

MOSTYN

Resource pack for secondary schools

Ages 11+



Nick Hornby Zygotes and Confessions

14th November 2020 - 18th April 2021

Nick Hornby (in collaboration with Louie Banks)

Muse I (Lady James), 2020.

Marble resin composite, ink, lacquer.

Courtesy the artist.



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Notes for teachers and parents

How to use this pack

This pack has been produced with secondary school aged children in mind. We recommend that due to the nature of the work and its themes, it is not suitable for younger children.

Please note some of the images contain moderate nudity.

All the tasks can be done from home, requiring access to the internet and some common household items.

It is helpful to follow the tasks in order.

This pack consists of the following :

Artist biography: information about the artist and his work, including glossary and key terms.

Images of Hornby's work.

Activity 1: continuous line drawing activity. You will need a piece of fruit, a vegetable or any other natural object for this activity.

Activity 2: marbling techniques at home using easily-attainable materials.

Activity 3: discussing gender-specific language. A short quiz exploring how language affects the way we view sex, gender and identity.

If you wish to get in touch, or would like to share images of your work with MOSTYN, please email engagement@mostyn.org

Nick Hornby, born in 1980, is a British artist living and working in London. He studied at Slade School of Art and Chelsea College of Art where he was awarded the UAL Sculpture Prize.

He is known for his monumental site-specific works, that combine digital software with traditional materials such as bronze, steel, granite and marble. His work is the physical meeting of historical critique, semiotics and digital technology; behind hand-crafted sculptures of marble, resin or bronze are computer-generated models, expanding shapes, silhouettes and shadows.

If you want to find out more, take a look at his website:

<http://nickhornby.com/>

Glossary:

Binary: a division into two groups or classes that are considered diametrically opposite.

Non-binary: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn't sit comfortably with 'man' or 'woman'. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.

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Form: the **shape** and physical manifestation of an artwork.

Marbling: the art of printing multi-colored swirled patterns on paper or fabric. The patterns are formed by first floating the colors on the surface of a liquid, and then laying the paper or fabric onto the colors to absorb them.

Site-specific: refers to a work of art created specifically for a particular location. If it is removed from that location it will lose all or a large part of its meaning. The term is often used in relation to installation art.

Zygote: the cell that is formed when a female reproductive cell and a male reproductive cell join.

Semiotics: the study of signs and symbols and their use and interpretation.

Drawing Activity

For this activity, you will need a pencil (2B or above) and plain paper.



Nick Hornby
Resting Leaf (Harry), 2020.
Resin, ink, lacquer.
Courtesy the artist.

Look closely at the sculpture.

How would you describe the sculpture?

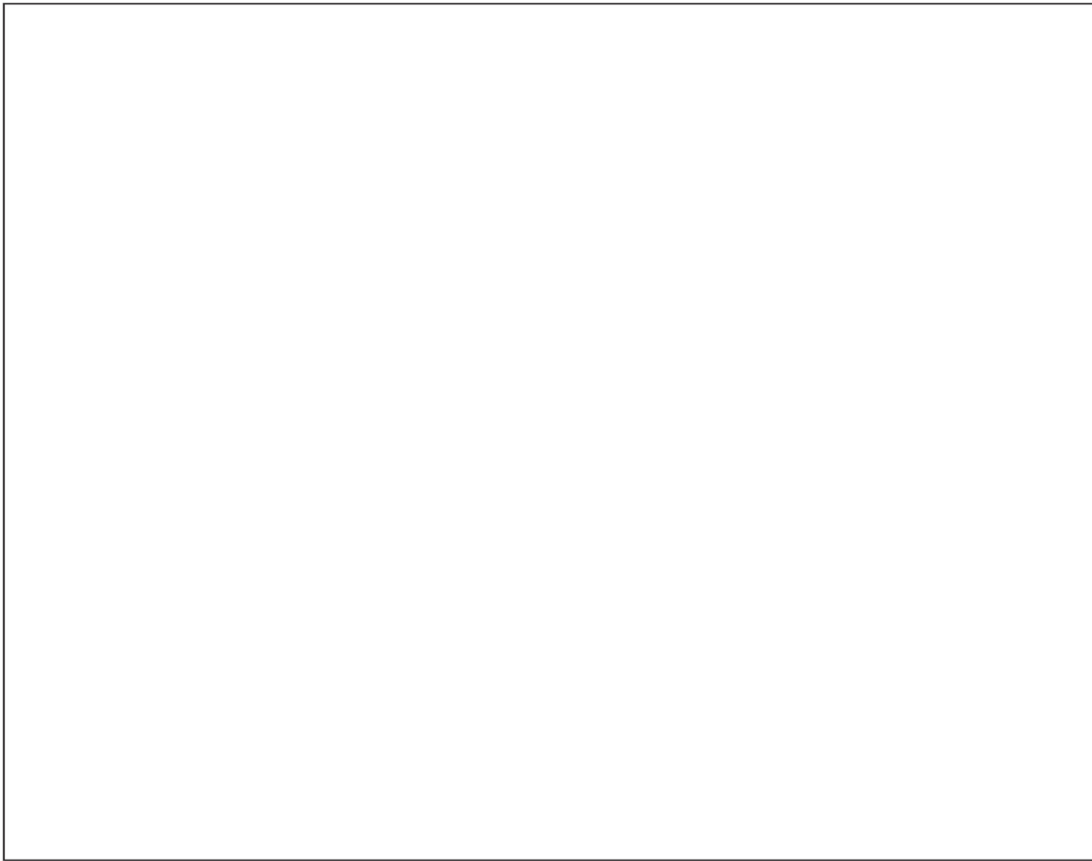
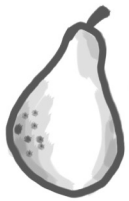
Think about the seven elements in art (Colour, Form, Line, Shape, Space, Texture, Value). E.g. The lines in this piece are organic and fluid.

