

GCSE Controlled Test Themes 2026

1. Reflections

2. Connections

3. Woman

4. Layers

5. Twisting and Turning

You must pick one theme only and then base all topic work on this leading up to the controlled test on the 21st and 22nd April 2026

Your topic work MUST include the following:

1. Mind Map
2. Artist research/ links/ work in the style of...
3. Drawings and photography.
4. Colour and Media Samples
5. Design ideas/ Planning
6. Final piece (in the ten hours controlled test)

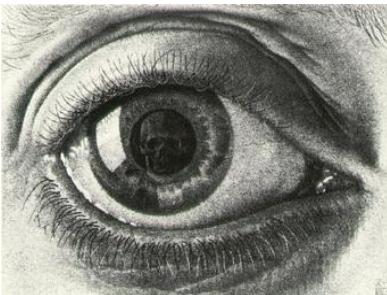
You may complete the artist research and drawings in any order or combined.

All work must be annotated and relevant to your chosen theme



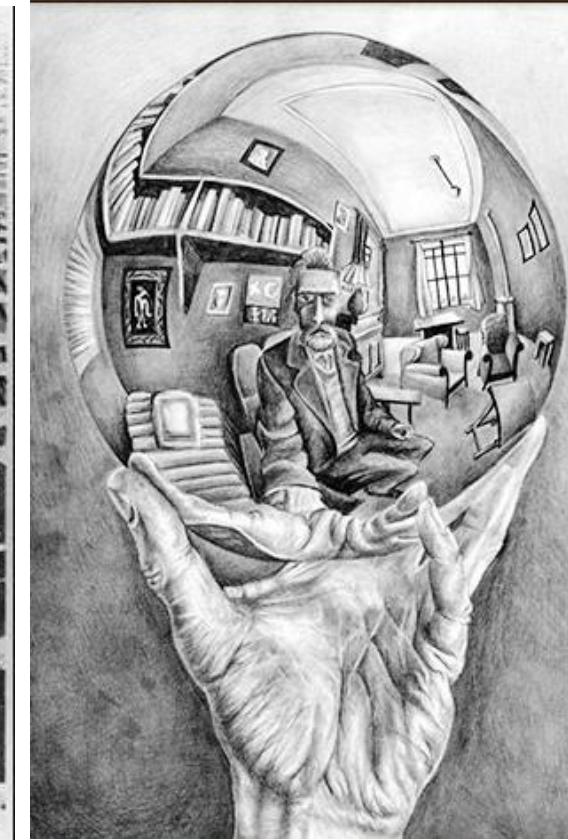
REFLECTIONS

M. C. Escher



Simon Hennessy

More Information [here](#)



Pointers for your Mind Map:
Mirror, water, light, shadow, glass, puddles, raindrops, seascapes, metal, bubbles, prayer, projection, transparent, distortion, shine, glasses symmetry, pattern



