

Visiting an Artist's Studio

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This file was prepared by Max Darby in November 2009

The following checklist provides key questions to think about if you want to visit the studio of an artist. In some instances your teacher may take your class to a studio in which case many of the questions will be answered for you. You may, however, decide to do so yourself as part of your research or investigation into artists and their working styles. It is essential to make contact with the artist to check whether the visit will be allowed. The responses to the questions should be recorded in your visual diary or work book. Information gained from the interview should be written up as soon after the interview as possible (you should check with the artist before the interview about taking notes).

Checklist

Why do you want to visit an artist's studio? (Explain the particular reasons)

Which artist's studio do you wish to visit? (Is there a particular artist you need to visit or will any artist be sufficient?)

When do you want to visit the studio? (Is the timing critical to your study program?)

Where is the artist's studio? (Is it located in a place to which you can travel with ease?)

How can you make contact with the artist or studio to check whether you can visit?

What limitations or conditions need to be met to visit the studio?

Will you be allowed to take photographs?

How will you get to the studio?

Will the artist be working? (Will someone be able to show you around?)

How can you best prepare yourself for the visit?

What measures do you need to take to ensure you don't damage the environment of the studio?

What measures do you need to take to show respect for the artist?

Questions you might like to ask the artist

Keep in mind that the artist might not wish to answer all of your questions.

The questions need not be used in the sequence provided here.

The list of questions you do actually use needs to be adapted to the particular artist you are interviewing.

It is often best to work with another student so that a written record of answers can be kept with one person handling the task of asking the questions.

- What does an artist do?
- Why are you an artist?
- What do you think Art is?
- How long have you been an artist?
- Have you done anything else other than work as an artist?
- When and how did you know you wanted to be an artist?
- What specific things do you most enjoy about being an artist?
- Where do you get ideas for your artworks?
- What particular topics or themes do you most enjoy exploring?
- Do you repeat some ideas for variation or to make a better interpretation?
- Which artists do you most admire?
- Have you ever worked with other artists? (on joint projects or in the same location or on a similar idea, or shared a studio?)

- Have you been directly or indirectly influenced by any other artists?

- How do you organize this studio?

- Do you prefer to be highly organized in the studio?

- What brand of materials do you use?

- How do you purchase them and how do you store them?

- Do you have set times when you work?

- What do you do when you make an artwork with which you are really not happy?

- Are there things that would make you completely stop making an artwork?

- What artforms do you prefer to work in?

- What other artforms do you work in?

- What media/materials/equipment do you most work with?

- How do you make your artworks? (are there particular working styles you use)

- How would you describe your style?

- How do you learn new skills or techniques?

- How much trialing and experimentation do you engage in?

- Do you keep a work book and record the things you do in the studio or ideas you have?

- How important is it for you to be able to draw well?

- Do you engage in Life Drawing?

- Do you teach students or run demonstrations?

- Do you have solo exhibitions of your work or do you enter joint exhibitions with other artists?

- Do you have a gallery that manages your work and handles your artistic interests?

- Do you enter any art competitions?

– How do you advertise your work and/or services?

– Are there any publications or articles about your work?

– Other questions.