

Perspectives: World War I Stories from the National Gallery of Ireland
Bice Visconti's Sketchbooks: Diaries of Daily Life

Teachers' Notes

Session duration	1 hour
Availability	<p>Fridays; 10 November 2018 – 1 February 2019. Subject to availability.</p> <p>This workshop can be offered in combination with a specialised tour of the national collection focusing on the development of modernism, and styles that emerged prior to, and continued to be influential during and after World War I. The tour will also encompass women artists, making a connection with Bice Visconti, and official war artists (John Lavery and William Orpen).</p>
Exhibition information	<p>The material on display will present the experiences of individuals who lived through World War I and will focus on a number of hidden and untold stories from this time. The history of the events of World War I is well-documented, but there are certain voices that are much quieter than others, whose experiences of this time are less discernible. To coincide with the loan of drawings by the artist Bice Visconti, who volunteered with the Italian Red Cross during World War I, we will investigate some of the less visible stories of the Great War held in the Gallery's collections.</p> <p>Private collection. Loan managed by The Sir Denis Mahon Charitable Trust.</p>
Summary	<p>This workshop will introduce participants to the story of art during World War I, and to the life and work of Italian artist, Bice Visconti, whose wartime sketchbooks are at the heart of the exhibition. In the workshop, students will be led in a discussion about how artists use sketchbooks as visual diaries, noting the details of everyday life. After identifying different subjects from their own experiences, participants will then create their own sketchbooks.</p>
Year groups suitable for	Primary & Post-Primary (workshop to be tailored to the age of the group)
Session itinerary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of <i>Perspectives</i> exhibition • Close look at Visconti sketchbooks: discussion on how she recorded the war • Discussion on sketchbooks: how they can be like a visual diary for recording scenes from everyday life

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm of ideas of what we could record in a sketchbook: why are these things important to us? • Make a sketchbook to take back to school
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce participants to war art generally, and Visconti's sketchbooks in particular • Highlight the importance of sketchbooks for artists • Introduce students to keeping their own visual diary
Themes explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War I – general history. • Artists and World War I • Sketchbooks
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour • Discussion • Drawing and making
Curriculum links	<p>Primary History Infants: Working as an Historian; Stories; Myself and My Family First and Second Class: Working as an Historian; Stories; Myself and My Family; Change and Continuity Third and Fourth Class: Working as an Historian; Story; Life, society, work and culture Fifth and Sixth Class: Working as an Historian; Story; Eras of Conflict and Change</p> <p>Primary Visual Arts Drawing</p> <p>Junior Cycle History Understanding the modern world; political developments in Ireland and Europe.</p> <p>Junior Cycle Art, Craft and Design Observational drawing, support studies, personal identity and contextual understanding.</p> <p>Senior Cycle History Nation States and International Tensions, 1871 – 1920 (Culture, Science and Religion); The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition 1912 – 1949 (politics and administration).</p> <p>Senior Cycle Art, Craft and Design Observational drawing/Imaginative composition, History and Appreciation of Art.</p>

Learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and Understanding: how WWI affected the lives of artists. • Enjoyment, Inspiration and Creativity: reflecting on their own experiences, and using this for creative work.
Background information to share with students before your visit	<p>General introduction to WWI: https://www.scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-pages/history/world-war-i/ https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/first-world-war/</p> <p>War Artists: https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/british-art-of-the-first-world-war</p>
Before your visit - activity	<p>Introduce students to keeping journals, scrapbooks, sketchbooks or visual diaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what kind of things students might record or keep in a journal or sketchbook: events from their day, paste in pictures or articles, write notes or sketch special occasions. • Make a list of these, and discuss what story these might tell someone in 100 years' time. • https://magdamakeswithkids.wordpress.com/sketchbooks/sketchbooks-introduction/
After your visit	<p>Reflect on the tour and workshop in the Gallery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to the list of sketchbook ideas made during the workshop • Using the sketchbooks that were made during the workshop, do sketching/collage work. • Present sketchbooks to peers and talk about what participants have recorded.