Rhian Symes



S.French

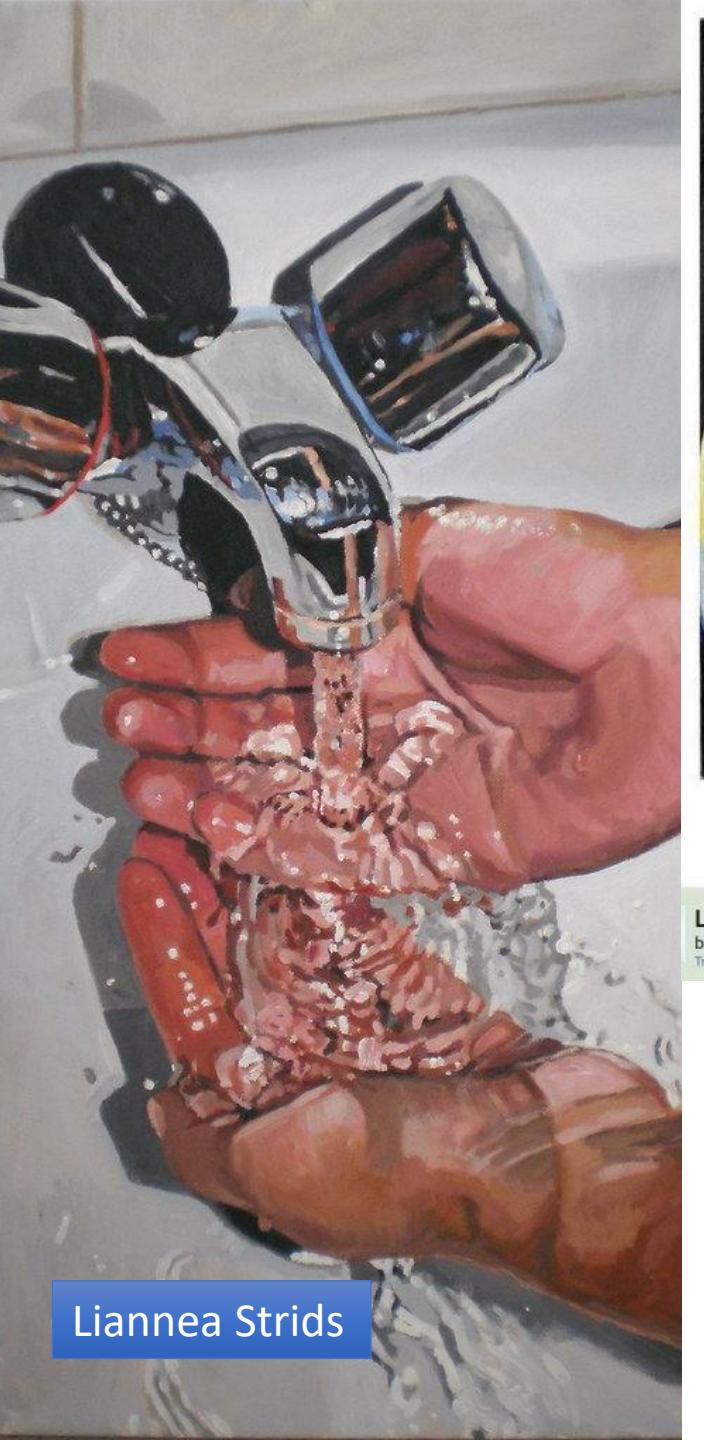


Brianne Williams



Michelle Poirier Mozzzone





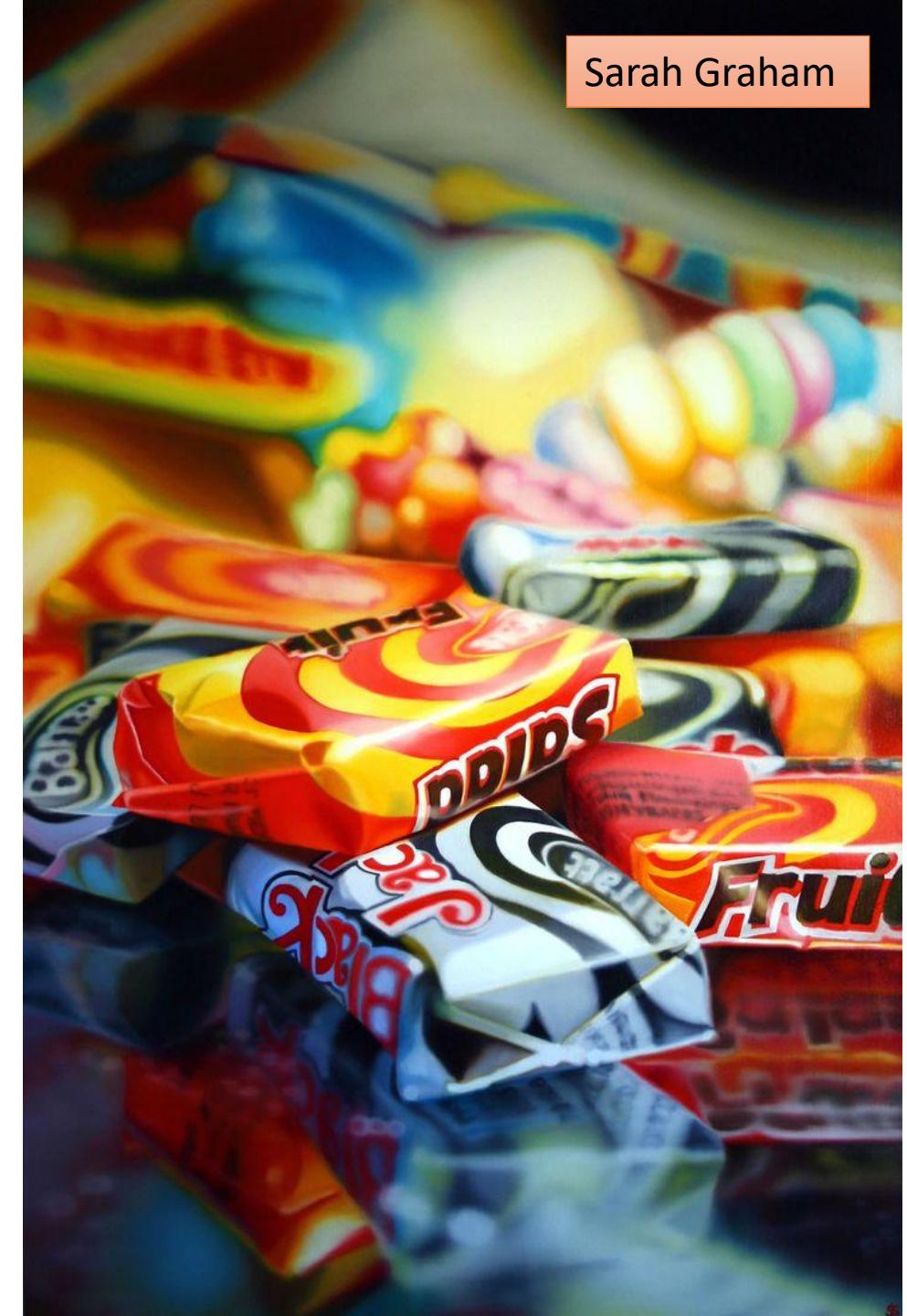
Lianne Strids



Life's like a Bubble
by DaveLopes
Traditional Art / Drawings / Port



