

Art Teachers' Newsletter

Summer 2012

from the Oxford University Museums

'OAT So Simple'

See inside for reports on OAT events

The Mother of Invention

2012 is the third year in which Foundation Art students at Oxford Brookes have worked with staff and collections at the **3L6LYHU0HPBRHYHU00KH0H0U0KLFK0H** have additionally collaborated with the Museum of the History of Science - an inspired decision as both collections suit their theme admirably. Indeed, 'Necessity is the Mother of Invention' could describe the philosophy behind both Museums, many of the objects on display being the product of human problem-solving and ingenuity, such as 'lighting and shelter' as in the Pitt Rivers or 'navigation and calculation' as in the Museum of the History of Science.



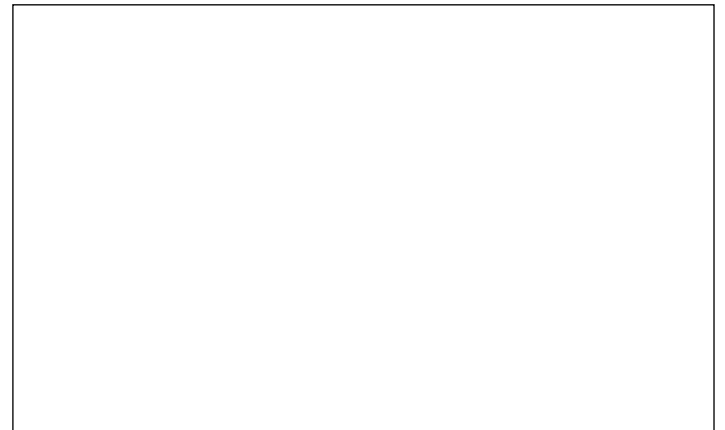
As always, the students' work was exciting and innovative, ranging from winches and pulleys to drawing machines and **HYH0GHG0UHR0RKHU(UK7KNBERUJH0GHU** Myfanwy Jones who organised the project, and we look forward to working together again next year.

Heist



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excitement to the 'Heist' workshop at the Ashmolean. A group of budding cartoonists were thrilled to be given a guided tour of the security systems in the galleries and across the roof of the Ashmolean by security chiefs Stuart Baker and Helder Sousa (shown below **SHKH0SD0KH**)



heist, guided by cartoonist Adam Murphy, and then translated **KHLURURUGLRERPLFIRUP(GHUJHGURP0RN** of magpies trained to steal coins, to disabling the security **0PLKHULHRI0HOUP(YHURGH0000HR** excitement afterwards when security reviewed their heist.

An Introduction to Islam

Year 11 and Sixth Form art students from Abingdon School, Kingham Hill School and St **OUH6FKRROUHFHO0MRH00HL0UKLR0PLFUH0LJLRGE0UHLKIU0R** **KHKPROH0HULHRI0LF7HUHLRSURYLGHG0EOLYH0KLGK0E0H** look at rare 13th and 17th century Islamic artefacts followed by a practical workshop in which **5(UKLP0LHH0PH0GELRRI0EHU0URGEH0GHR0KH0ROLP** **HKLG0PLF00LJUSK0\$LUHG0FL0JOPRI00HUE00LJUSKHUR0NK0H** **G0KH0GJ0RK0H0PHOYH0IRUHLK0LJK0HLURUNENLK0HEOU0RRP**

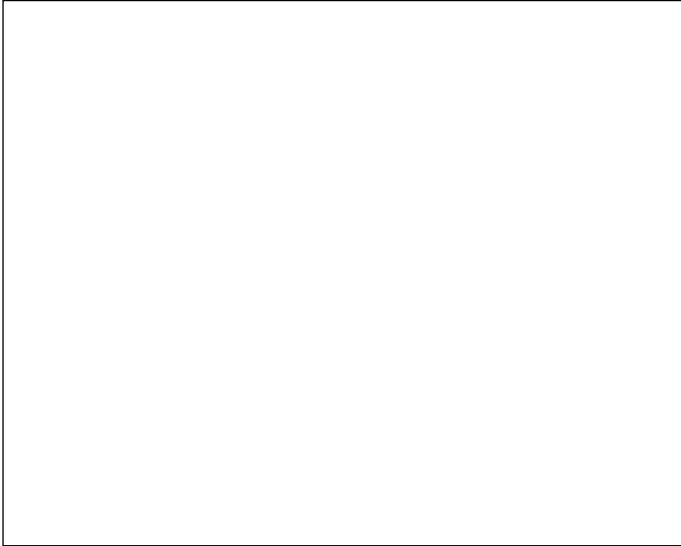


Students from St Clare's School (above right) and the calligraphy they designed which is from the poem 'Stand out of Respect for your Teacher'.

OAT Network Meeting

A recipe for success: put a group of creative people together in one place and they begin to generate ideas. It's network meeting. A larger-than-expected crowd of teachers, educators, lecturers and artists gathered at the Ashmolean, resulting in many animated conversations, as well as a real buzz in the atmosphere.

