



English - Pupil's notes

Theme - Artistic Development

Introduction

A large collection of work by the artist Brian Hatton (1887-1916), is held by Hereford Museum. There are over 1000 paintings and drawings including items such as photographs, painting equipment, and costume. There are oil paintings, watercolours and pencil and pastel drawings, together with a small number of prints. The collection represents a large proportion of what Brian created. It ranges from slight sketches on paper to large oil paintings. Brian's work covered various themes.

Brian was born in Hereford and spent most of his childhood and early adult life here. Much of his work reflects the influence of Herefordshire, his home county. Brian lived with his family in Whitecross and later Broomy Hill, Hereford. Very early in life he made remarkable drawings which showed his considerable natural ability. His parents, Amelia and Alfred, carefully nurtured his prodigious talent. Brian's younger sisters, Ailsa Marr (b.1893) and Marjorie (b.1895), became the subject of many of his pictures. As a boy, he sketched around his home in Hereford. His subjects included: landscape views, horses and other animals, agricultural activities and country people. He also drew imaginative subjects inspired by literature.

As a young man, he travelled at home and abroad. On his travels and later as a soldier, he recorded the people and places around him.

When he began to accept commissions he painted portraits (sometimes of local people). Eventually he had a studio in London and began his professional career as a portrait painter.

Tragically, Brian was killed in action in Egypt, whilst serving with the Worcester Yeomanry, in the First World War.

Useful web link

[Hatton Gallery](#)

Lesson activities - Brian's artistic development

Key Question: Was Brian Hatton a great artist?

Podcast

There is a podcast discussion focusing on the techniques and medium used by Brian Hatton. [Artistic Development Podcasts](#).

Resources

- Brian Hatton Collection - [Artistic Development, Art Works](#)
- Three Brian Hatton artworks - found at the end of this document

Useful web link

<http://www.artschools.com/guidance/art-top-10.html>

The top ten qualities of a great artist

Activity 1 - Exploring artworks that show artistic development

Look at the three artworks at the end of this document and choose one.

To understand art better, it is important to learn how to look and to know what to look for. Art critics are like detectives.

Use the following questions and make a note of your answers. These will help you complete Activity 2.

- How did the artist make this picture?
- What materials did he use?
- How do the colours make you feel (mood)?
- What title would you give this work?
- Who would appreciate this work?
- What is successful about the piece?
- How could it be improved?
- What does this painting mean to you?

Activity 2 - Writing an arts magazine article entitled, 'Was Brian Hatton a great artist?'

You will need to include

- a detailed description of at least two of his art works
- your opinion of his works
- images



Seascape



Rotten Row, Sunday morning in the park



Arab