Steve Smith



Sarah Graham



Kate Brinkworth

Still life arrangements that use
reflective surfaces / mirrors

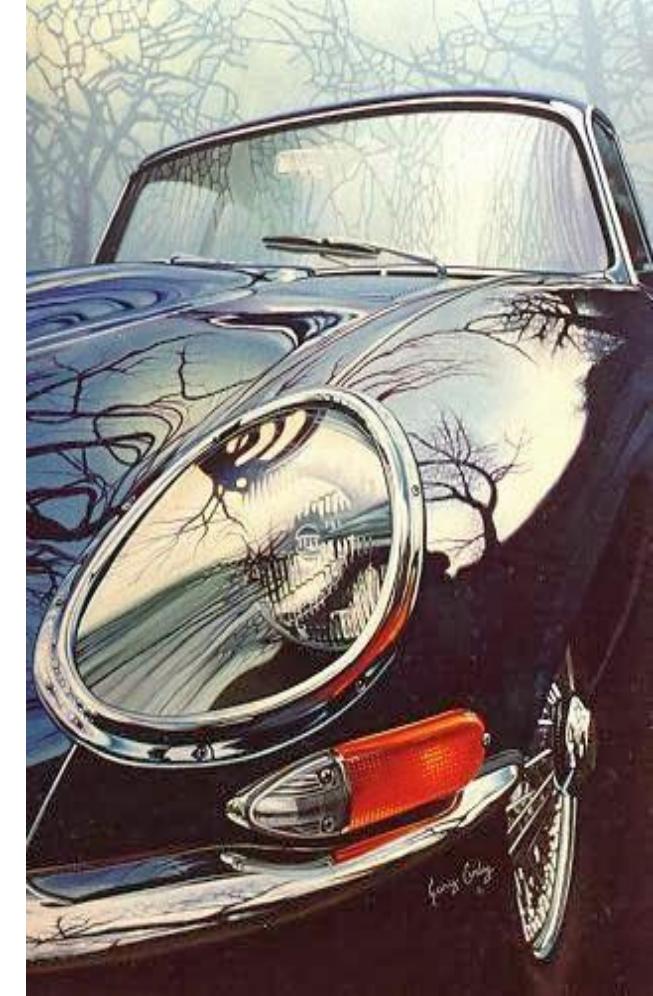


Audrey Flack



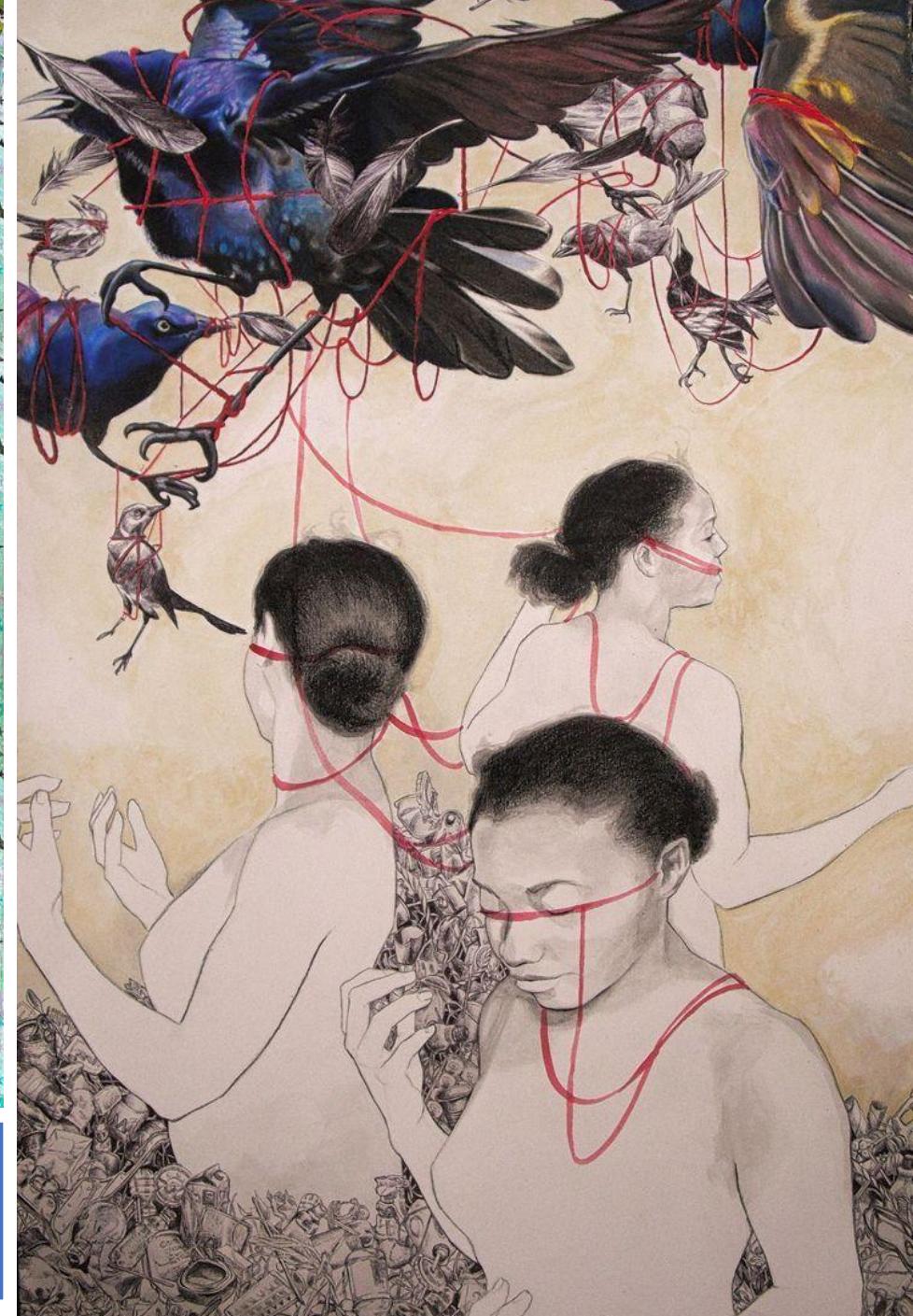
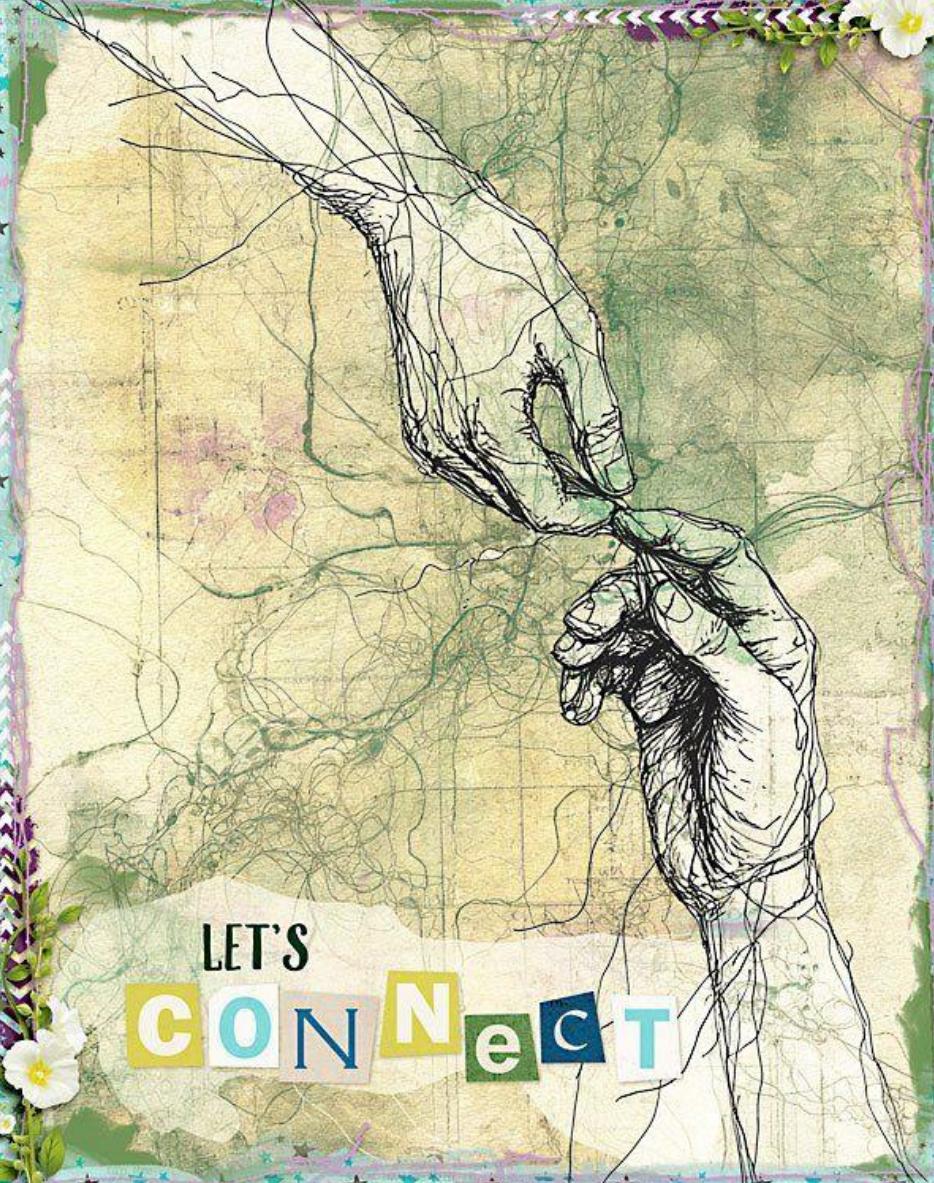


