



Take One Picture 26



A Muse

Cosimo Tura

Probably 1455-60

This painting shows a very important lady sitting on a grand and unusual throne. She might be Calliope, the Muse of poetry from ancient Greek stories. Muses were magical helpers who inspired people to create art, music, stories and poems.

The lady sits tall and proud, wearing beautiful clothes. She holds a branch with small red cherries in one hand. She is not looking at us, which makes her seem mysterious and thoughtful.

Her throne is decorated with strange sea-creatures that look a bit like dolphins mixed with dragons. Above her head hangs a shell decorated with beads and coral, making the throne look even more special.

The artist, Cosimo Tura, painted lots of tiny details, from the folds in the clothing to the shining decorations.

This painting was made over 500 years ago for a duke's study in Italy. It was part of a group of paintings showing the nine Muses. Today, it helps us imagine how people in the Renaissance loved stories, learning and creativity.



Nursery - Ocean Class

Ocean Class were particularly interested in the beautiful woman – Calliope, her unusual name and that she was sat on a golden throne. We decided that we'd like to recreate Calliope's golden throne and sit ourselves on it. We posed for a picture holding a branch just like Calliope and having created our thrones we decorated them using gold paint and embellished them with pictures of seashells. Having noticed the beautiful fabric of Calliope's robe the children added their own taffeta fabric to their mini me pictures.



We explored printing using a variety of seashells on a gel plate. They used acrylic paint and we quickly realised that a restricted palette of gold and blue was the most effective. The children learned that printing involved pressing the shells down firmly and holding them in place briefly. They took a print of the image they had created.



Finally, we built a throne out of blocks and decorated it with shells before having our photo shoot where everyone had a turn at sitting on the throne.





Reception - Woodland and Forest Classes

The children in Reception were enchanted by the figure of Calliope seated on her throne. Their curiosity and imagination were sparked, leading them to explore the concept of thrones through their play. Using blocks, large outdoor construction and craft materials they designed and built a variety of thrones.



Mesmerised by the mythical creatures surrounding the throne, the children were inspired to create their own fantastical creatures through drawing and painting. Using watercolours, they explored a range of colour palettes through mixing and experimenting with different tones and shades to bring their creatures to life.

They created robes inspired by Calliope's clothing by printing with lime, sycamore, rowan and hazel leaves using a jelly press and then dressed up as Calliope. The children then acted out being Calliope for a short film.



Inspired by the scallop shell and beads in the painting they made their own jewellery by printing shells into clay and glazing them to make necklaces and jewellery holders.



The children made crowns in Forest School by harvesting willow and weaving it.



Year 1 – Rainforest and Jungle

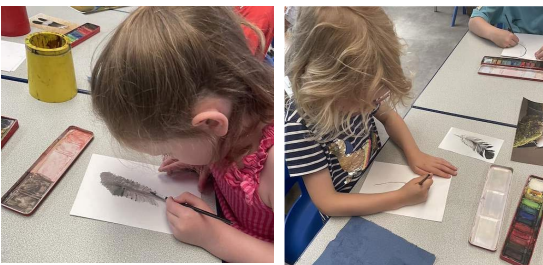
The children in year 1 were initially inspired by Calliope's hair. We took photos of braided hair from across our school as a starting point.



We learned to braid, inspired by the hair in school. We learned about how hair could be used as a map. This inspired us to create our own hair mapping art.



We were inspired by our hair maps to create a tapestry map. Children learned to plait, sew and cross-stitch to create a map of Calliope's mythical world.



Children created their own mythical sea creatures inspired by Calliope's throne. They also built a throne out of mod-roc for our muse.



Inspired by the myth of Calliope turning people into magpies, children explored observational drawing of feathers and magpies. They then created their own treasure nest.



We thought about a modern muse and created our own: Callie, The Muse of Sport. Can you spot the sports references?

Year 2 – Lake and River



Year 2 began by listening to a soundscape and imagining what this year's painting could be. They discussed the setting and the characters they thought they might see. Once the painting had been revealed, the children were fascinated by the dolphins on Calliope's throne and were keen to discuss real, imaginary and mythical creatures of the deep!



During the artistic exploration that the Take One Picture project allows, the children engaged with a series of activities, beginning with some chalk and pen drawings of shells, before moving on to create fabulous oil pastel pieces of the ocean-dwelling animals they had imagined. They then enjoyed painting watercolour seascapes and adding texture with natural materials and beads.



'Collaboration', 'teamwork' and 'grand-scale' were the themes for much of this year's project. The children were lucky enough to join forces with a parent and local artist Tom Lovelace, and our Chair of Governors Liz Stone, to co-construct some enormous abstract paintings, pictures and collages in response to Cosimo Tura's, *The Muse*. They enjoyed exploring the different ideas that resulted from working collaboratively and were thoroughly engaged in the talk needed to make decisions and ensure that everyone's contributions were included.





The Cove – Waterfall and Rockpool

Children from Rockpool Class and Waterfall Class came together each week to work on this project. Learning and creating alongside different friends helped them build confidence, strengthen friendships and develop their teamwork skills.

We began by listening to a soundscape and story before the painting was revealed, encouraging the children to imagine, question and respond like artists. They explored the artwork, recalling details, playing observation games and discussing its rich colours, textures and objects. Using tracing to develop fine motor control, they created line drawings before learning to mix watercolours to paint their own versions.



Inspired by the muse's beautiful jewellery, the children rolled, shaped and painted air-dry clay beads before threading them into necklaces, developing sculpture, colour-mixing and design skills.



They also transformed scallop shells into decorative jewellery trays using acrylic paint and sponge techniques.



