

Oliver West BA (Hons) Landscape Painter & Printmaker



Artist in Residence Activities currently offered:

✓ A 'Daily Art Experience' for every student – this can be run without disruption to the curriculum. At the end of an assembly or lunch break, every student is given the opportunity to make a five minute drawing, encouraging awareness of personal creativity.

✓ Staff Development workshops – working closely with teachers, using projects to develop their personal arts skills, as well as to develop strategies for encouraging their students' creativity.

✓ Intaglio and relief printmaking workshops – the use of a mobile studio van equipped with printing press/equipment can be made available. The value of this activity is that students can see the process from etching on the plate, to the pulling of a proof. This can be repeated and further work can be added to the plate, making adjustments and assessing the work as they go. The students are often excited to see the stage by stage development of their print image.

✓ Film making workshops using DV video and 'Imovie' editing equipment/software – this encourages teamwork and utilises all the varied skills available in one class; it involves the students in costume and set design, script writing, make-up, narrating, acting, illustrating, animating, editing – everyone gets involved!

✓ Community arts project – a wider ranging project that could include the students' friends and family from their native countries. In a previous project, students made a life-size elephant sculpture in a joint effort with students of the same age from Bombay in India. Using the internet, the students were able to connect, swap stories and learn about each other's cultures and experiences; all the pictures, letters and stories that they collated were used as inspiration to create a printed fabric for the skin of the elephant. This sort of project works incredibly well in a multi-cultural class, fostering a better understanding and appreciation of diversity.

✓ Sketchbook workshop – this involves ten different ways of drawing a view/object, encouraging each student to develop their own style of drawing. This is important in building up their sense of individuality and confidence, getting away from the idea that drawing has to be ordered and disciplined and reinforcing the idea that it is okay for a student to make their own marks.

✓ Mural project – based on a theme relevant to an event or project currently running. It gives the opportunity for large amounts of students to collaborate on a joint venture, sharing the process of adjusting and developing an image through time. This encourages students to communicate well with each other whilst working within creative guidelines. It teaches the students the skills needed to research, plan and prepare a given subject. This often spans many subjects within the school curriculum.



- ✓ Career development portfolio workshops – business/marketing workshops and/or arts portfolio tutorials (preparing for interview/looking at career options & arts skills). Specific guidance for students who are preparing (or considering preparing) for any arts-based further education or business.

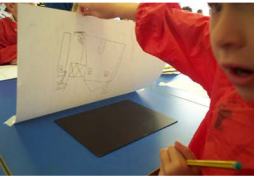
- ✓ “Oliver West Footnotes” Visual Thinking Workshops. For many years linear-lexical modes of teaching and learning have dominated our classrooms, and learners who think and learn in a non-linear way have been marginalised and misunderstood. But there is an increasing realisation that an understanding of non-linear thinkers is an essential part of the development of inclusive educational practice; indeed the need to discover the specific learning style of every individual in a classroom is of the utmost importance.

Oliver West’s alternative learning methods and study skills introduce learners to visual thinking techniques that can allow them to realise their full learning potential. Footnotes techniques are an ideal learning solution for those who find traditional classroom linear-lexical teaching methods challenging. The techniques can enable learners who think predominantly in visual terms to develop their own personalised strategies for learning, and are particularly beneficial for dyslexic learners. With strong dyslexic tendencies of his own, Oliver is uniquely qualified to approach this learning difference. As part of his work, Oliver aims to heighten awareness of dyslexic tendencies and behaviours, enabling learners, parents and teachers to overcome day to day frustrations in communication and learning. Dyslexic learners often see dramatic breakthroughs in performance as they begin to use visual strategies as an aid to understanding and internalising verbal and written cues. Footnotes techniques can be used to develop skills in the following areas:-

- Personal management skills such as finding a focus, keeping a focus and problem solving strategies for thought processing and communication.
- Collating ideas and information using ‘sketchbook wallet’ memory triggers.
- Sketchbooks & presentation preparation.
- Note-taking strategies.
- Story/Essay planning and structuring.
- Spelling strategies.
- Reading strategies.
- Research techniques.
- Time management techniques.
- Strategies for short and long-term memory.

- ✓ Visual thinking or arts summer schools – activities that can be set up within holiday periods as extra support for students and parents wanting to further identify and develop individual learning styles.

Oliver can adapt his activities and techniques to meet the requirements of any learning environment, and enjoys the challenge of working with diverse individuals with widely varying learning preferences.



For more information and bookings, please contact him at the addresses below. Here are some suggested options for school projects:

OPTION 1 – 3 SESSIONS/CLASSES IN 1 DAY

For a primary school, one day of monoprinting could be split into three sessions: before break, after break and after lunch.

OPTION 2 – FULL DAY WITH ONE CLASS

As a landscape artist, I would spend the first part of the morning with sketchbooks, moving on to print from sketchbooks after break. After lunch we would use a printing press to create a multi-layered print.

OPTION 3 – TWO DAY CLASS

Suitable for Year 5 and upwards, I would suggest a Drypoint engraving workshop spanning two whole days.



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