Scott Jacobs



Use Pinterest to find artist whose work inspires you and is relevant to the topic

CONNECTIONS



Pointers for your mind map : Link, interlock, assemblage, construction, relations, fitting together, joining, piecing, correlations, ties, unions, fixtures, influences...



Ed Fairburn

Alexandra Gallagher

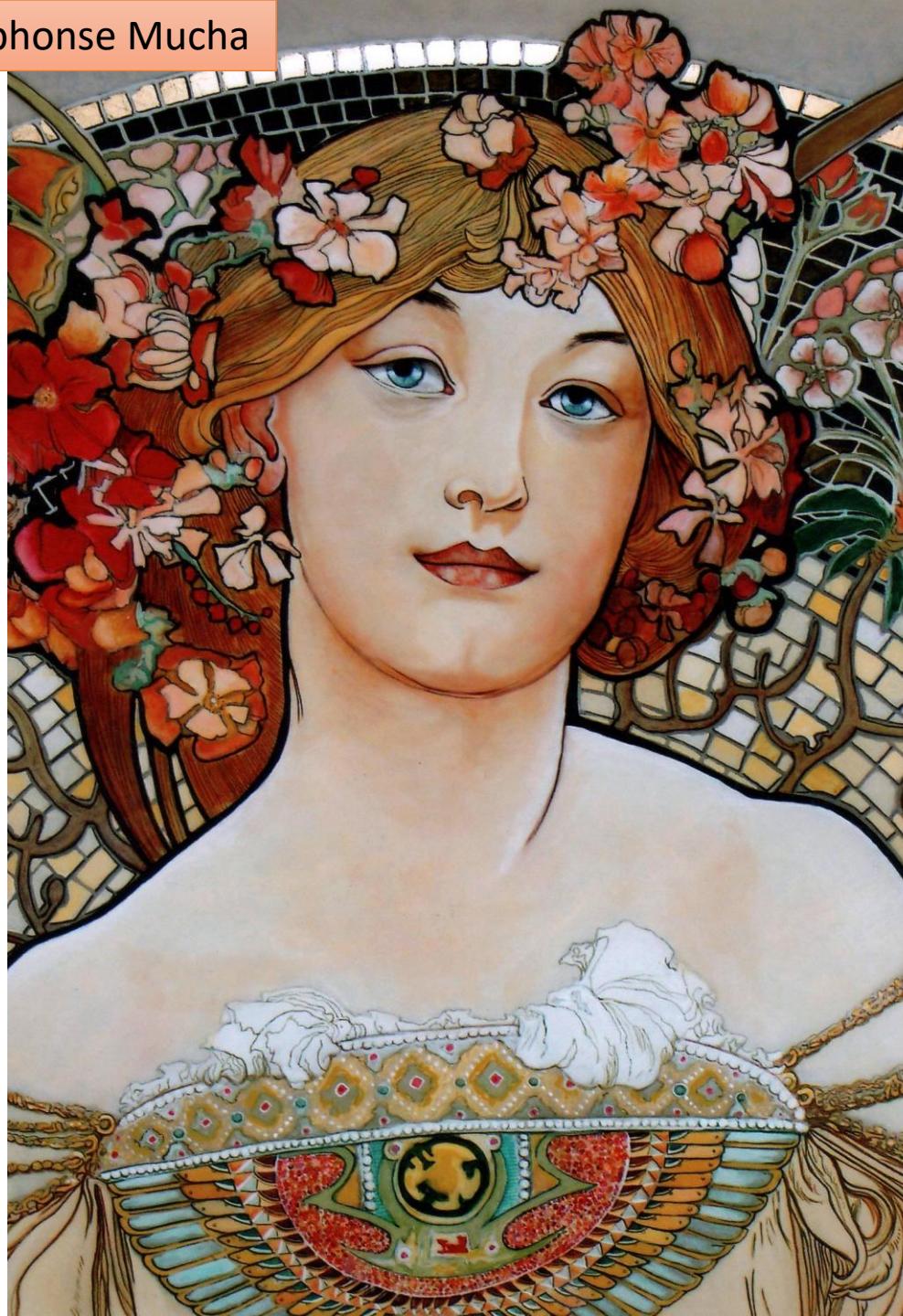
woman



Renoir

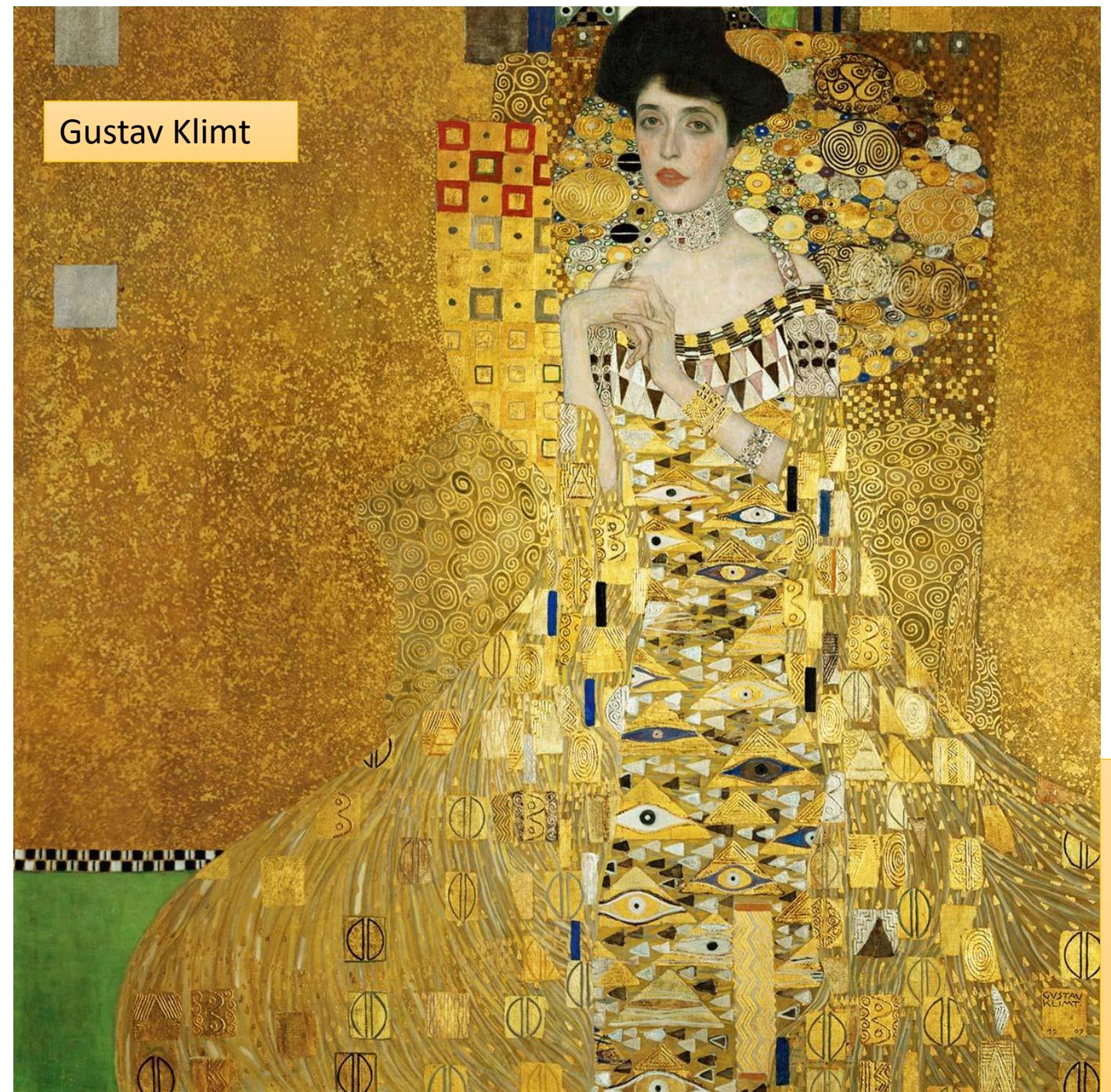


Alphonse Mucha

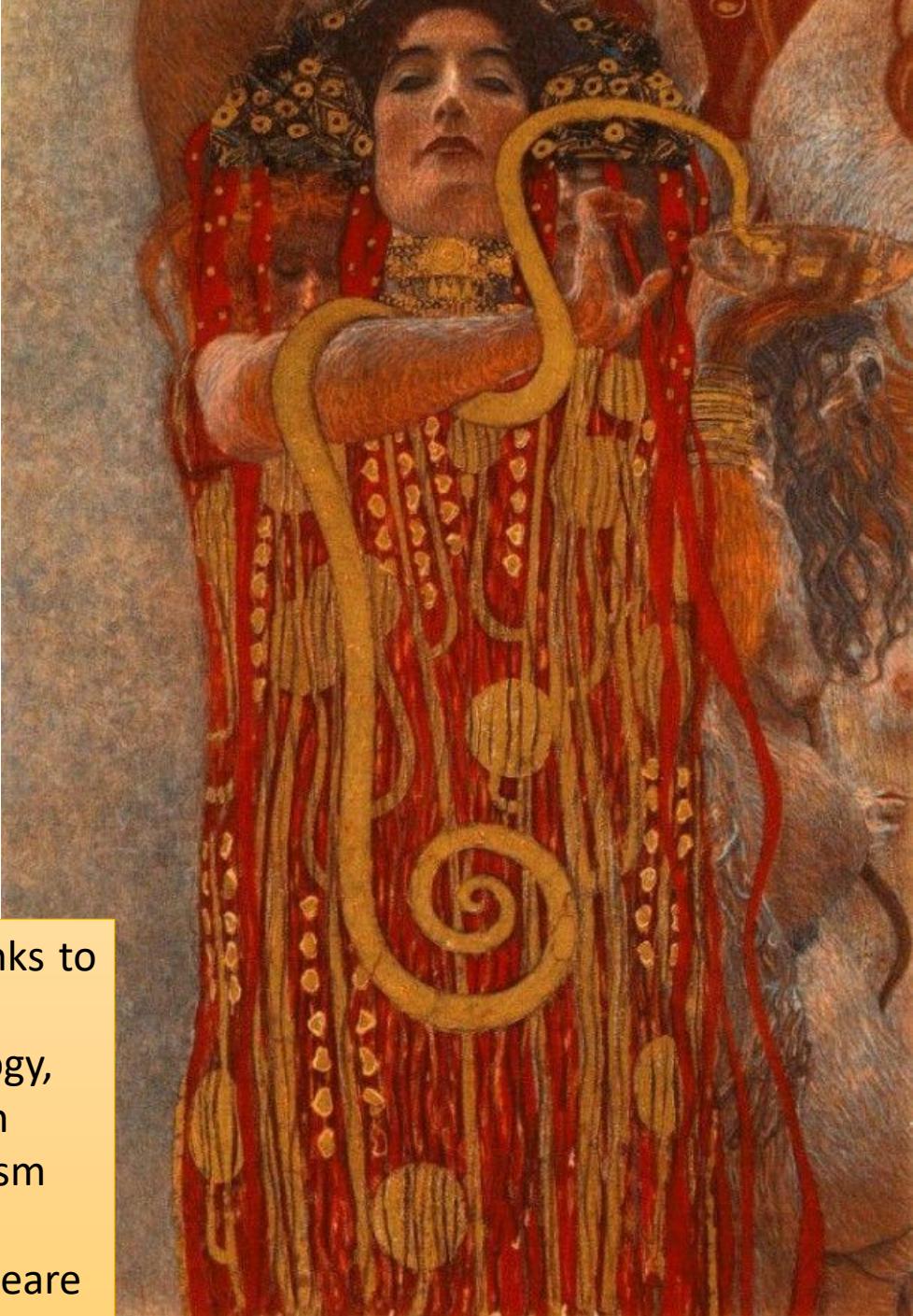


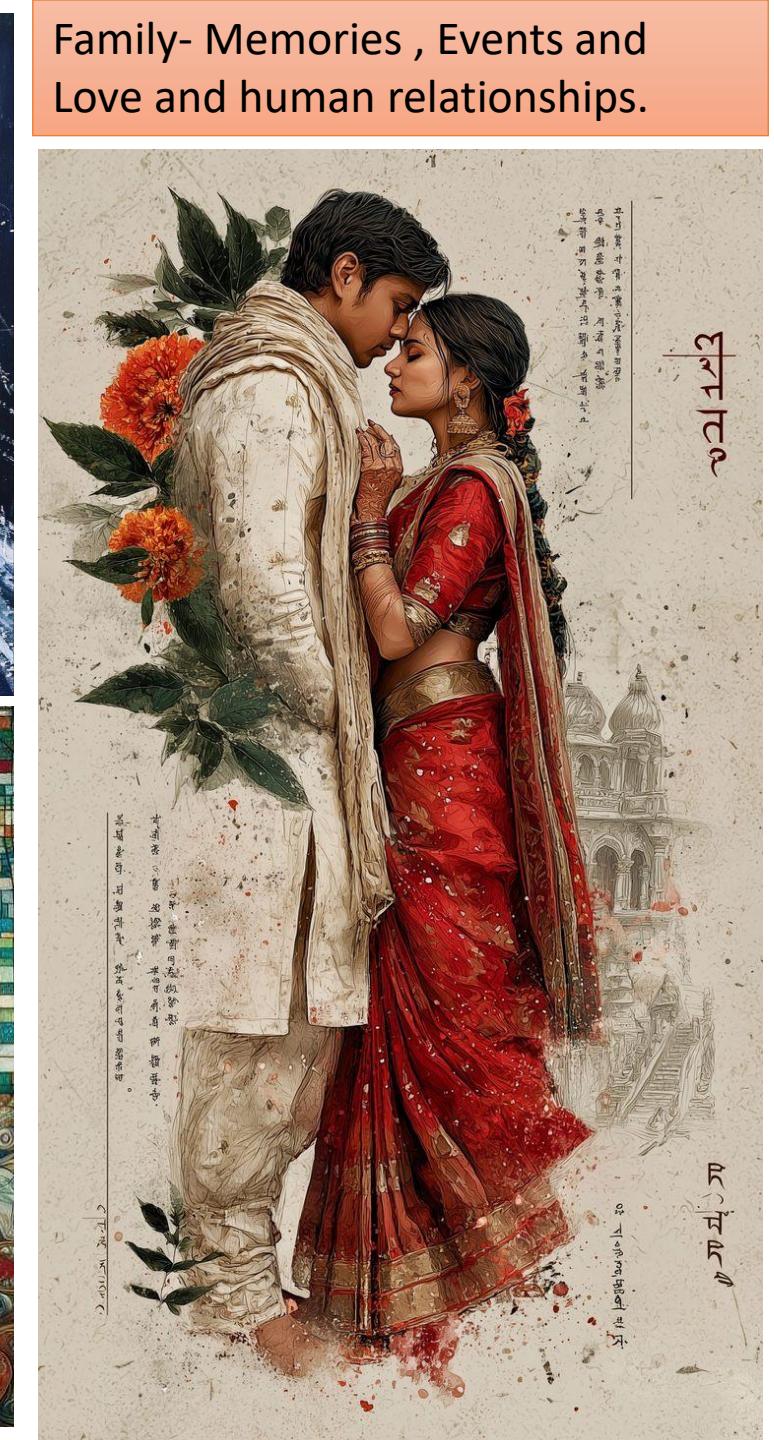
Pointers for
your Mind
Map:
Mother,
relatives,
Childhood
memories,
Royal
family, Icons
Literature and
Poems,
nurture,
gender,
identity,
symbol, equal,
bride,
empowered,
matriarch,