Finally, they experimented with printmaking, using shells and printing ink to create patterned fabric for the muse's cloak and the exhibition tablecloth.

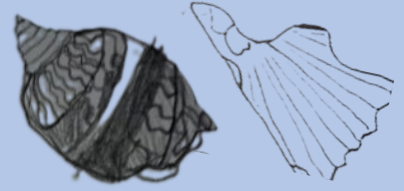


We hope you enjoy the wonderful work our children have created.

Year 3 Meadow and Stream

Year 3 took inspiration from Turo's 'The Muse' by focusing on the symbolism within the painting and how Calliope is represented in other ways than just her image.

We did continuous line drawings of shells. We found it a challenge to keep the pencil on the paper but the method allowed us to not worry about being perfect and to focus on what we see, not what we think!

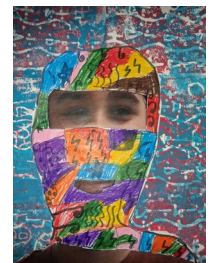
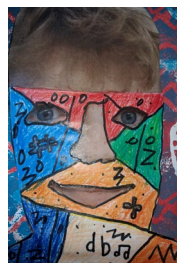
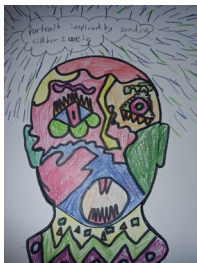


We considered what symbols represent us and sketched them in our books. We then engraved our designs onto polystyrene tiles which we used to ink-print our design onto paper as a background.



Our self-portraits were inspired by two portrait artists. Mikalene Thomas incorporates parts of photographs into her artwork, while Sandra Silberzweig create vibrant and imaginative abstract portraits.

We combined their methods to create our own self-portraits.



Calliope was the 'Muse of Epic Poetry' so we have been writing our own.

We wrote epic poems about significant events in our own lives. We also wrote group poems using poet Zohab Zee Khan's Brilliance poem format. We then filmed ourselves performing these poems.

Scan the QR Code to watch our poetry performances



Year 4—Savannah and Prairie

Year 4 were inspired by *The Muse*'s links to the ocean and nature. We completed some observational drawings of shells and explored the gardens of the school grounds. Ultimately, the dolphin / dragon – like creatures beside Calliope are what captured our attention the most and were the main inspiration for our final piece.



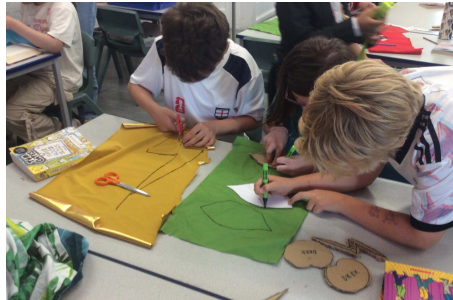
We decided to create a collaborative piece across both classes but wanted to express our individuality too. We explored colour and pattern to achieve this. Each scale represents a part of that pupil's identity.





Year 5 – Coral and Estuary

Year 5 were inspired by *The Muse*'s links to Greek mythology. Class discussion and observational drawings helped us to identify the motifs that remind us of Ancient Greek ceramic design. Some of our motifs came from scallops, tridents and wave outlines. We created large stencils of our motifs for a renaissance cape in our small groups. Observing West African prints helped us to consider different patterns and the composition of shapes across fabric.



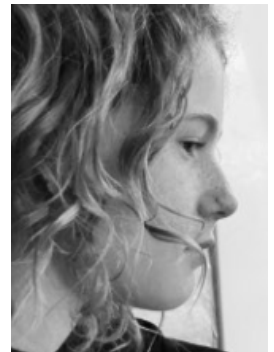
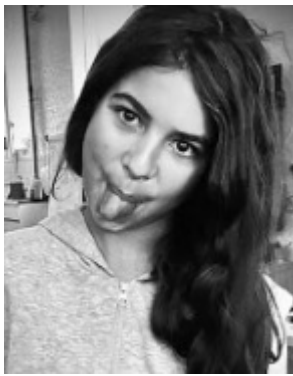
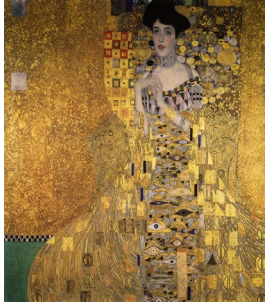
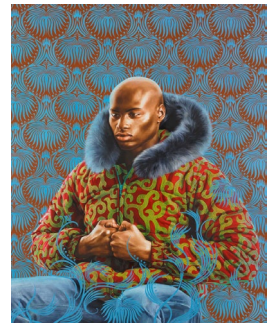
Designing a renaissance cape was important to us because of the regal details we enjoyed in *The Muse*. Some of our capes have explored different textures, and accessories that match the colour palette we made when looking at the painting.



Year 6 – Desert and Tundra



Year 6 were inspired by *The Muse*'s powerful pose to create self-portraits. We studied portraits by artists such as Gustav Klimt, Kehinde Wiley and Mickalene Thomas for inspiration and examined the different compositions, use of pattern and the gaze of the subjects.



We took portraits of each other that really showed our characters and personalities and using iPhoto, applied filters.

Next, after studying patterns by existing artists and their use of colour, shape and repetition, we designed and painted our own background. We made conscious choices about the use of complementary and analogous colours to create the desired mood and impact.



Finally, after looking to the works of Yukimi Akiba and Rosie James who create mixed-media pieces with embroidered details, we added stitched embellishments to bring texture another dimension to the completed self-portraits. We hope you enjoy the results!