

Teachers' Guide to using the resources produced for UK Disability History Month 2017.



Theme: Disability and Art



We have produced resources examining
a) the representation of disabled people across time and culture.

b) artists who were themselves disabled.

c) with National Disability Arts Collection and Archive (NDACA) the history of the Disability Arts Movement, which has sought since 1970s to promote the work of disabled artists and to challenge the oppression disabled people continue to face.

UKDHM FOUNDATIONS

UKDHM runs every year from 22nd November to 22nd December. This covers HIV/AIDS Day (1st December), International Day of People with Disabilities (3rd December) International Human Rights' Day (10th December). It follows on directly from Anti-Bullying Week (19th to 23rd November). Disabled pupils and students (70–80%) receive the most name calling and harassment in our schools and colleges.

We aim to:

- Challenge disability and its root across time and cultures. ('Disability is a form of social oppression involving the social imposition of restrictions of activity on people with physical, mental and hidden impairments and the socially engendered undermining of them.' UKDHM adheres to the Social Model of Disability).
- Celebrate the lives of Disabled People now and in the past
- Continue to strive for Equality for all Disabled People
- Recognise that challenging sexism, racism and homophobia intersect with the oppressive attitudes and discrimination which is disability
- Interrogate the past to learn how Disabled People can use this experience to achieve full and equal rights in society.

This is our eighth year. Resources on our theme: *Disability and the Visual Arts*. Previous topics: *Disability and Language including Theatre* (2016), *Portrayal of Disability: Then and Now – Moving Image, Film and TV* (2015), *War and Impairment: The Social Consequences of Disablement* (2014), *Celebrating Our Struggle for Independent Living: No Return to the Institution or Isolation* (2013), *Hate Crime and the origins of Hate Crime* (2012), *Campaigning for Equality* (2011), *Education* (2010).

RESOURCES FOR 2017

A: Broadsheet on Disability and Visual Art

Available in print, [pdf](#) or [word](#) format.

<http://www.ukdhm.org/2017-broadsheet>

12 page illustrated analysis providing essential background for teachers. This examines our three themes with a largely European perspective from ancient cultures to the present day. In Ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece there were different responses to disabled individuals. The first more positive and the latter two largely negative.

In the Middle Ages, art and artefacts show widespread representation in ordinary life in manuscript illustrations. Religious illustrations largely focus on Biblical miracle cures for 'the blind', 'lame and lepers' and those possessed by demons.

The Renaissance establishes the wealth and demand for art and many are apprenticed to learn the crafts but output is still largely about miracle cures. Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci exhibit characteristics of the autism spectrum. Northern European painters such as Bosch and Breugel, the Elder and Younger include more reference to disabled people, but still with a moral message. Rembrandt is both a visually impaired artist and one who features the humanity of disabled people. Court painters such as Velasquez and Goya feature many portrayals of disabled people. Goya with increasing deafness and mental health issues enters his Black period.

The invention of printing means mass produced illustrations carry political and moral messages to a largely illiterate population. Several leading impressionists have visual impairments which impact on their genre. Picasso's Blue Period, brought on by depression over his friend's suicide, influences much of his early work. Blake, Lautrec, Van Gogh and Kahlo are disabled artists whose condition fundamentally shapes their work. Disability was also used as a metaphor for social decline in the works of German Expressionists such as Kirchner

and Otto Dix. Frida Kahlo is the first artist to make her impairments the central focus of her work. Female artists such as Sigrid Hjerten and Camille Claudel have their creativity eclipsed by male associates and develop mental health issues. This was mirrored by the more successful Anglo-Portuguese artist, Paula Rego. Psychiatrist Hans Prinzhorn collected the work of 'outsider' inhabitants of mental institutions. Buffet continues with championing 'outsider art' as 'Art Brut'. From 1970s, an increasing number of disabled people are trained as artists with the expansion of higher education, forming the Disability Arts Movement, initially to achieve enforceable civil rights for disabled people, more recently creating a space for disabled people's self-representation. Brit Art leads to major artists such as Shonibare and Quinn with major works representing disability.