Gustav Klimt



Work links to
Greek
mythology,
Egyptian
symbolism
and
Shakespeare





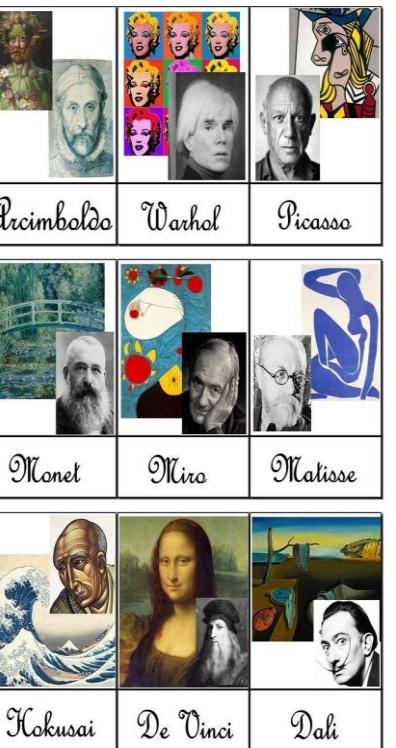
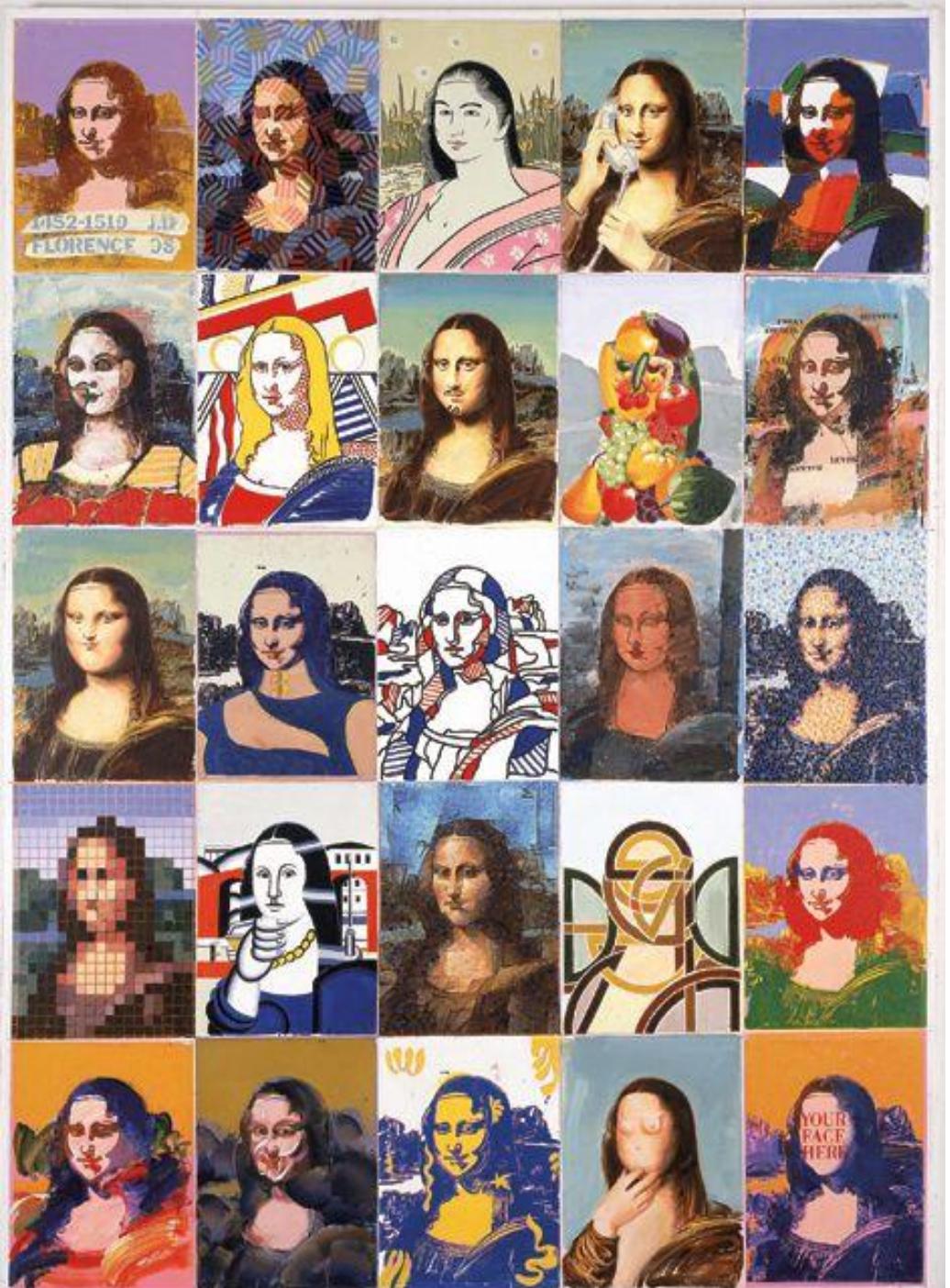
Family- Memories , Events and
Love and human relationships.

