Sketchbook Ideas: Fruits and Flowers

ASHMOLEAN

Flowers and plant designs feature in art from the earliest times right through to the modern era. In fact, flower designs are all around us!

Floral patterns have been:

- printed and woven into textiles
- painted on paper and canvas
- fired onto ceramics
- carved into stone
- printed into books to illustrate a story
- embossed into leather

John Tradescant the Elder
Gallery 8: Ark to Ashmolean (WA1898.8)

Recording your thoughts...

> Descriptive words - colour, shape, texture etc
> What might certain fruits / flowers symbolise?
> How might this design be used by a contemporary artist?

Good galleries to explore:

Gallery 31: Islamic Middle East
Gallery 35: West Meets East
Gallery 40: European Ceramics
Gallery 48: Still- Life Paintings
Gallery 54: Delftware
Gallery 65: Pissarro

Plate with Turkish design, England, 1680 - 90
Gallery 35: west Meets East (WA1963.136.16)

Tiles with vases and cyprus trees amid flowers, Syria, 1600 - 1700s
Gallery 31: Islamic Middle East (EA1977.15)

'A Bouquet of Pink Peonies', Pissarro, 1873
Gallery 65: Pissarro (WA1951.225.1)

Tiles from Turkey, 1550 - 1600
Gallery 31: Islamic Middle East (EAX3225)

Vase with lotus plants and ducks, Japan, 1870s
Gallery 36: Japan from 1850 (EA2008.65)

Vase with blossoms and interlocking leaves, Iran, 1600 - 1700
Gallery 31: Islamic Middle East (1902.EAX.1615)

'A Vase of Flowers' , Dutch Tulip Painting No. 9, Ambrosius Bosschaert ,1610
Gallery 48:Still-Life Paintings (WA1940.2.15)

Further resources

Ashmolean Education:
www.ashmolean.org/education/resources

Ashmolean Eastern Art Online:
www.jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/

Artefact, artist's resource for secondary teachers:
www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact/

ENGLISH PLATE WITH PEARS.
LI 1861-3

TURKISH
ROSES AND TULIPS ON POTTERY PLATE
EA 1978/1423

ENGLISH
PLATE WITH TURKISH DESIGN.
WA 1963 15616

FRUITS AND FLOWERS

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CAMILLE PISSARRO
BOUQUET OF PINK PEONIES
1873
WA 1951.2251
FRENCH

CHINESE
CHRYSANTHEMUMS
INK PAINTING.
EA 1966.194

EGYPT
FROM THE TOMB OF NEFERMAAT
AN 1910.635