in a Zine

For her **Bronze Level** artist research project, **C** explored the work of **Kat Evans**. Instead of a standard report, C expressed her learning through a fantastic **zine**, bursting with both facts and artwork. This kind of inventive presentation not only shows strong research skills but also demonstrates a powerful creative voice.



Looking Ahead

We're so proud of all our young artists for looking outward and connecting deeply with the people, stories, and influences that shape the creative world. Whether you're crafting a zine, curating an exhibition, or reflecting on how you want to impact others, your work is meaningful and inspiring.

Keep learning from each other, keep creating, and most of all, keep sharing your voice.

Throughout September, we will be holding our annual 'Not back to school' sale, in which we will be offering a 30% discount on all non-themed study packs. Please note that themed packs will not be reduced in the sale.

Until next month,
The Arts Award Initiative Team