2020

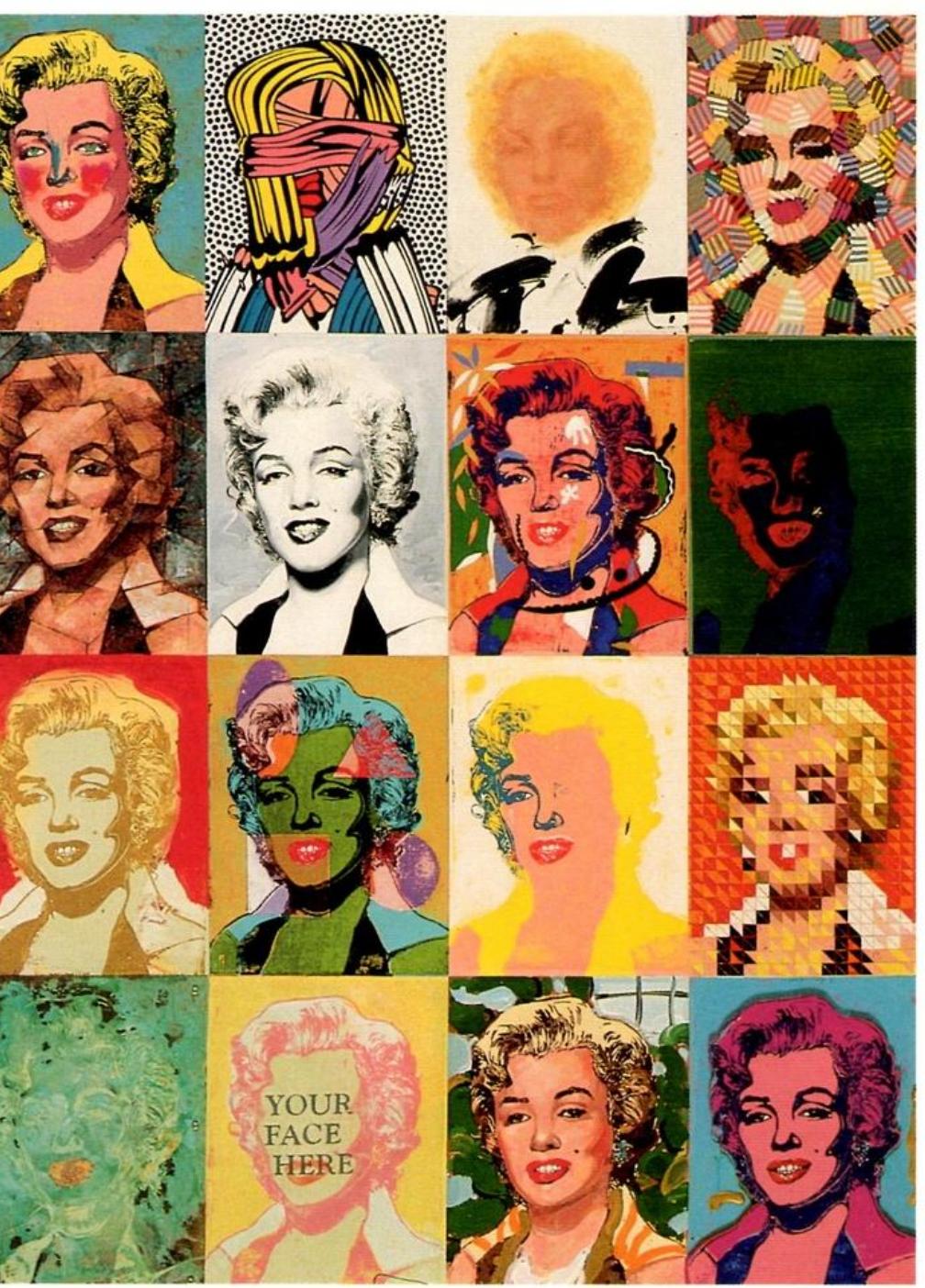
2020



**Expressive Portraits
found on Pinterest**

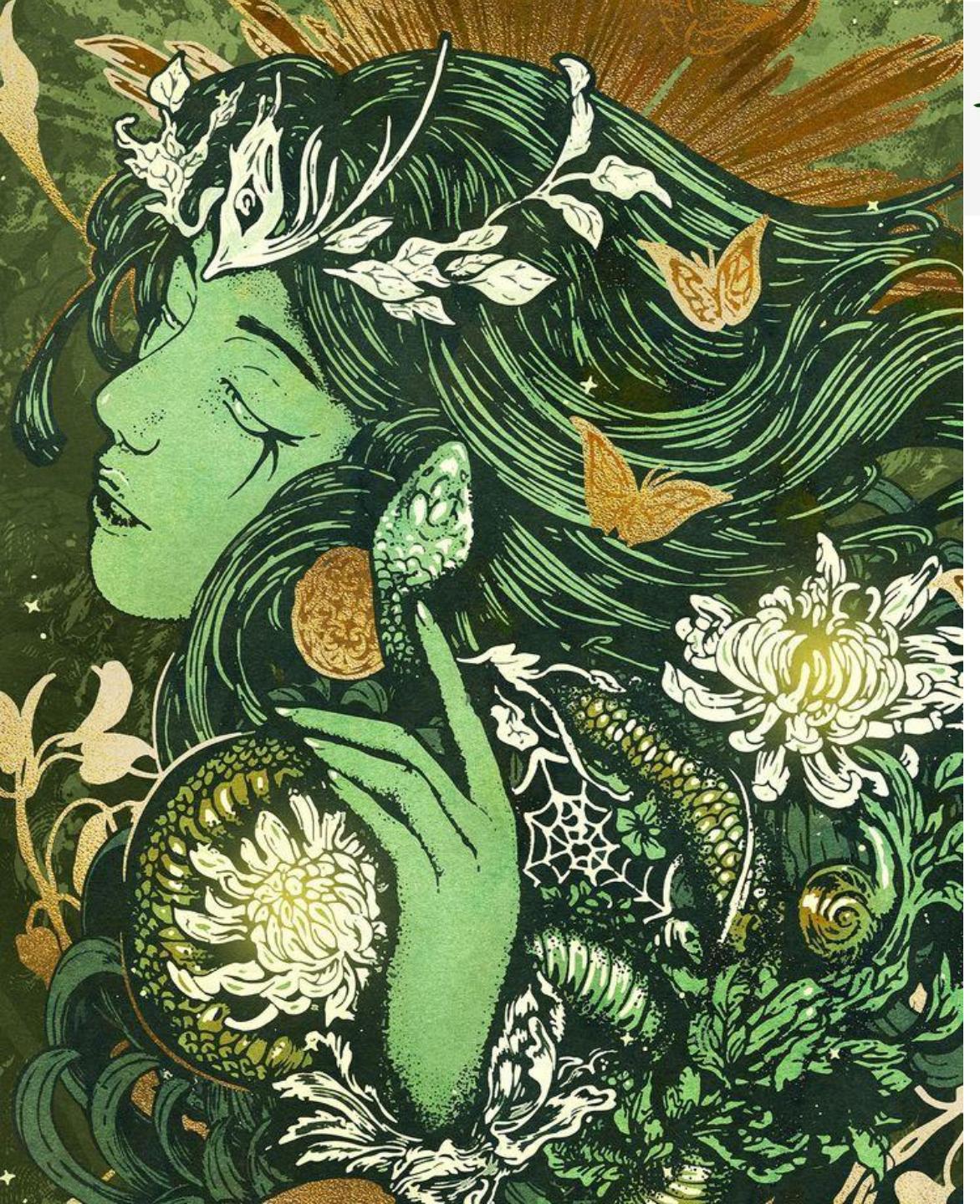


Exploring
different
painting styles
may help you
to explore
different ideas



World Culture: Women from around the World





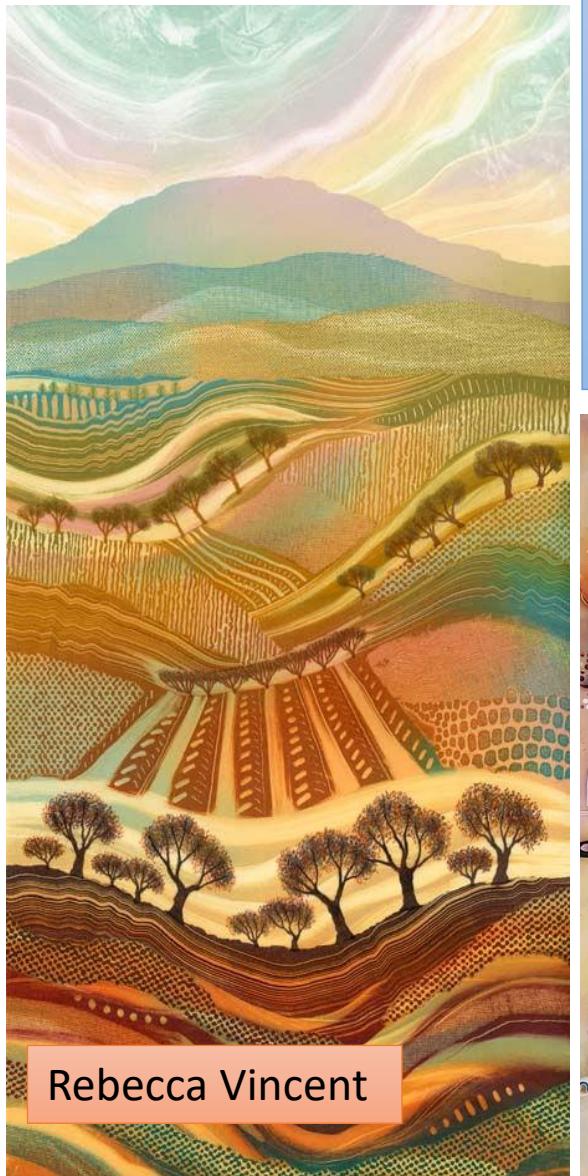
Mother Nature



Royal Women, Pop Art and symbolism. Celebrations and Festivals

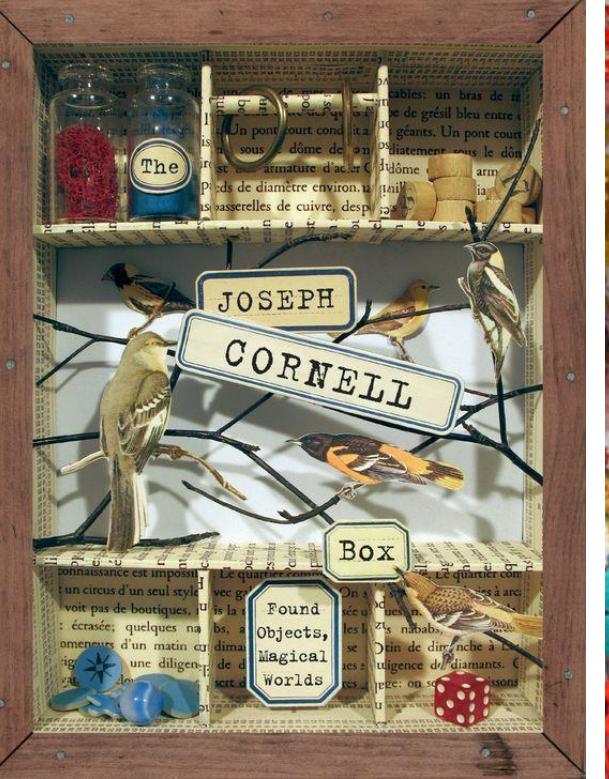


Layers



Rebecca Vincent

Pointers for your mind map:
Overlap, tier, pile,
position, weave,
stack, surface,
coating, peeling,
juxtapose, collage,
collate, hierarchic



