

SUFFOLK CRAFT SOCIETY

Rags to Riches Summer Term 2007 Holton St Peter CP School

The idea of an art project with an environmental theme was very attractive. We are an ECO school and we welcome the opportunity to cover issues like recycling in different areas of the curriculum.

When I put the title to the class and explained the outline of the project their ideas focused on clothes that had been thrown away being transformed into shiny, gold, jewelled items. This led me to consider Gustav Klimt as an artist to inspire their work.



We collected images from books, cards and the internet to show the class. Meanwhile the class collected material and paper that was to be thrown away at home and the collection grew to several bin bags. The class made sketch books from recycled paper, donated by local

businesses, and recorded ideas from the images and materials.

Jenny and I discussed possible directions for the work and decided that using the ideas to make a garment would work. Jenny designed a robe made of four panels that could be worked on by a group of eight children working in pairs.



A theme for each group evolved from looking at Klimt's work. Selections of parts from the images on the computers were made by pupils and by looking at the work in black and white the shapes became more prominent and easier to identify. We identified recurring shapes, rectangle, circles, triangles and eye shapes and these shapes became the theme for each group.

The pupils then had to choose the materials to work with and the choice was almost overwhelming. Ideas began to be transferred from sketch book to the materials and panels began to be cut out. The next

SUFFOLK CRAFT SOCIETY

decision was how to attach the design to the backing material and most pupils were keen to try sewing. The panels were then constructed using stitches, Copydex and double sided

As the panels were put together I photographed each one and printed a set for each group so they could be brought together in a small scale, mock-up of the garment in paper. This helped the group to consider how the panels would be placed and how they would relate to each other in the final piece.



Jenny then machine stitched the panels together with the group and the final embellishments were made as one group working on the whole piece.

Throughout this project working co-operatively has been a major theme. The pupils had to work individually, with a partner and with a group sharing resources, ideas and equipment. It has challenged their ability to compromise, to express and

explain ideas, to listen to others, to be patient and to relate their work to that of others.

The work has also inspired some language work in the form of a sketch written collaboratively with the class. The sketch idea evolved as a way of displaying the finished items. Instead of a fashion show, we have written a short piece of drama on an environmental theme that may fit into our end of term concert which is all about 'Caring for the Earth'.

The pupils are now rehearsing the sketch and putting the finishing touches to the robes.

The project has been an exciting experiment with textiles and I would like to thank Jenny for her support, ideas and expertise.

Marie Rolfe (class teacher)



Holton St Peter CP School Robes