The shapes we see in Hornby's work can often be found in nature.
Take a natural object, e.g. a shell, a flower, a piece of fruit.

Take your pencil. Look at your object.

In the space below (or on a separate piece of paper), draw your object without taking your pencil off the paper. This is called continuous line drawing. Don't stop until you have finished!

It's trickier than it sounds. If you accidentally take your pencil off the paper, don't worry, just start again.



Look at your continuous line drawing. What words would you use to describe the shapes that you see?

Are any of the words the same as the words you thought of when you looked at Hornby's work?

Can you think of a title for your drawing?

Try the same activity on a larger piece of paper or with a different object.

Marbling

Hornby often uses a technique similar to marbling to create his sculptures. You can do marbling yourself quite easily at home.

For this activity you will need:

Shaving foam (you can buy this quite cheaply from the supermarket)

Shallow tray (e.g. baking trays)

Ready mixed paint

Wooden skewer or old pencil

Paper (printer paper or cartridge)

30cm ruler

Table covering

Bowl of water and towel nearby!



Step 1.

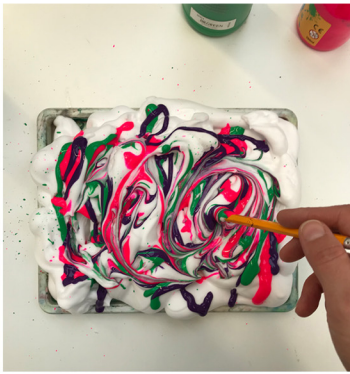
Place your tray on top of a covered flat surface.

Fill it right up to the edges with a layer of shaving foam, as evenly as you can.



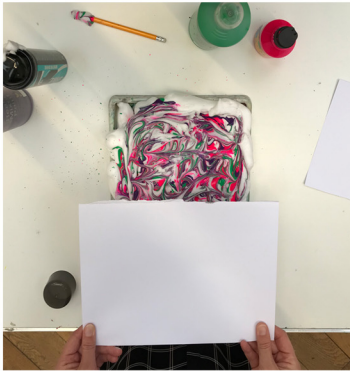
Step 2.

Dribble poster paints in any colour you like over the top.



Step 3.

Swirl the paint around with your skewer, pencil or just your fingers.



Step 4.

Lay a piece of paper over the top. Smooth it down gently.



Step 5.

Lift the paper off and lay it on a flat surface.



Step 6.

Scrape the foam off the paper using a ruler, starting at one narrow end with the ruler upright, pressing firmly. Set the marbled paper aside and leave to dry.

Discussion points

The following activity is meant to be a starting point to better understanding some of the language surrounding sex, gender and identity.

This pack is for your own personal use, so don't worry if you don't know how to answer these questions straight away! The answers we have given are suggestions only - there is always room for discussion.

Further information is available at ([stonewall cymru](http://www.stonewallcymru.org.uk/) address)

What is the difference between sex and gender?

What is a pronoun?

What pronoun can we use if someone does not identify as a 'he' or a 'she'?

If 'binary' means either male or female, what does 'non-binary' mean?

1. Sex usually refers to someone's biology, whereas gender can be influenced by social and cultural factors.
2. Someone's pronoun is the way they choose to be referred to according to their gender identity. For example a person who identifies as female might use the pronouns 'She / Her'.
3. We can use the pronouns 'They / Them' for a person who identifies as non-binary. A person might also prefer to be referred to as 'Ze / Zir'.
4. An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn't sit comfortably with 'man' or 'woman'. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.

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Analysing gender-specific language

Have you ever watched an advert and felt that it was targeting a **binary** idea of gender (male / female)?

Watch advert breaks between a show you like (this can be live TV, videos on YouTube or any other streaming site) and write down any words you feel are targeting gender (for example, a razor company targeted at women versus one targeted at men may use very different language).

List the words below.

How could you change the words to make them representative to all genders?

Word used	→	Word I would change it to
↓		↓

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