Michael Brennan Wood is a textile artist who produces mixed media collages



Johanna Goodman



Manel
Villalonga



Stephen Gill

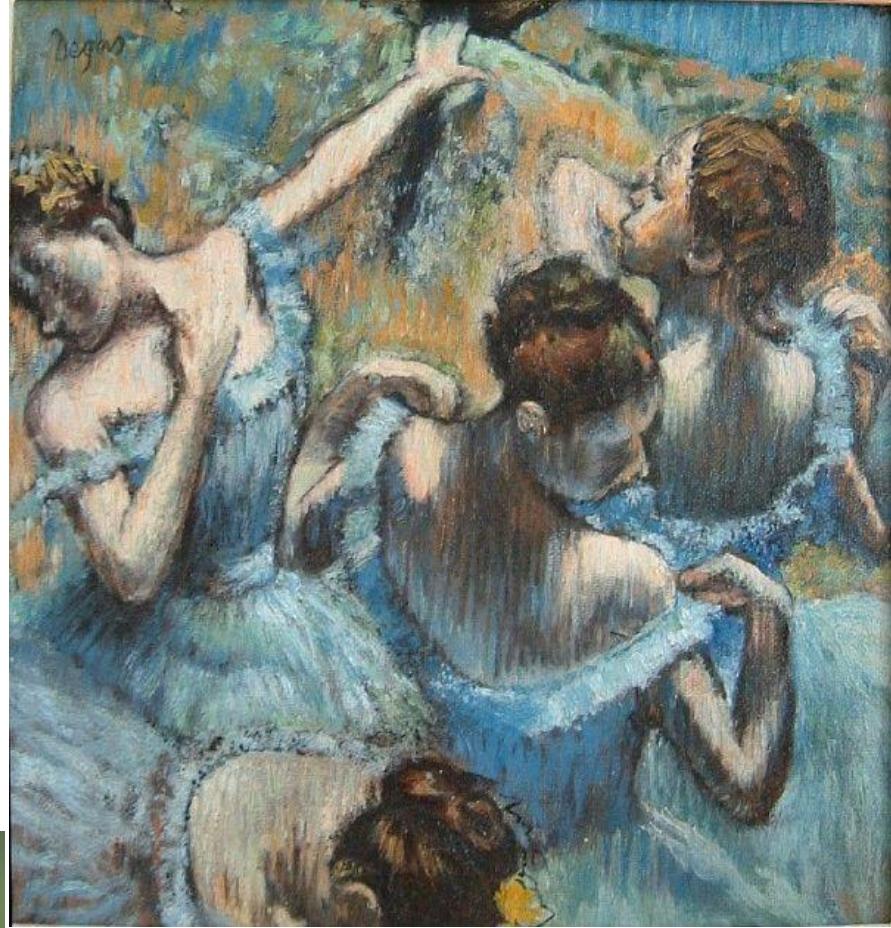


Jasper Johns

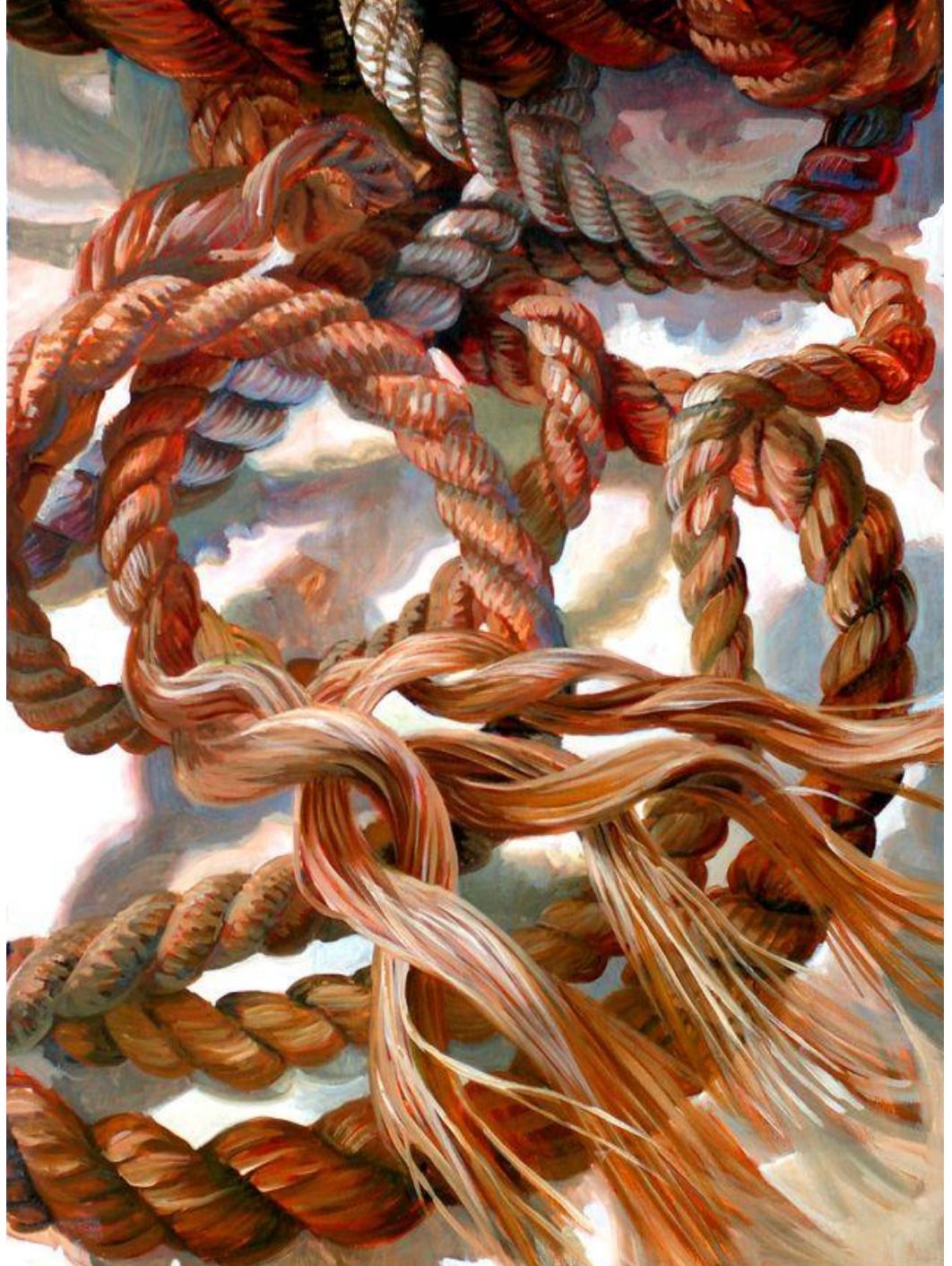
A lot of the artists suggestions for this theme use photomontage and collage as a means to creating artwork

Twisting and Turning

Pointers for your mind map:
Spiral, maze, spin, criss-cross,
interfold, knit, knot, entwined,
merge, rotate, warp, exit, link...