Rachel Payne leads the group discussion



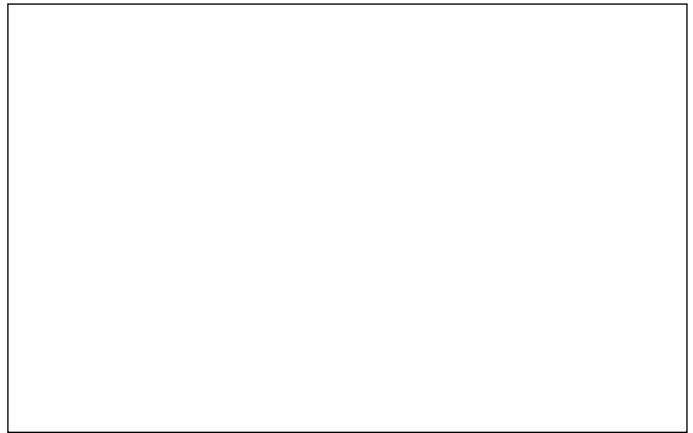
conference, elaborating in particular upon the challenges and opportunities facing art educators today. Rachel Payne from Oxford Brookes then led a group discussion on the Levelling.

23rd practical breakout sessions and artists' updates. An event not to be missed! Full details to follow...

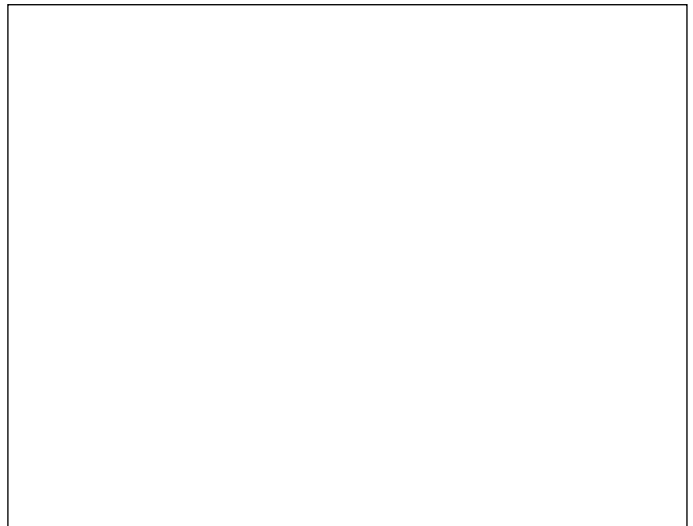
You too can be a great photographer

"If you offer this course again I'd really like to do it" was and photography students who attended a recent Saturday workshop at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum.

the museums and photographing visitors, objects and architectural features in a variety of combinations, and then selecting their best pieces for a joint criticism.



Three images on the theme of 'Pairings', taken by students attending the photography workshop.



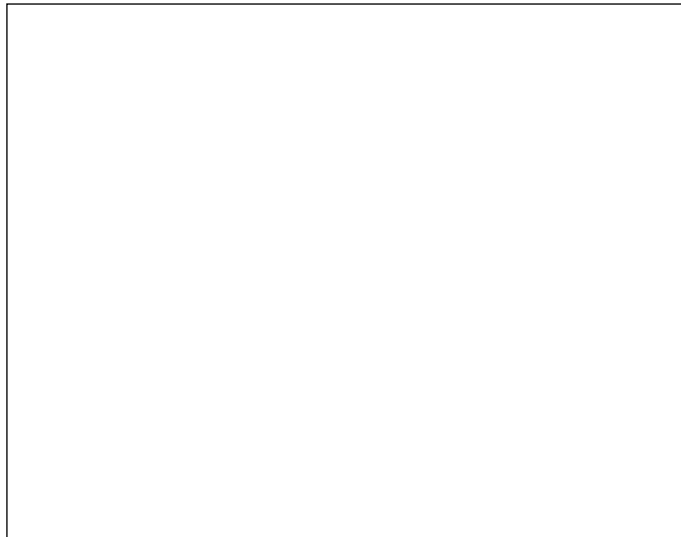
“A close-run thing”

Public speaking is rarely a priority for Sixth Form art students. February 22nd would suggest that ‘Articulation’, a competition for which students prepare a short, illustrated talk on an art-related theme of their choice, is growing in popularity.

spellbinding, expressing their personal responses to their chosen art works and thus bringing their topics to life.

she had seen at Shakespeare’s Globe. Meanwhile, in her talk revealed a fascination with peeling back the layers of paint to uncover the full story behind a Leonardo painting.

below with the speakers) concluded: “It was a close-run thing every entrant was a winner, gaining huge experience from the Articulation exercise.”



