

Art Trip Tate Britain Yr 9

10th December 2024

Our trip to Tate Britain was unforgettable and we were grateful to be given the opportunity to explore the gallery and receive inspiring talks.

Ms Appleby delved into a painting by John Everett Millais, 'Ophelia', which depicts the tragic drowning of Ophelia from the play Hamlet by Shakespeare. What made the painting so captivating to us as a group was not just the botanical symbolism within the flowers in the foreground, which all have a specific meaning relating to the tragic situation, or the mastery with which Millais paints, which has led to this being seen as the greatest pre-Raphaelite masterpiece.

Mr Brandford introduced us to Damien Hirst, through his 1994 piece, 'Away from the Flock'. One of the works in his natural history series features a sheep floating in a vitrine filled with formaldehyde. It references the religious theme of the lamb of God, and the idea of innocence and as a class, we thought how can something so long dead look so vividly alive? The expression on the face of the deceased animal is one of blissful ignorance, making us wonder if we, as a race, are sheep, contentedly ignoring our inevitable fate.

The art of JMW Turner was breath-taking. Ms Jerome asked us insightful questions concerning how his prolific artworks varied throughout his life, introducing us to the concept of working towards

Abstraction. We especially liked his watercolour works, such as 'Scarborough Castle: Boys Crab Fishing', 1809, and his larger works with oil paint, displaying stormy night skies and blissful sunny days.

Overall, we absolutely loved the trip to Tate Britain, and learnt some useful things along the way. It was eye-opening, and the talks of our teachers about feminism, life and death developed our understanding on social perspective, which is what our art lessons are based on currently.

Nyla & Mia, 9A

