



GOLDEN THREAD GALLERY

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Junior Newsletter



Happy New Year and welcome back to the Golden Thread Junior Gallery's monthly newsletter! In this special edition we're going to be learning all about Diversity, what it is and how it makes the world a better place. We will celebrate six important and influential artists of colour, and explore why representation and seeing people like you, your family and friends reflected in art and culture is important. Inside you'll also find fun art activities to keep you creating at home and discover our Work of the Month!



Diversity and NI

Northern Ireland is becoming a more diverse place to live, with many different communities and cultures, religions and languages. And art in all its different forms is important to all of us!

Diversity means ...

Diversity means recognising and celebrating our differences. Our world is a diverse place, with so many different cultures, races, stories, bodies, abilities and languages. How boring would it be if we all looked and thought the same way? If the rainbow was just one colour it wouldn't be as beautiful!



Things that make us different from others also make us special. We are all human, but we are all unique. It's important to embrace our differences and be proud of who we are!

Prejudice and Discrimination

Just as it's important to embrace our differences, we must also respect them. Nobody should be treated differently because of how they look, where they come from, their religion or their culture. It's not just wrong - it's against the law.

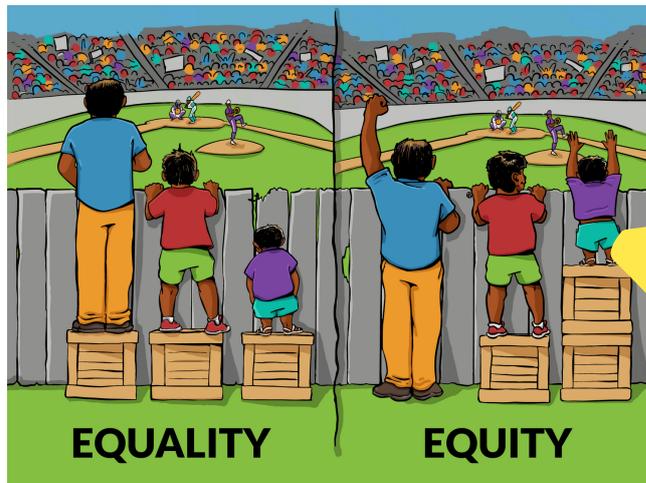


Prejudice means 'to judge before'. It's an unreasonable dislike for someone based on their gender, race, religion or where they come from, before you know anything more about them.

Discrimination is when a person or a society acts on prejudice and treats a person or a group of people less fairly than others. People who are discriminated against may suffer from unemployment, lower wages, abuse, or violence.

Racism is prejudice and discrimination based on skin colour, culture and religion. A lot of racism comes from history - for centuries, white Europeans took control of much of the world and argued that they were better than the people from countries they ruled over, who had brown or black skin. Over time, white European culture came to be seen as 'normal' and anything else seen as 'different.'

Equality or Equity?



Equality means that everyone is treated exactly the same. Sounds fair, right? But because inequality and unfairness have been part of every society for a long time, today everyone is not in the same position. So, suddenly treating everyone exactly the same is actually not fair. That is where Equity comes in! It means that we recognise that people are in different places with different needs.

For example, on Sports Day if you are on the running track for a race, the runners don't all start from exactly the same place. That would mean the runner on the inside would have a shorter distance to run than the runner on the outside lane! Winning would be easier for them. To really make it fair, starting points for the inside lanes are a bit further back. Equity!



How can you be a social justice hero?

Social justice happens when everyone in society is given equal rights and opportunities and are treated without prejudice. When organisations or a country's Government make decisions or act in ways that discriminate against someone because of their race, religion, age, gender or sexuality, this is a **social injustice**.

We all need to fight against prejudice and discrimination! Standing up for justice and fairness is something we can do every day, in lots of ways. Here are some actions you can take:

Use your voice!

Tell a teacher or an adult if you see someone making fun of a person because of what they look like, their race, culture or religion. Let the person know you don't think it's ok.

Be Respectful!

Remember, we all come from a culture and nationality that might seem different to someone else, but we would not like to be disrespected because of it. It's important to understand that we aren't all the same, and that's a good thing!

Be Curious!

Ask questions! For example, "Why are certain people shown as bad guys in films more often than others?" or "Why do so many dolls and action figures I see in shops and on TV have white skin?"

Draw your own Social Justice Hero.

What do they look like? What do they do to help? Are they really brave? Is kindness their superpower?



Diversity in the Arts

It's important for art galleries and museums to show artists of all genders, races, religions and cultures, not only so that everyone feels represented and welcome, but because art should always be a place of boundless possibilities and ideas! It's cool to see how other people view the world!

Did you know...

A study of 40,000 artworks owned by top American Museums found that just 15% were by artists who weren't white.



In the history of art, diversity has not been celebrated or recognised as it should have been. If you search 'Top 10 Greatest Artists' on the internet, the results are all white men! While these 10 artists are certainly great... is this a true reflection of all great art, or is it a reflection of old ways of thinking and inequalities in the world? Let's make sure we look around and ask who has been missed out!

Artists of Colour

We want to introduce you to **six important artists** whose work has had a big influence on global art and culture. Each of them comes from a different ethnic background, a different country and some even from a different period of time - but all of them created artworks which explored cultural identity (who you are because of the community / society you grew up in) and issues like segregation, where a person or a group of people are kept apart and not allowed access to many things, such as education or housing, because of their race, religion or where they were born.



