

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Throughout the project pupils will engage with the Day of the Dead carnival using its imagery and traditions as inspiration for printmaking, drawing and painting.

Pupils will develop knowledge of the DOTD festival, Mexican culture and artists. Students will explore the work of Frida Kahlo and other Surrealists to develop a deeper understanding of art movements.



## VOCABULARY

Atmosphere, Carnival, Shrine, Decorations, Prayer, Layer, Keepsake, Naïve, Folk, Ancestors, Sugar Skulls, Tradition, Mexico, Afterlife, Illustration, Printmaking, Intaglio, 3D Form, Cast Shadow, Line, Surrealism, Art Movement, Ink, Roller, Printing Plate, Embossed, Mono, Hybrid, Engrave, Ground, Collagraph, Printing Press, Motif, Pattern, Composition.

## TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES

Pupils will gain an understanding of Printmaking techniques such as mono-printing, relief printing, collagraphy, forms of etching and embossing as well as intaglio printmaking.

They will also build on their understanding of observational drawing techniques and colour theory learnt in Year 7.

Pupils will use Gum Strip to produce their own 3D form –the mask will form the final outcome for this project and will house all knowledge and design aesthetic delivered within this project.



**Frida Kahlo** is a famous Mexican artist. She is often described as a Surrealist painter as her work is often unusual and depicts dreamlike situations.

She wore traditional folk clothing of Mexico to highlight her cultural heritage and her work is often described as folk or naïve.

Other famous Surrealist artists include Salvador Dali, Leonora Carrington, Joan Miró, Marcel Duchamp and Rene Magritte.

**José Posada** was a Mexican illustrator known for his satirical and politically acute *calaveras*. Deriving from the Spanish word for 'skulls', these *calaveras* were illustrations featuring skeletons which would, after Posada's death, become closely associated with the Mexican holiday *Día de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead. Most of these *calaveras* were published by the press of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo which produced inexpensive literature for the lower classes, including thousands of satirical broadsides which Posada illustrated.



### Mexican Patterns / Aztec Influence

Using repeat pattern within your project will give it a more sophisticated characteristic and flow. For this project we will be focusing on the use of Mexican / Aztec patterns. This will see you combining our knowledge of advanced colour theory, repetitive pattern, tessellation and use of space to create unique designs that we will use to decorate our final piece.



## KNOW YOUR STUFF

The Day of the Dead ('Día De Muertos') carnival is a national holiday celebrated in Mexico. The multi day celebration looks to gather family and friends to pray for and remember friends and relatives that have died. The carnival celebrations are shared across two days the first being November 1st, which looks to remember babies and infants. The second day (2nd Nov) honours adults and ancestors which is followed by the fiesta itself in the evening.

The celebration of the day is based on the belief that the souls of loved ones will come back to visit them. One of the most important traditions is to set up an Altar in memory of the deceased family member, where all four elements are presented (Earth, Wind, Fire and Water). Sugar skulls are also made as offerings to the gods, these are painted in bright colours and placed on the altar along with food, flowers and photographs of the deceased.

DAY OF THE DEAD

## What is Printmaking?

Printmaking is the process of creating artwork from an original 'plate' which can be reproduced multiple times. To create the plate printmakers can *cut*, *engrave*, *paint*, *ink up*, *expose* a surface. The surface can be wood, lino, poly board etc and then is usually applied with ink and pressed onto paper or another surface.

