

Tate Modern

In February we took 22 of our Year 11 students to see artworks in the permanent collection at Tate Modern, at Bankside in Central London (on the south side of the River Thames). There are four Tate Galleries in the UK; Tate Modern specialises in international modern and contemporary art. The gallery's main building used to be a power station; its conversion into a gallery was completed in the year 2000 by Swiss architect Jacques Herzog. In 2016 a ten-storey extension to the gallery was opened; this striking new building was also designed by Herzog.

On our visit, the students were tasked with getting three sketches done by the end of the day. After some initial exploring, they decided which artworks they would draw first and got started. Drawing in a gallery is important because it enables us to see details and subtleties that we would otherwise miss. Looking at art in books and online is valuable, of course, but in the SWPS Art Dept we believe it is vital that our students get the chance to engage with real artworks in dynamic, world-class gallery spaces such as Tate Modern.

