

Secondary level | Workshop:

Snow Painting and Drawing

This resource can be used as a one-off lesson or workshop, or expanded and built into a drawing SOW. It can be adapted for KS3-5. For GCSE and A Level, this would work well for an artist research page and artist response.

Lesson One

Lesson objectives

How to translate observations into an abstract landscape artwork

Starting point: Looking at Frank Bowling's pieces

- Understand how Frank Bowling uses sketches as starting points.
- Explore how observation (e.g. snow landscapes and textures) can become abstract.
- Experiment with mark-making to capture atmosphere rather than detail.

Starter conversation: Show students examples of Frank Bowling's sketches

Discussion prompts

- What do you notice about texture and colour?
- Does this feel like a landscape, even if it is abstract?
- How might a quick sketch lead to something like this?

Task: 10-Minute Exercise - One Page of Sketchbook

Observe Frank Bowling's sketch and copy as many different mark-making techniques as you can see into your sketchbook. You can use charcoal, pen, pencil, or an object (e.g. a stick dipped into ink). Encourage students to be as creative as possible.

Lesson Two

Lesson objectives

To create a painting based on your sketch from the previous lesson.

In today's lesson, you will select one drawing to work from to create a final painting in response to Frank Bowling's Snow Painting.

Criteria

- Only black and white acrylic paint
- You must include tonal variation, so colour mixing will be key
- You can use paintbrushes and tools such as sticks, feathers or anything you can find to paint with
- Your work must include layers; acrylic paint will dry quickly to allow this
- You can work into your painting using ink, charcoal, chalk or pencil
- Once your work is dry, you can also scratch into your painting using a paperclip to add texture
- Make sure you use the mark-making techniques you created in your sketchbook.