Historical Artists



'Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird', Frida Kahlo, 1940

Frida Kahlo

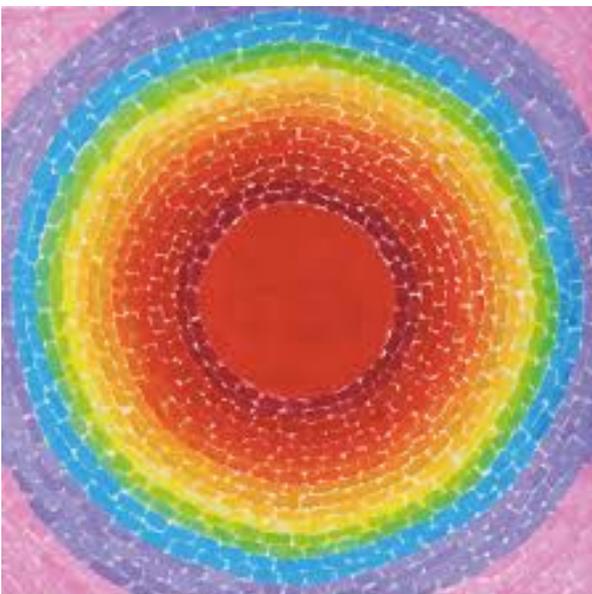
Frida Kahlo (born. 1907, died. 1954) was a Mexican painter. She is particularly well known for her colourful portraits and self-portraits. She is celebrated in Mexico for her attention to Mexican and indigenous culture and by feminists for her depiction of the female experience and form. Through her paintings she explored ideas of identity, gender, class and race. She spoke out against sexism and racism. She is recognised as one of the most significant artists of the twentieth century. To this day feminists and the LGBTQ+ community look to Frida Kahlo as an icon of activism.

Jean-Michel Basquiat

Jean-Michel Basquiat (born. 1960, died. 1988) was an American artist. His dad was Haitian and his mum was Puerto Rican. He started as a graffiti artist and then began creating paintings that explored issues such as poverty, wealth, segregation and integration. At age 22 he became the youngest artist ever to show their work at the Whitney Biennale in New York. In 2017 his painting Untitled (LA Painting) sold for £85million, the highest amount ever paid for an American artists work at auction.



Untitled, Jean-Michel Basquiat



'A Fantastic Sunset', Alma Thomas, 1970

Alma Thomas

Alma Thomas (born. 1891, died 1978) was an acclaimed African-American artist and teacher who lived and worked in Washington, D.C. She is known for her amazing, colourful abstract paintings inspired by the nature she saw around her, such as trees and flowers. Thomas grew up in the US southern state of Georgia. Because of racist policies like segregation, Thomas did not attend her first art class until she was a teenager, when her family moved to Washington. It's believed she was the first woman in America to ever earn a bachelor's degree in art.

Contemporary Artists



'Naming the Money', Lubaina Himid, 2004

Lubaina Himid

Lubaina Himid CBE (born. 1954) is a British artist, curator and university professor. Himid was born in Zanzibar, Tanzania and now works and lives in England. She mainly works in painting, drawing, installation and printmaking. Her art looks at reclaiming black culture, stories and identities that have been deliberately hidden and ignored for centuries because of the deeds of colonial empires, including the slave trade. Himid won the Turner Prize (a very famous art prize) in 2017.

Ibrahim El-Salahi

Ibrahim El-Salahi (born. 1930) is a Sudanese artist who lives and works in England. His paintings and drawings combine the styles of African, Arab and Islamic art. His recent work explores his joy for life, his spiritual faith and his place in the world. He is known as one of the leading modernist artists of our time. Many of his famous paintings reflect his belief that 'sooner or later, people will rise against tyranny.' The importance and influence of his art was recognised in a major exhibition in the Tate Modern in 2013.



'Vision of the Tomb', Ibrahim El-Salahi, 1965



'Bang', Ai Weiwei, 2013

Ai Weiwei

Ai Weiwei (born. 1957) is a Chinese artist and activist. He creates sculptures, installations and photography work. He uses art to advocate for human rights like freedom of speech, freedom of expression, the value of human life, and individual rights, especially in China where he has clashed with the harsh government regime. He was chosen to design the flag to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Discover Different Cultures Through Art

This month we want you to get researching! Your task is to look up one example of cultural art and look at some of the symbols, styles and ideas it uses. You will see many that have directly influenced Western Art! There are so many you could choose from: Chinese art, Aboriginal art, Polynesian art, Native American art, African Art, Arabic Art, Japanese Art, etc. Find one you like and create your very own! Here are a couple of examples you can start with if you are stuck...

Weekend Task



Aboriginal Art



Japanese Art



Work of the Month

Riley (aged 8) and Flynn (aged 5)

These two brilliant Junior Artists took part in our Christmas Zoom workshop where we made these lovely paper Wreaths! Well done boys, we think they look fantastic!

Don't forget, all our online workshops are always available free on the GTG website for you to do at home!

Can you make each hand holding up the World a different colour?
Try to make your picture as colourful and diverse as possible!



Share your work with us!

We've missed having you in the gallery and your amazing art hanging in our Junior Gallery! We would love to see what you have been working on at home. You can send your artwork to us via post, or simply send us a picture of your masterpiece via email or social media. Please make sure you have the permission of your parent or guardian beforehand.

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