



Growth and Decay

By investigating the theme of growth and decay we can explore the origins of our creativity by taking inspiration from the world around us. Using a range of materials, often found in the environment, artists are inspired by the cycles of nature, life and death, passages of time and new beginnings.

Try to think thematically about the project- you may wish to start from one of the following ideas.

- Architectural - e.g. new building developments, housing, landmarks, derelict buildings. You could look at examples of where nature is starting to grow again on decaying landscapes such as Chernobyl, Kolmanskop or Kadykchan. *Miranda Donovan, Alexandre Farto, Johanna Martensson (Facades), Susan Hotchkis*
- Time - e.g. age, our interpretation of time (days, weeks, months, years), seasons. *Kang Yongfeng, Armita Raafat,*
- Living organisms (e.g. humans, animals; links with age) - e.g. birth and death. *Damien Hirst, Jodi Colella, Sirarpi Heghinian Walzer, Eva Hesse, Kiki Smith*
- Nature (links to time, seeds, shoots, rot, mould) - e.g. natural disasters, plant growth from seed to a full growth, decaying fruit/vegetables. *Valerie Heggarty, Marian Jazmik, Sam Taylor-Wood (still life), Amanda Cobbett, Sarah Meyers Brent*



You may see examples out on a walk, new life growing from a dead tree. Try to notice the things around you and use these things as stimulus for your project. You might find examples from your own home- why not try creating mould by leaving fruit and vegetables out.

