

# HOW Artz thou?



13th March  
2010

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# Abstract Animal Art



***Mr Wilson and year 8 art class work on Picasso's  
"Zoomorphic" ceramics – clay models of abstract  
animals***

In the last year, Mr Wilson and the students of year eight art have been working on “Zoomorphic” ceramics. “They take a drawing of an animal”, says Miss Bratton, “and abstracted the shape, whilst keeping the animal’s characteristics”.

Theale Green community school Art Department has a large focus on working with ceramics for younger years, beginning with “flat” clay modelling in year seven, moving on to “zoomorphic” ceramics in year eight.

Zoomorphic ceramics has quite a rich history, and is important to this day. Picasso, most notable for his modernist art, created this medium in 1947. His work with ceramics went on to

feature in many galleries, and have a cultural influence on works with ceramics to this day. He felt that sculptural ceramics allowed him to express gestural strength and colour with more vitality and vibrancy.

Picasso used images from mythological and classical themes and manipulated to the abstract using ceramic modelling. He felt that this allowed him to express his interest in Iberian and Mediterranean subjects, harkening to his roots.



Ceramics continues to have a successful and commercial market today. “Small pieces like this,” says Mr Wilson, telling us about how ceramics have achieved commercial success locally, “have a high value locally, some individual pieces selling for around £100! I like to use local inspiration in school projects.”

Mr Wilson, head of art at Theale Green community school, allowed students to express their interest in animals and pets, whilst simultaneously incorporating the skill of abstract ceramic modelling incorporated by Picasso in his “zoomorphic” projects.

One student in year eight, Danielle Emery, decided to work on the image of a swan, with a beautiful result; the sculpture produced was a colourful and vibrant example of abstract ceramics, (see picture.) The initial design, a picture of a swan with a colourful motif drawn on it, resembles the finished project.



Writing: Nic Durand  
Photography: Ben Martin



Inspiration,  
Imagination  
and Incredible  
Pottery!

**You don't have to travel  
long distances to find great art  
work...it's right on your doorstep.**

Students from Theale Green Community School made ceramic pots as part of an art master class on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010.



Mr Wilson 'wanted to focus on local artwork.' Although the head of art specialises in painting, the array of work he saw at a local art shop; Blue Matchbox in Tilehurst, inspired him to immerse his Year 11 GCSE student's in a master class aimed at slab pottery.

### **'Izzy could get at least £150 for her artwork.'**

His inspiration began after years in training as a painter which led him to discover a love for pottery. This paired with the fabulous pieces of work seen in Blue Matchbox resulted in a handful of Year 11's clambering to art on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

The students spent 3 hours in total, over a course of 2 sessions, to create their masterpieces. The finished pieces are

peppered with the students own inspiration, with one pot engraved with *'He that plants a tree loves others besides himself.'*

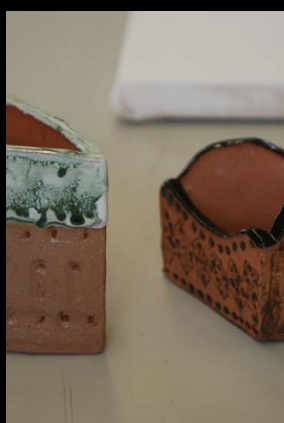
The pots range from spherical shapes to more boxy angular

pieces. The students used black, glossy glaze to add an extra touch to their work, however some used the glaze sparingly and this highlights the pots rich terracotta colour.



One piece of work in particular, by Izzy Reynolds, stands out as the curves contrasted against the straight lines make for a beautiful aesthetic piece. The techniques she used involve scratching the deoxidised clay in order to put it together securely. Even Mr Wilson was incredibly impressed by Izzy's finished piece claiming 'Izzy could get at least £150 for her artwork.'

The students' reviews of the class are only enthusiastic and we share their excitement for future master classes. Maybe one day their work will appear in Blue Matchbox.



# Year 9

# POP

# Stars



Year 9's use Blake, Hamilton, Johns and Warhol to create surreal pop art composition.



**In Theale Green's art department the Year 9's began a Pop Art module with Mr Upton and Miss Bratton for two terms.**

They looked at work by Peter Blake, Richard Hamilton and others, in order to gain an understanding of pop-art styles.

During the 14 week programme they developed from simple drawings of contents of their school



bag, to packaging's of crisps and chocolates, and eventually collaborated their ideas to create a final composition, which reflected the culture, life-style and issues of the present day.