Making Magic

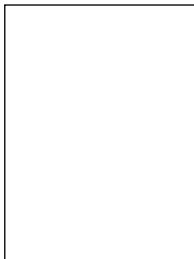
The University of Gloucester will this year hold its annual Cheltenham Illustration Awards at Oxford’s Pitt Rivers Museum.

international illustrators will address the inspired by the upcoming ‘Small Blessings’ exhibition of amulets at the Pitt Rivers.

Museum until the end of November and will then form part of a touring exhibition to schools around Pitt Rivers and produce and submit their own ‘Magical’ illustrations to be displayed virtually on the Artefact website.

A one-day symposium is also planned for October and will take place in the Museum of Natural History.

For further details, email: adrian.brooks@prm.ox.ac.uk or see the Pitt Rivers’ blog: pittrivers-amulets.blogspot.co.uk



A series of one- and four-day printmaking, bookbinding and scientific illustration workshops for GCSE and A Level art students will take place during the June half-term and Summer holidays in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum.

Artists from the Flagstone Press will help students to boost their portfolios and learn new skills, which we hope they will then put into practice back at school. The workshops, which will be subsidised by the University, will run in conjunction with an exhibition of printing and sculpture at the Museum of Natural History and should not be missed.

To book a place, go to website: bit.ly/printworkshops
For further details, e-mail: info@flagstonepress.co.uk

Soapbox Thoughts from an art teacher

“In the act of drawing one is thinking, not just recording.”

working to record artworks and objects in museums and galleries. Here are some suggestions for students working in sketchbooks and then taking ideas forward in the art studio at school:

Follow the shape of the image with the shape onto the page with the other hand.

Look just at the artwork, not the paper.

A Year 12 at work

Memory drawings: look for 5 minutes very carefully at an artwork and then turn away from it and draw it in your sketchbook without looking at it!

ONH that you can make a wire sculpture back in the art room.

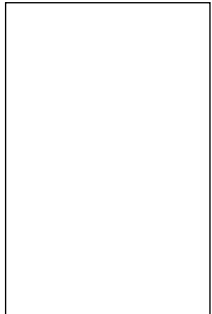
U KHURUN lead to use of annotation of keywords.

ROOJH an artwork, stick onto a piece of paper and then work on top in pencil, crayon etc.

RUNR materials at all: try tearing and collaging paper etc.

HLO in order to examine closely and then draw the lines, language of colour, shapes and marks and how they contribute to the whole.

Jane McDonald is Head of Art at St Helen and St Katharine, Abingdon



What's on in Schools

Abingdon School

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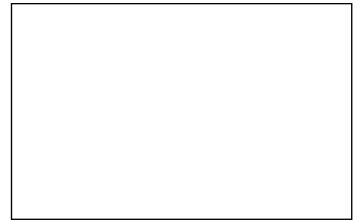
other schools are most welcome. Please e-mail James Nairne (james.nairne@abingdon.org.uk) if you intend to come. 7KHKLLLRURKURJKRH 6FKRROUHUHJRUGLUHFLRJR www.abingdon.org.uk/maps



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Friday 29th June - Sat 7th July
Arts Festival
ROH3OFH2
Parking available



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Oxford Academy

at 3:30-6:00pm

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An exhibition by the sculptor Alison Berman in the New 7KHUH)RHU5GOHRROOHJH UR26 KSULOUGO2SHGLOPS

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welcome to come along, any time from 7:30pm that evening. H(KLLLRKHPHLLURRPROHYHOG 7KHRUNLSLFOORIMHUKUKGUGKREL wide breadth of study and skill from all students. 7KH)HLURFRBKHLFGEREHSGKYH SURGFHGRPHKJKOSHURORUNKLFKUHFKHLUR ULLEMRUH7KHSSOLHGUULIRERGLHEHG SUSRHRUNLRULHIRI0OKHHHGRIEOLHZK work is brave, responsive and visually engaging.

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The Renaissance in Astronomy

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to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of Gerard Mercator

11 May to 9 September 2012

7KLABHUHUHOFLRRIKHURRN instruments and globes are brought together in a special exhibition.

Renaissance in Astronomy tells the story of the developments in astronomical observation in KHUUOHGLJISRSHULF revolutionary proposition that the earth is in motion.

7KH HKLLLR PUN KH 500th anniversary of the birth of cartographer Gerard Mercator, whose world map projection we use to this day. Mercator was famed for his pocket globes, and a pair of his splendid terrestrial and celestial globes, lent from the National Maritime Museum, will be



Johannes Schöner's magnificent celestial globe (centre) and other objects featured in the exhibition

featured in the exhibition. Also on show is Mercator's own BHGFRSIRSHULFJURGUHNRN *De*

revolutionibus orbium coelestium. Important books from the library of Royal Astronomical Society will be featured, including Peter Apian's stunning *Astronomicum Caesarium*, along with astronomical instruments from the Museum's collection.

7KHKLLLRLEROORULR between MHS and the Royal Astronomical Society.

(GLROURUNKRSI0OH available alongside this exhibition. Please contact christopher.parkin@mhs.ox.ac.uk for further information.