

Brian Hatton

Art and Design - Pupil's notes

Theme - Identity

Introduction

Brian Hatton (1887-1916)

Brian was born in Hereford and he spent most of his childhood and early adult life there. Brian lived with his family in Whitecross and later Broomy Hill, Hereford. As a young child he made remarkable drawings, which showed his natural artistic ability. His parents, Amelia and Alfred, encouraged his talent. In 1898, at the age of eleven he was awarded the 'Gold Star' by the Royal Drawing Society. Following this the artist G.F. Watts took a keen interest in his development and became his mentor. Brian's younger sisters, Ailsa Marr (b.1893) and Marjorie (b.1895), became the subject of many of his works. Brian suffered from asthma as a boy and spent periods of time in Swansea for health reasons. As a young man, he travelled at home and abroad. In 1908, he travelled to Egypt as part of the Petrie expedition. He continued to love Herefordshire, where his work was inspired by local people and places. On his travels and later as a soldier, he recorded the people and places around him.

Brian had a studio in London, where he 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. He died on 23rd April, 1916. He left a wife, Lydia May and a daughter, Mary Amelia (b.1915). Had he not belonged to the generation who fought in the First World War, Brian may have become known nationally as a talented artist.

During his life, he created over 1000 art works including oil paintings, watercolours, and pencil and pastel drawings, together with a small number of prints. His subjects included: landscape views, horses and other animals, agricultural activities and country people. He also drew imaginative subjects inspired by literature. When he began to accept commissions, he painted portraits, some of which were of local people.

Brian Hatton - timeline

1887: 12th August, was born at Carlton Villa, Whitecross, Hereford.

1893: Brian's sister, Ailsa Marr Hatton was born

1895: Hatton family moved to Mount Craig, Broomy Hill, Hereford.

1895: Brian's sister, Marjorie Hatton was born.



- 1895: Aged 8, awarded his first medal by the Royal Drawing Society.
- 1897: Aged 10, sent to Swansea for health reasons, stayed with Dr and Mrs Lancaster.
- 1898: Awarded the 'Gold Star' of the Royal Drawing Society. The artist G F Watts admired Brian's talent and began to take a keen interest in his development.
- 1899: Became a pupil at Swansea Grammar School.
- 1904: Visited St Ives and Newlyn, Cornwall.
- 1905: Attended Trinity College, Oxford.
- 1906: Visited Amsterdam and the Hague with his uncle, Charles Marr.
- 1906: Attended Hospitalfields Art School, Arbroath, Scotland.
- 1908: Shared rooms in London with his cousin, Geoffrey Vevers.
- 1908: Set up a studio at home in Mount Craig, Hereford.
- 1908: Travelled to Egypt to accompany the archaeological expedition of Professor (later Sir) William Flinders Petrie.
- 1909: 27th July, Brian's mother, Amelia Hatton died.
- 1910: November, visited Paris, paints at the Academie Julien.
- 1912: January, shared a studio in London with friend, Gerald Siordet. Worked on portrait commissions.
- 1914: 4th September, joined the Worcester Yeomanry.
- 1914: 5th November, married Lydia May Bidmead of Hereford in Newbury.
- 1915: 21st September, Brian's daughter, Mary Amelia was born.
- 1916: 23rd April Easter Sunday, Brian was killed in action at Oghratina, Egypt.

Lesson activities - My own 'life in a suitcase' collage

Key question - How can the Brian Hatton collection's suitcase image bank be used to create an artwork that symbolises and reflects the life of the artist Brian Hatton?

Podcast

There is a podcast of an expert talking about the character of Brian Hatton as shown through his letters. - go to [Identity, Podcasts](#)

Resources

- Go to [Suitcase Activity Image Bank](#)
- Computer suite with relevant software
- Print out of images for work in hard copy
- Copies of images for Activity 2
- Paper
- Glue

Useful web links

<http://kids.tate.org.uk/games/memento-mori/memento.swf>

Tate Britain Memento Mori Game

Activity 1 - Brian Hatton, life in a suitcase

Look carefully at the images from the suitcase image bank.

- Choose images that you think best reflect the life of the artist Brian Hatton.
- Create 'life in a suitcase' for the artist using appropriate digital montage software.

Think about

- What were his interests?
- What do you think might have been his favourite possessions?

Activity 2 - Creating my own 'life in a suitcase' collage

Make your own suitcase from card and use mixed media images to create your own personal suitcase artwork.

Think about:

- What images/ephemera/objects you need to best reflect your personality.
- What sort of things interest you (hobbies/music)?
- What images of you, and people who are important to you, would you want to include?
- What favourite possessions /objects would you want to include?

Activity 3 - Packing the suitcase

Optional: You may wish to create 2D and 3D objects to pack into your suitcase.