

The Art and Artists of the Whitechapel Group

Unit two – 2 lessons designed for Key Stage 4

Lessons for art students

In this section there are two lessons to support the study of art.

In this collection are two essays and eight profiles of Jewish artists from the First World War period written and curated by the Ben Uri Art Gallery and Museum.

The two essays provide:

- An introduction to all the Jewish artists of the period who were influential to British Art including some of their work. At significant points the images are supported by questions.
- An examination of the impact of the war on their work.
- An examination of the important role that the Whitechapel Art Gallery played in the lives of these men and one woman.

The artists profiled are David Bomberg, Jacob Epstein, Mark Gertler, Jacob Kramer, Bernard Meninsky, Isaac Rosenberg, Clare Winsten and Alfred A Wolmark.

Lesson 1

Resources:

Case studies on:

- [Life in Pictures: Understanding Jewish London and its impact on British art in the early years of the 20th century](#)
 - [The Whitechapel Gallery article](#)
 - [The map](#)
 - [The Jewish community in 1914](#)
 - [Evelina Hospital for Sick Children](#)
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Lesson outcomes:

Pupils will:

- Learn about Jewish London and its impact on British Art
- Understand why the Whitechapel Gallery was important
- Appreciate some of the key works of the Whitechapel artists

Activities

Teacher introduces the historical information to the class as background information.

Using the two essays, ask the pupils to work through them and make a synopsis of the key points and events.

Make notes about the images in the essays and what they feel about them and what they have been told.

Conclusions

Discuss how the environment of the early twentieth century contributed to the artists careers?

Discuss to what extent the individual's status as Jewish or as immigrants affect their career?

Lesson 2

Resources:

Case studies on:

- History window – [Jewish Artists and the First World War](#) – also contains artist profiles for David Bomberg (edited for unit 1 version), Jacob Epstein (more suitable for older groups or higher ability groups), Mark Gertler, Jacob Kramer, Bernard Meninsky (edited for unit 1 version, more suitable for older groups or higher ability groups), Isaac Rosenberg, Clare Winsten and Alfred A Wolmark
- [The Whitechapel Gallery article](#)
- [The map](#)

Lesson outcomes

Pupils will:

Learn about some of the individuals that made up the influential Jewish artists of the early 20th century

Understand how events such as the First World War influenced these people.

Activities

Divide the case studies of the artists amongst small groups

Ask the pupils to create a grid of the artists that they are looking at and record what they think are the five most important things that they have been told about that person's life.

Ask the pupils how they would describe the art of the artists that they are looking at to other people? Write down their answers.

Conclusions:

Present the different artists to the class and explain what you have found out about them and what their art represented.

Ask the class to select their favourite images and explain why they have made that choice.