B. Timeline

Illustrates 50 artists who were or are disabled or featured disabled subjects. There are illustrated essays on each of these for upper secondary and college students <http://ukdhm.org/resources/2017-disability-and-the-visual-arts/artists-and-disability/>

Younger pupils will need this material simplified. <http://ukdhm.org/2017-timeline/>

C. Illustrated pamphlet on the NDACA project covering the development of the Disability Arts Movement.

<http://worldofinclusion.com/v3/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NDACA-Booklet-1.pdf>

This is an overview of the Archive and what it will contain and can be linked to the struggle to achieve Anti-Disability Discrimination Legislation in the UK in 1995. <http://ukdhm.org/the-disability-discrimination-act-1995-the-campaign-for-civil-rights/>

D. Four Animations on the Disability Arts Movement and related activities and resource sheets

<http://ukdhm.org/disability-arts-movement-in-uk/>

1. *The Social Model*

<https://youtu.be/kmAfpmGO7DU>
2.43 minutes

Activity Sheet Page 1

http://ukdhm.org/v2/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UKDHM_NDACA_Activities_1_01.pdf

Page 2

http://ukdhm.org/v2/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UKDHM_NDACA_Activities_1_02.pdf

2. *The National Disability Arts Collection and Archive*

<https://youtu.be/WuxTvM-bG1g>
2.23mins.

Activity Sheet

http://ukdhm.org/v2/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UKDHM_NDACA_Activities_2_01.pdf

3. *Portraiture & Representation*

<https://youtu.be/FUioF9ZdCJ4>
3.46 mins.

Activities

http://ukdhm.org/v2/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UKDHM_NDACA_Activities_3_01.pdf

4. *The Disability Arts Movement: Arts & Activism infused*

<https://youtu.be/b50RtHfaAFg>
3.36 mins.

Activities

http://ukdhm.org/v2/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UKDHM_NDACA_Activities_4_01.pdf

To help with some of the activities we have compiled resource sheets of 15 people who were strongly involved with the Disability Arts Movement.

Artist Profiles

All can be accessed at:

<http://ukdhm.org/disability-arts-movement-in-uk/>

Tony Heaton

Tanya Raabe Webber

Paddy Masefield

Nancy Willis

Julie McNamara

Jane Campbell

Ian Stanton

David Hevey

Dave Lupton

Allan Sutherland

Alan Holdsworth

E. Additional materials

1. Disabled artists' life and works for KS2 and KS3 students

<http://ukdhm.org/disabled-artists-life-and-works-for-ks2-and-ks-3-students/>

Art KS2/KS3 2 sessions examining different disabled artists' lives and works.

2. A USA take on Disability and Art for 6th formers and Art diploma students.

Art History and Disability

<http://ukdhm.org/art-history-and-disability/>

<http://arthistoryteachingresources.org/lessons/disability-in-art-history>

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

This class will look at examples of the disabled human body as it has been represented in art history. What does it mean to be human? How is the body used and represented in visual culture? How are formations of disability articulated in relation to ideas of normality, hybridity, and/or anomaly, and how do artists use visual culture to affirm or subvert notions of the normative body? From Pieter Bruegel the Elder and Diego Velázquez to Marc

- Quinn and the Chapman brothers, artists have included images of the disabled body in their work. Other artists, including Orlan and Stelarc, have used their bodies to push notions of normality. Web entry includes a Power Point of 36 images.
3. A Short History of Mental Illness in Art. From Hogarth to Van Gogh, art has challenged our understanding of mental illness. Jonathan Jones focuses on 10 artists. Suitable for KS3, 4, 5 and Diploma students.
<http://ukdhm.org/a-short-history-of-mental-illness>
 4. Disability aesthetics and the body beautiful: Signposts in the history of art
Tobin Siebers 2008- Sculpture
Signposts in the history of art
L'esthétique du handicap et la beauté du corps: des indications dans l'histoire de l'art. Interesting thesis on portrayal of the disabled body in art. Quite academic. Could be useful for teachers and students who wish to focus on this aspect. 6th form and Art colleges. <http://ukdhm.org/disability-aesthetics-and-the-body-beautiful-signposts-in-the-history-of-art-tobin-siebers-2008-sculpture>
 5. *Hogarth to Vagabondiana – Examining Two visualisations of disability in C18th* by Simon Jarrett
Examines two visualisations of disability in the eighteenth century, from William Hogarth in the middle of the century and then in a book from 1817 called Vagabondiana by John Thomas Smith, taking a nostalgic look back. Suitable for teachers, History and Art A level and Art students <http://ukdhm.org/hogarth-to-vagabondiana-examining-two-visualisations-of-disability-in-c18th-by-simon-jarrett/>
 6. Breughel painter of the people 1521–1569.
<http://www.worldofinclusion.com/res/qca/Breughel.pdf>
 7. Frida Kahlo. download
http://www.worldofinclusion.com/res/qca/FRIDA_KAHLO.doc
 8. Orion Primary, Barnet work on Disability and Art
http://www.worldofinclusion.com/res/qca/Orion_Primary_Barnet.zip