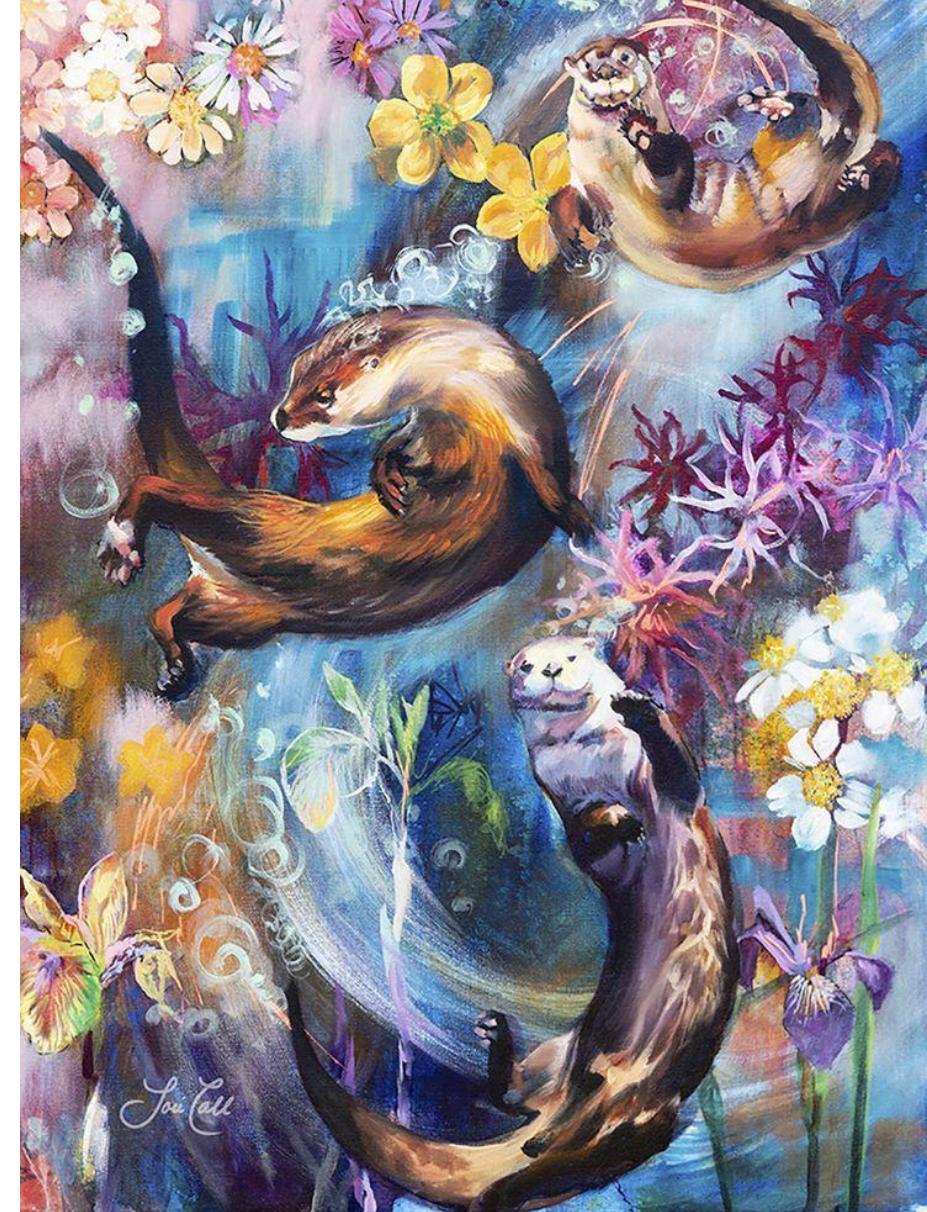


Images found on
Pinterest –artists
unknown other
than the Degas
above

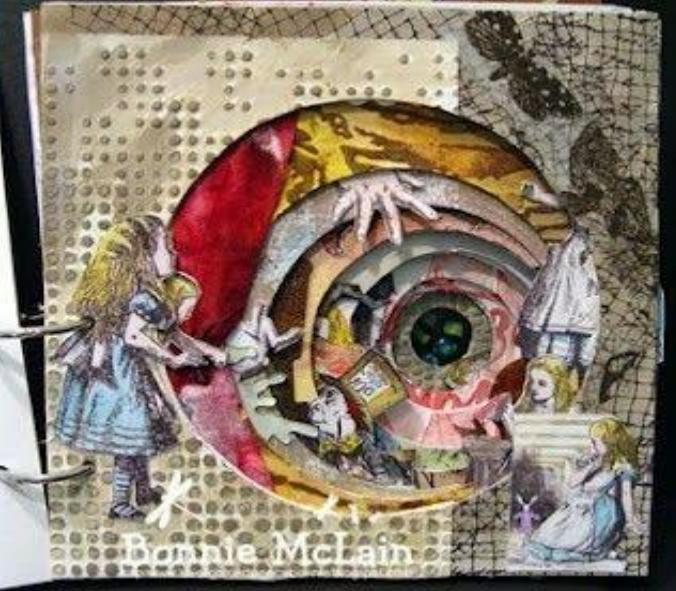
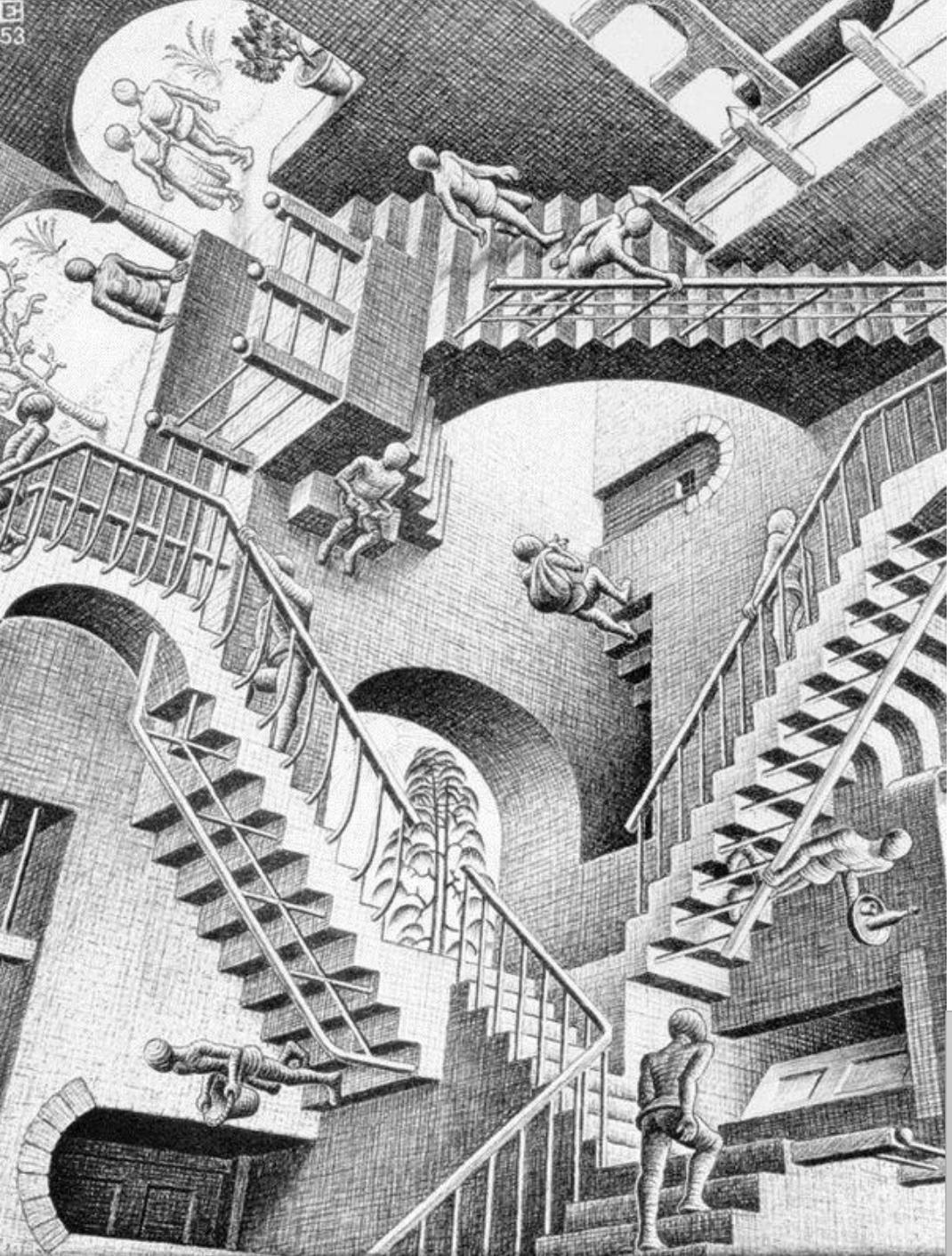


Mechanical and natural form that links to the theme: Artists unknown – found on Pinterest.





Images that show the movement of animals are great inspiration for this topic. Images found on PINTEREST



Escher produces endless
stair cases and the
Surrealist produce
dreamlike landscapes

Alice falls through
wonderland