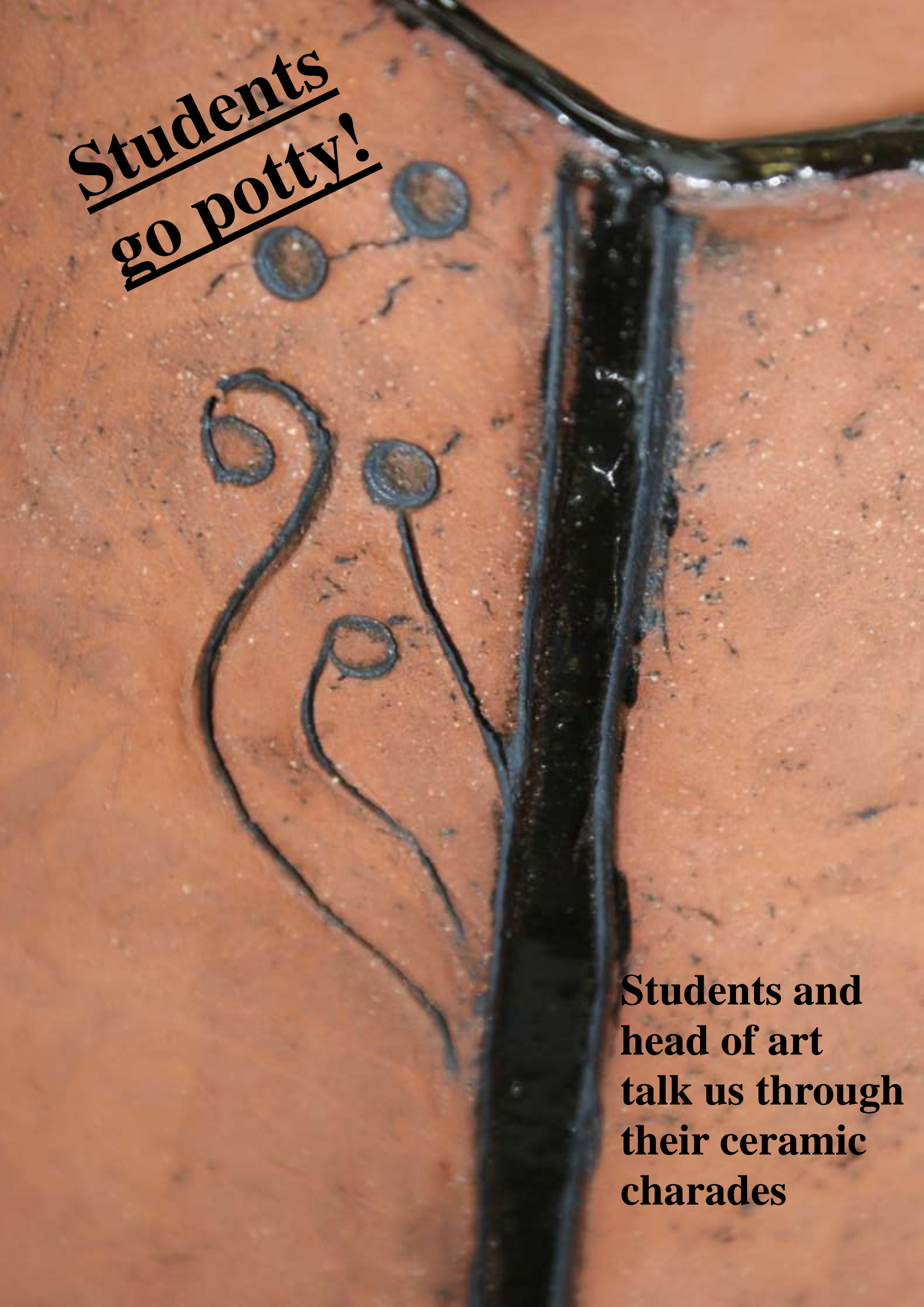
The students used packaging's and magazines as well as their own drawings to show the quirky and random styles of the artists they were studying.



Some students combined pop art with Claes Oldenburg's style of papier mache, and others made oversized 3D objects.

Becky Poltriger, of Miss Bratton's class, said "I liked his work because they are very bold and eye catching...but I don't know why he has to make them so big."

