



Reading and activities list for Fine Art

Checklist of Actions for Oxbridge preparation

- Complete the course and college research booklet which covers entry requirements for your course (e.g. admissions tests during interviews). Use it to help you make informed choices.
- Respond and maintain email contact with your OMS Mentor and do not hesitate to ask questions which may help your Oxbridge preparation.
- Read British broadsheets such as The Daily Telegraph, The Independent or The Guardian preferably every day (if not feasible, then at weekends). Think critically about what you have read; what issues are raised?; What assumptions are being made? What information is being relied on to draw which conclusions? How would you frame a counter-argument?
- Make note of subject-related terminology to look up definitions with the aim of working them into future academic discussions on your chosen Oxbridge course.
- Keep a "Learning Log". Note down (i) book titles/ articles (ii) author (iii) your thoughts, feelings and observations (iv) context and relevance of the book/article (v) whether you agree with what you have read.
- Record the names of the books you have read so far and make as many notes as possible on texts you read, including notes on your first reaction to them, on characters, on prominent literary techniques used, on narrative style, and anything on context (what was happening at the time the text was written that may have had an influence on it?) Also try to note what it is that you like/dislike about a text.

Contemporary art books

Pick from among the following to list, according to preference.

- *Contemporary Art Book* by Charlotte Bonham-Carter, David Hodge and Richard Cork
- *Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction* by Julian Stallabrass
- *50 Contemporary Artists You Should Know* by Christine Weidemann and Brad Finger
- *Defining Contemporary Art: 25 Years in 200 Pivotal Artworks* by Daniel Birnbaum, Connie Butler, Suzanne Cotter and Bice Curiger
- *Understand Contemporary Art: Teach Yourself* by Grant Pooke and Graham Whitham
- *The Photograph as Contemporary Art* by Charlotte Cotton
- *Contemporary Art: World Currents* by Terry Smith
- *Seven Days in the Art World* by Sarah Thornton
- *Why Your Five Year Old Could Not Have Done That: Modern Art Explained* by Susie Hodge
- *Theory in Contemporary Art Since 1985* by Zoya Kocur and Simon Leung
- *Contemporary Art: 1989 to the Present* by Alexander Dumbadze and Suzanne Hudson
- *Contemporary Art and Memory: Images of Recollection and Remembrance* by Joan Gibbons
- *Making Contemporary Art: How Today's Artists Think and Work* by Linda Weintraub
- *What Are You Looking At?: 150 Years of Modern Art in the Blink of an Eye* by Will Gompertz
- *100 artists who epitomize the contemporary art scene: Key figures on the avant-garde horizon* (Tashcen)
- *Art Theory: A Very Short Introduction* by Cynthia Freeland
- *What is Contemporary Art?* by Terry Smith



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- *The Great Contemporary Art Bubble*
- *Art: The Definitive Visual Guide* by Andrew Graham-Dixon

Naïve/outsider art:

An interesting “genre” which highlights the debate about authenticity and untutored expression and what is of value in art.

- *Outsider Art: Spontaneous Alternatives* by Colin Rhodes
- *Groundwaters: A Century of Art by Self-Taught and Outsider Artists* by Charles Russell
- *Raw Creation: Outsider Art and Beyond* by John Maizels and Roger Cardinal
- *Art Brut: The Origins of Outsider Art* by Lucienne Peiry and James Frank
- *The Colorful Apocalypse: Journeys in Outsider Art* by Greg Bottoms
- *Outsider: Always Almost: Never Quite* by Brian Sewell
- *Outsider Art Realms: Visionary Worlds, Trauma, and Transformation (Meertens Ethnology Cahier)* by Daniel Wojcik

Photography

- *Street Photography Now: with 301 photographs in color and black-and-white* by Sophie Howarth and Stephen McLaren
- *Art Photography Now* by Susan Bright
- *The Photograph as Contemporary Art* by Charlotte Cotton
- *Art Beyond the Lens: Working with Digital Textures* by Sarah Gardner
- *Masters of Photography: A Complete Guide to the Greatest Artists of the Photographic Age* by Reuel Golden
- *50 Photographers You Should Know* by Peter Stepan
- *The Photographer's Vision: Understanding and Appreciating Great Photography* by Michael Freeman

British art:

- *50 British Artists You Should Know* by Lucinda Hawksley
- *The dictionary of British Artists, 1880-1940: 005* by J. Johnson and A. Greutzner
- *13 British Artists Children Should Know* by Alison Baverstock
- *Contemporary British Women Artists: In Their Own Words* by Rebecca Fortnum
- *Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection* by Norman Rosenthal and Richard Stone
- *Growing Up: The Young British Artists at 50* by Jeremy Cooper
- *A History of British Art* by Andrew Graham-Dixon

Theatre

- *A R T* by Yasmina Reza – an excellent discussion about modern art
- *Pitmen Painters* is a play by Lee Hall based on the Ashington Group of painters. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pitmen_Painters. This is a brilliant way to explain the meaning and value of art – based on a true story.

Documentaries:

- *The Shock of the New* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZsQI6L9WCI> About <http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2004/jun/30/art1>
- *Goldsmiths: But Is It Art* – What it's like being an art student in a leading college. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kla-NtGV-ZM>



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- *How Art Made The World 1 - More Human Than Human* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efS9qOYNOjc>
- *A History of Art in Three Colours* <http://vimeo.com/48445272>
- *The Genius of British Art* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPZ8KHP2PxM>
- *Journeys Into The Outside* with Jarvis Cocker - Cocker travels the world to look at various forms of Outsider Art, including: Simon Rodia's Watts Towers in Los Angeles; The Rock Garden of Chandigarh by Nek Chand; the Garden of Eden by Samuel P. Dinsmoor; and The sculpture garden of Las Pozas, Mexico by Edward James. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TU8XqLs5knw>
- *Renaissance Revolutions* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F352fu-lohg>
- *This is Modern Art* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcC-dlwNnG8>

Great women artists

List: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_artists#Contemporary_artists

- My choice:
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise_Bourgeois
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Whiteread
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlene_Dumas
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoko_Ono
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenny_Saville

Art journals:

Dip in and focus on those *articles and images* that appeal:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_art_magazines

General

Select the above in terms of finding a focus for your interests, and then pursue your areas in more depth.

- When reading books and articles, try to be very critical in your analysis at all times. Develop counter-arguments and attempt to justify these with logic and evidence.
- As part of your learning process throughout Oxbridge preparation, create a cumulative list of definitions and key concepts to expand your academic vernacular and knowledge for use in academic conversation.
- Conduct research into Course and College choices using the Course and College Research Booklet to help you.