



# CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

## GCSE / A LEVEL ART & DESIGN WORKSHOP

Making connections between the work of artists and our own work.

Step into a vibrant world of **colour**, **creativity** and **imagination** as students explore the spectacular sculptures of Fresh Air Sculpture through the exciting theme of **Carnival of the Animals**. This immersive day combines outdoor discovery, hands-on making and collaborative creativity, encouraging students to look closely, ask curious questions and respond to art in playful and imaginative ways. From exploring monumental sculptures in the gardens to creating their own fantastical animal-inspired artworks, students will experience a joyful celebration of movement, texture, form and self-expression.



### STRUCTURE OF THE DAY:

10.00 am

#### Arrival & Welcome

(or alternative time agreed)

Schools arrive and greeted by Emily Bird and taken to The Education Tent, where they will leave their bags and packed lunches in the tents. They will be introduced to the Education team of tutors and put into groups.



10.15 am

#### Sculpture Exploration Around the Exhibition

Small groups will explore the gardens/exhibition to look at the sculptures. Students will respond to the work first hand with an open mind and with curious questions. They will be encouraged to talk, explore and observe through drawing and in some cases physically feel the piece. Consider how the pieces have been made, what materials have been used and how they have been placed in the exhibition. Introduce the term curator and explain what a curator does, we will refer back to this at the end of the workshop when students will curate their own mini exhibition.



There will be a number of activities around the grounds that encourage students to get involved in making small ephemeral art projects based on the messaging and narrative of the sculpture.

12.00 midday

#### Lunch

Back to the Education Tent for lunch



12.30 pm

#### Making Workshop: Carnival of the Animals

See workshop process and details opposite.

2.30 pm

#### End of Workshop

Gather belongings and head back to the bus



### 12.30 PM – MAKING WORKSHOP: CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

#### INTRODUCTION & CREATIVE DISCUSSION

Artist-tutors will introduce the workshop theme and encourage students to make visual and conceptual connections between the sculptures seen in the exhibition and their own developing ideas.

#### DISCUSSION PROMPTS MAY INCLUDE:

- How can sculpture suggest movement or energy?
- Which materials best communicate celebration or carnival?
- How can colour influence mood and atmosphere?
- Does sculpture need to be realistic to communicate an idea?
- Which artists or artworks inspired you most today and why?
- How do artists balance structure, form and surface?
- What relationships exist between sculpture and the outdoor environment?



#### 1 BUILDING THE ARMATURE



Students will construct an armature using cardboard bases, brightly coloured pipe cleaners and tape.

This stage encourages experimentation with:

- Balance
- Position
- Structure
- Movement
- Number of limbs or supports

#### 2 DEVELOPING FORM & TEXTURE



Students will use air-drying clay to build onto their armatures, developing form and texture.

Pipe cleaners may remain visible or be covered with clay, fabrics or additional materials to enhance colour, texture and the sense of carnival and celebration.

#### 3 REFLECTION & ARTIST CONNECTIONS

Students will review their work from all angles, reflect on creative choices and make connections between their sculptures and the pieces seen in the exhibition.

Connections may include:

- Materials and processes
- Surface texture
- Use of colour
- Scale and balance
- Narrative and symbolism
- Sense of movement and celebration



### FINAL COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION

As a final celebration, students will curate their own collaborative exhibition by arranging their sculptures along the colourful carnival pathway.

- ✓ Consider relationships between individual artworks
- ✓ Explore how colour and form interact within the garden
- ✓ Think about placement and viewing angles
- ✓ Discuss how curators create engaging exhibitions
- ✓ Photograph the finished installation as documentation



Students may either take their sculptures home or leave them temporarily as part of the display.



### GCSE / A LEVEL ASSESSMENT CONNECTIONS

Throughout the workshop students will engage with all four assessment objectives through direct practical and observational experiences.

A01

#### DEVELOP IDEAS

Students respond directly to artworks and artists within the exhibition, investigating themes, materials and creative approaches.



A02

#### REFINE WORK

Students explore and experiment with materials while refining sculptural forms, structures and surfaces through practical making.



A03

#### RECORD OBSERVATIONS

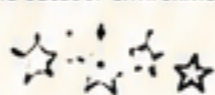
Students record ideas through drawing, discussion, photography, annotation, making and experimentation.



A04

#### PRESENT A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Students create a personal sculptural outcome that connects their own ideas with inspiration drawn from the exhibition and outdoor environment.



The value here is in the connections students are able to make between what they experience in the show and their own work.

SEE IT. THINK IT. MAKE IT. CONNECT IT.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the workshop students will:

- ★ Develop observational and analytical skills
- ★ Explore contemporary sculpture through first-hand experience
- ★ Build confidence in discussing and responding to artworks
- ★ Experiment with construction, texture and mixed media
- ★ Understand how artists communicate ideas through form and materials
- ★ Develop personal creative responses informed by artist research
- ★ Gain insight into exhibition design and curatorial practice
- ★ Collaborate creatively within a shared exhibition space

### CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS INFORMATION ABOUT ARTISTS IN FRESH AIR SCULPTURE 2026

Making connections between the work of artists and our own work.

Students will explore how contemporary sculptors:

- Develop ideas from observation and imagination
- Use materials creatively and experimentally
- Communicate themes through scale, texture and colour
- Respond to landscape and environment
- Create emotional and physical experiences for audiences