**Students**  
**go potty!**



**Students and  
head of art  
talk us through  
their ceramic  
charades**

**O**n the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 a group of year 11 art students from Theale Green and nearby Willink schools took part in an after school art master class in ceramics.

The master mind behind the master class was Mr Wilson, Head of art at Theale Green, said the inspiration came from a local ceramics gallery called, “*Blue match box*”. He said “ceramics was a side project that he always he enjoyed,” and this was his reason for running the master class.

### **“It could fetch 150 pounds!”**

The students used slabs of plain clay and turned them into pieces of art by using potters wheels to sculpt, texturing techniques to add style and a glaze to add a stylish finish. One student we spoke to, Izzy Reynolds, said that “she was inspired by “soft curves and harsh lines” to create her piece which took “2 sessions so about, urm, 3 hours? Ye 3 hours,” to make.

Mr Wilson thought it was extremely important to put emphasis on local art “instead of from London or somewhere else.” This has lead to a good quality of truly inspired array of pottery including one which

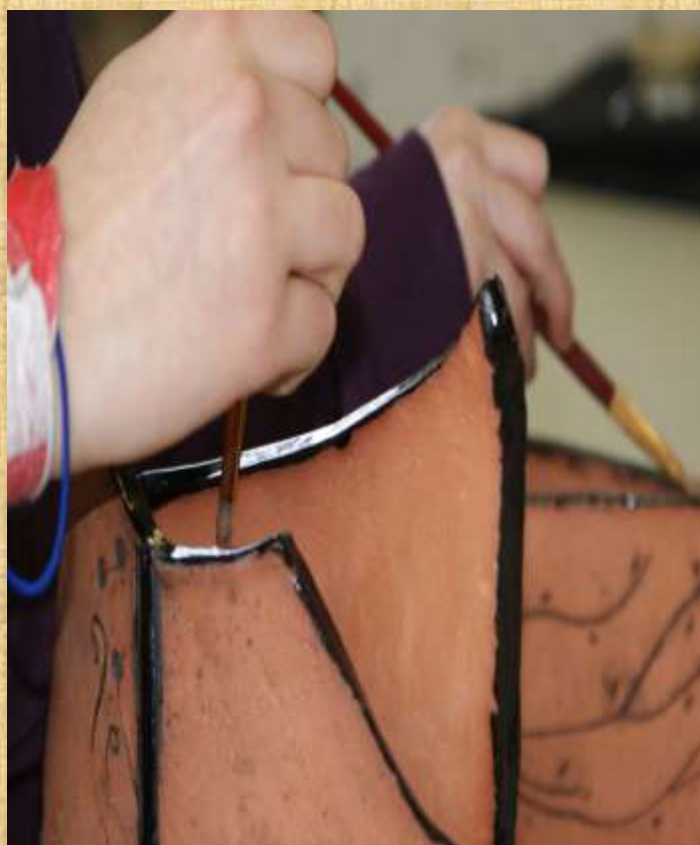


says “He that plants a tree loves others beside himself.”

Mr Wilson was highly impressed with the creations saying that some could be put up for sale in “*Blue match box*” paying particular attention to Izzy Reynolds piece saying “It could fetch 150 pounds!”

The general feel-

ing is that the master class was a great idea and success and that many students want to see it’s return, and who knows soon you may pay money to own one of their pieces.



# ...A few of my favourite things

Year 8s explore their own personalities by creating self portraits.



Over the autumn term, Year 8 created compositional self portraits incorporating their own interests and passions around them.

First they learnt how to portrait, using techniques to help get proportions and positioning of the features right. Next they played with different materials, utilizing pencil and biro pen, noting the different textures and colours which can be created. Then they proceeded to make collages of their favourite things,

using anything from photographs to sweet wrappers. After this they used the acquired skills of collage to craft self portraits and portraits of celebrities, out of magazine cuttings.


Pupils took inspiration from a multitude of artists, including Arcimboldo and Peter Blake, looking at their works, like 'No Women No Cry' and 'Bertumnus'.

The class teacher, Miss Bratton, stated: "The course helped the students to develop skills of shading, layout, detail and proportions."

For the final piece, they had to

accumulate all the work done so far. By cutting a photograph of themselves in half (at least), then drawing the rest of their faces themselves, the pupils created the focal point of the work. After this, they photos and painted their personal interests around them.





◀ Their finished designs turned out fantastic!! They had lots of colour, shapes, pictures, and even 3-D objects.

