



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.



Complete these three tasks once you have established your chosen theme. You should have already completed a mood board and mind map in your bridging work

1. Explore

Explore the theme in different ways by taking a range of photographs. Take at least 20-30 photographs covering a range of viewpoints, colours, textures and lighting and print out 8-10. You may also want to draw from life in order to document your own experiences. What does the forest smell like as the leaves are starting to decay? What do the new buds of a flower feel like under your fingertips? Use key words to remind yourself of your senses

2. Research

Create a powerpoint presentation on two artists related to the theme. Include lots of examples of their work and concentrate on their ideas and why you find them interesting. You could choose two from the list or include your own.

Miranda Donovan, Alexandre Farto, Johanna Martensson (Facades), Susan Hotchkis

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Damien Hirst, Jodi Colella, Sirarpi Heghinian Walzer, Eva Hesse, Kiki Smith Valerie Heggarty, Marian Jazmik, Sam Taylor-Wood (still life), Amanda Cobbett, Sarah Meyers Brent

3. Draw

Develop your initial ideas into at least 2 experimental drawings. Stick one of your images into the centre of an A4 piece of paper and extend the lines, shapes and textures to fill the rest of the page. Where possible, use a variety of media and techniques:

- Pencil, fine liner – experiment with mark making techniques such as tone and cross hatching.
- Application of colour - water colour paints, water colour pencils.
- Application of texture - magazine collage, fabric collage.

