Writing about the work of our artists

Week 1:

-Who are the artists?

-What is the title and date of the pictures?

-Describe what you can see in the artwork.

Week 2:

-where are the artist from?

-what other famous works have they made?

-Explain what is meant by surrealism.

Week 3:

-How was it made?

-What is the main focus of the picture?

-Are there any other elements? Anything in the background or foreground?

Week 4:

-Are there any lines taking the viewers eye into the picture in a certain direction? Any points of perspective?

-How has the artist used light for contrast or effect?

-Describe how the pictures are similar

Week 5:

-Describe the use of colour if there is any (e.g., any warm tones, cool tones etc)

-Does the work show a certain mood or emotion? Or trying to tell a story or purpose?

Week 6:

How are the artist's work different to each other?

-How have the artists used symbolism in their work?

-Which artist most influences your work and why?

Surrealism

Is a cultural movement that developed in Europe in the aftermath of WW1. Artists depicted unnerving, illogical scenes and developed techniques to allow the unconscious mind to express itself.

Year 11

Knowledge Organiser

GCSE Art

Key words:
Surrealism, symbolism, application, perspective, colour, contrast, biography, technique.

Artist comparison: Frida Kahlo and Salvador Dali

Biography

-Salvador Dali was a Spanish painter and sculptor.

-Dali was one of the most famous artists of the 20th Century. He is best known for his surrealist paintings. He made paintings, sculptures and films about the dreams he had.

-His most famous paintings include *The Persistence of Memory, Soft Construction with Boiled Beans* and *Swans Reflecting Elephants.*

-Dali was particularly known for his technical skill as a painter and his bizarre, unique images.

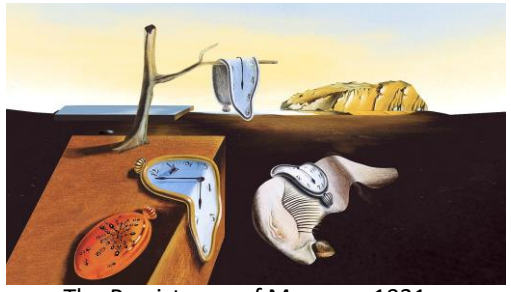
-The main themes in Dali's works include dreams, the subconscious, religion, science and conflict. Despite his eccentric, often controversial personality, his success endured throughout his life.

-Dali was born and died in Figueres, Catalonia, Spain. However, he lived in France throughout the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s and lived in the United States between 1940 and 1948.

Styles and Techniques

-Dali is perhaps the most famous surrealist artist. Surrealism began in the mid-1920s (many credit the French poet Andre Breton with beginning the cultural movement). Surrealism means 'above realism'.
-Surrealist artists created strange, illogical scenes, utilising the subconscious minds to create images. Surrealist artists believed that the subconscious mind held the secrets of life.
-Surrealist works have an element of surprise: unexpected items are placed next to each other for no clear reason. Some viewers may find this shocking or unnerving.
-Surrealist paintings may contain a mixture of strange objects and everyday objects looking out of place.
The centre of the movement was initally Paris, in France, but from the 1920s it spread around the globe, influencing visual arts, literature, film and philosophy.

-The inconsistencies and irregularities in Dali's subject matter are often at odds with his colour palette, which remains rather stable and consistent.
-Dali liked to use a range of blues, oranges, and browns within his works. He normally painted using oil on canvas (sometimes using linseed paint) and these colours were what he deemed to be amongst the most "visual and noticeable", rendering his pieces immediately striking. The oranges depicted the landscape of Catalonia.



The Persistence of Memory, 1931.

-*The Persistence of Memory* portrays a scene with watches melting slowly on rocks and the branch of a tree, with the ocean as a back drop (The rocks to the right are supposed to the Cap de Creus peninsula in north-eastern Catalonia).
-In the foreground is the remains of a clock covered in ants (often used by Dali as a symbol for death). Dali never explained this painting.

Biography

-Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter.

-She is well known for her portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by Mexico.

-She is most famous for paintings such as *The Two Fridas, Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* and *The Wounded Deer.*

-Kahlo had polio at age 6, which left her disabled. She also suffered a terrible accident aged 18, causing her severe pain for the rest of her life.

-Kahlo's paintings often had strong autobiographical elements – mixing realism and fantasy. She used a naïve folk art style to explore ideas such as gender, class and race.

-Frida Kahlo lived between 1907 and 1954. She was born and she died in the Coyoacan district of Mexico City, the capital city of Mexico.

Styles and Techniques

-Folk art is all types of visual art that expresses the styles and views of a particular people. In Kahlo's case, her work presents ideas consistent with her Mexican heritage.
Naïve art is art created by a person who does not have the formal education and training that most artists undergo. Their work may appear more childlike/simple, but often this helps it to appear more raw and expressive. Kahlo's work regularly fits this category.

-Symbolism is the name given to an artistic movement which started in the late 19th Century. Symbolism is evident when artists express ideas through symbols, rather than giving a realistic view of the natural world.
- Kahlo's paintings use rich symbolism - a number of images, lines, colours and textures are used to present ideas. These ideas are often strong symbols in Mexican culture. For example, she uses animals & plants to suggest behaviours or superstitions and weather to portray mood.

-Surrealism is an art movement that grew from around 1920. It used strange, chaotic figures and shapes to show dreams and unconscious thoughts.
-Many of Kahlo's paintings contained suprising, dream-like imagery and deep symbolism, meaning that she has often been labelled a surrealist painter.

The Wounded Deer, 1946.

-In this oil-on-Masonite painting, Kahlo depicts a young deer with her head. The dead trees and broken branches around her show fear and desperation. The young deer is pierced by arrows and is bleeding, and will likely die. She painted this after years of physical and mental torment at being injured and bedridden.