

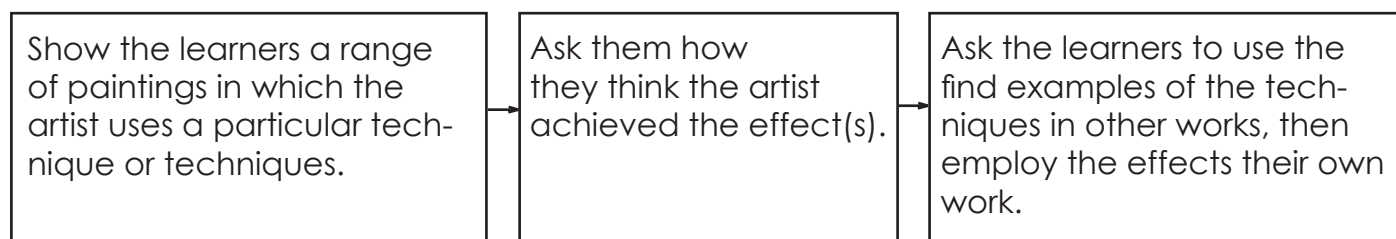
Teachers Notes for *Chiang Yee: Return of the Silent Traveller*

The module exemplifies some of the ways in which the school used Chiang Yee's 1936 paintings of the English Lake District as the starting point for a cross-curricular theme week.

These notes describe two features of the work that could be applied in other schools.

Art and Design

The model used in the work that can be seen in the 'Chiang Yee's Techniques' and 'Our Gallery' films can be applied to many artists work. The process is...



With Chiang Yee, the identified techniques were;

- perspective near things big: little things small
(the children were also shown the ArtisanCam resource www.artisancam.org.uk/flashapps/canaletto/index.php)
- aerial perspective further things paler than nearer things
- wet on wet watercolour technique where paint is applied to an area of paper that has already been 'painted' with plain water. This produces a 'bleeding' effect uncannily similar to some natural phenomena. It is really good to get children to use this technique - some of them will be reluctant to do so because it is not fully controlled and therefore resembles a 'mistake', but the use of accidents is a fundamental part of creative thinking.

This model is not unlike the approach to the study of writing advocated by the National Strategies - immersing children in examples of good writing, getting them to identify techniques used, then appropriately employ such devices in their own writing.

(see http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/19394?uc=force_uj)

Music

KS2 pupils produced the soundtrack to the 'Our Gallery' section using the 'GarageBand' software that ships free with AppleMac computers. They worked in groups taking turns to use a two-year old macbook laptop or an older pre-intel MacMini portable desktop. They also had access to plug-and-play usb music keyboards. Both Computers had the GarageBand 'World Music' Jam Pack installed. 'Jam Pack' software currently (July 2009) retails in the UK for £68.

They made the music by selecting loops from the the 'real instrument' bank, arranging them on the timeline, then superimposing an improvised track by a year 3 pupil playing the usb music keyboard. The teacher marked the notes on the keyboard that fitted the Chinese pentatonic scale used on the loops (C,D,F,G and A) The children had had no previous experience of GarageBand and spent less than two hours in total working with the software.

If you don't have an AppleMac, CLEO is currently planning the creation of 'how to' materials showing the use of open-source software available for PCs. A link will be placed here when they become available (hopefully by the end of Autumn Term 2009).