The year 8 students used a numerous number of techniques such as: colouring, painting, outlining, gluing, and drawing.

**Rachel Steele** quoted on a success of her final piece saying:

**“ All of it because I put a lot of time and effort into it, to get the right shades and effects”.**

The students have scotched lots of different things from celebrities to themselves and friends to strangers. On their self portraits they had to cut a picture of themselves in half and sketch the other half!



# A JOURNEY THROUGH HOCKNEY



**Yr 7 students have been analysing and interpreting David Hockney's work which they then applied into their compositions of a journeys and a view through.**

**T**hroughout the last 2 terms at Theale Green Community School, yr7 has focused on the artist David Hockney which has inspired them to create a final piece, which emphasises his style and technique.

The year have used a range of media to get to this final position including; colour pencil, paint and clay work. A lot of the work has included bright colours and bold shapes which have been influenced by their chosen artist.

Hockney's style has also helped the year to develop their front covers by putting a photo on the page then extending it by the use of colour pencils. The experiments that the year have produced, especially with the clay, helped to develop their ideas towards the final stage of the project.

To help progress with

the view through themes, the students used a variety of view finders, for example;



view through fingers, windows in and around the school and door frames. The view through theme helped to develop observational skills as the images were from still life and proportions are essential for the image to work successfully.

The clay work that was produced was shaped and indented, for example the use of different tools like the end of a paintbrush, then finally painted glazed in our kiln that can reach a temperature of 1400 °c. Before the final piece was constructed a variety of layouts had to be produced to inspire the students.

Finally they produced the final pieces that are all unique and reflect their hard work over the recent 2 terms. The students later had to construct a evaluation to some up their portfolio.

**“The hot colours blended well”**

**“The different shades/ tones flowed well”**



By Chloe Lay and Max Rushent

By Grace Hunt and  
Sekunola Kolawole

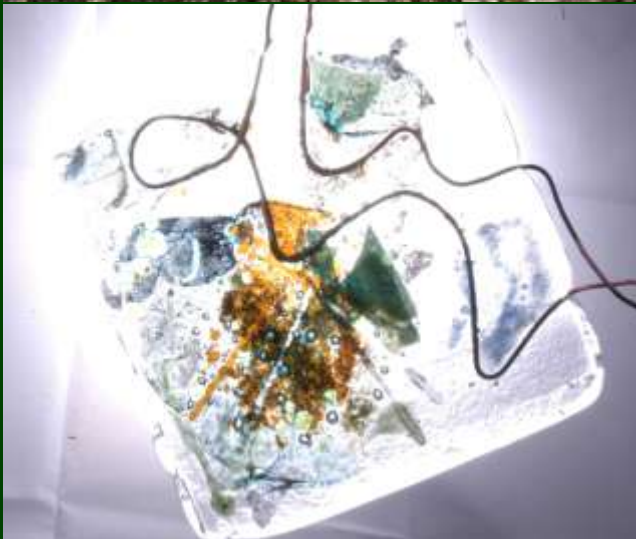


## Gifted Students make Gorgeous Glass

17 Year 7s ventured into unfamiliar ground before Christmas with Miss Bratton at the helm.



*"They have developed the skills better than last years group. They had a higher standard. I reckon you could sell their work for quite a lot of money!"* **Said Miss Bratton**



*"I enjoyed using the copper wire to make interesting shapes and designs"* says Grace Hunt, Year 7.

In the Art department, Year 7's learnt how to produce colourful and interesting glass slabs using a variety of techniques and materials. The aim of the workshop was to design an abstract glass slab based on the natural form and objects found in the environment. Some objects had travelled internationally such as shells, seed pods and even the odd skull.

The gifted and talented art students were given the opportunity to extend their skills by trying their hands at the difficult craft. They studied the interesting and odd angles of each of their objects and then extended the styles using watercolour paints to make the designs, and add a range of bright and engaging colours.

There was a collection of materials open and available to them, coloured' fritt', glass dust, wafer thin coloured sheets of glass and a variety of shapes and sizes. They had to lay these materials over slabs of cut glass and completed them by making a 'glass sandwich' and then using the highly feared kiln, which reaches up to 825 degrees, to fire the slabs.

Many of the students really enjoyed the new techniques and textures they produced through the final pieces and really valued the experiences. Making the glass tile with the pieces of glass was great fun! "We've never done anything like this before it was great and new!" said the students who took part.