

FINDING YOUR THEME

How to Find a Theme: “The first thing I suggest is really to think about who you are and what events have occurred that have greatly impacted your life. IB is very big on you understanding "art in context" so it's important for you to show an awareness of this on a personal, local, and global level. Once you begin to consider these things, then you can find some ideas that can be investigated through time and culture. For example, if you're Catholic you go through a process that leads to taking your first communion....what's that all about? Where did it come from? How has it changed through history? How is it different in different cultures? How has this idea been represented through time? Allow your ideas to evolve, it's not necessary to stay on a strict theme...it is important to show connections between ideas.”

(<http://ibart.wetpaint.com/page/All+about+Themes>) Look here for even more on themes. Technically, IB does not require a "theme" but a cohesive body of work is a crucial aspect. Just as artist's in the real world create a body of art expressing their ideas, so to should the IB art student.

Is a theme required in IB? No, a theme is not required, however to create meaningful works of art, artists focus on a theme or topic that they have a strong personal link. This fits in with the IB criteria of **relevance** in which you create work that is meaningful and relevant to YOU. Where is the artist in the work? Think of a camera. Your theme is the *lens* through which you approach your work. It can, of course, change and evolve (indeed, it should!) and that change and evolution should be well documented in the IWB. So this idea of theme is not a rigid one but should flow from one into the next so that your work is connected. Your studio pieces should not be completely different ideas and therefore your work is disconnected. Find 2-3 different focuses and choose focus and then problem solve with materials.

Possible Themes:

Gnarled Hands	Reversals	Repetition with Variation
Match books	Skulls & Skeletons	Heavy Outlines
Backs of heads	Transformations	Shoes
Robots	Fog & Softness	Symbolic
Food	Floating Things	Extreme Perspective
People Sleeping	Royalty & Pomp	Wildlife
Hidden Images	Fantasy Cities	Herds & Flocks
Shadows	Plumbing	Flying things
Mythology	Geometric Animals	Inspired by Love
Aged People	Urban Blight	Animated Toys
Family Portraits	Extreme Elongation	Masks
Exaggerated Expressions	Mobs & Crowds	Costumes
Dreams	Symmetry	Meticulous Detail
Fabric & Folds	Miniatures	Death & Dying
Junkyard Objects	Gloves	Primitive
Musicians	Progressively Abstract	Tangles

Frozen Action	Historical Moments	Celebration
Ant's Eye View	Silhouettes	Kaleidoscope
Clouds	Strange Reflections	Roots
Inspired by Music	Rhythmic Lines	Greek Mythology
Quilted Images	Folklore	Giant Objects
Hybrids and Chimeras	Nightmares	Illustrated Story
Maps	Metaphoric Drawings	Ravages of War
Explosions	Monkey's in suits	Events from Childhood
Macro Drawings	Escher Tiling	Aerial View
Incongruous	Lonely & Lost	Trains
Paradox	Trees like People	Muscles
Ordinary Beauty	Large things made of small things	
People on the beach	Combining Opposites	Mother & Child
Friendship	Precarious	Water
Stuck together	Circus	Optical Illusions
Liquefied	Sacred	Fire & Ice
Puzzle Pieces	Exotic Landscapes	Hats
Self Portraits	Exaggerated Dancers	City Scenes
Anachronisms	Squashed & Crumpled	Obscured
Literalized Expressions	Mirror Image	High Tech
Elegance	Ruins	Bible Scenes
Bare Feet	Extreme Foreshortening	Clusters
Multiples	Castles	Tribal
Stark Contrasts	Word Associations	Coffee Shop
Doorways & Windows	Construction Machinery	Sea Creatures
Rope Patterns	Antique Cars	Bulls & Bears
Evolution	Symbiosis	Negative Space
Underneath	Order & Disorder	Entwined
Memorabilia	Revealed	Sea Shells
Sanctuary	Melting	Connections
Object on Legs	Familiar But Strange	Scale Play
Illustrated Poetry	Eating	Improbable Textures
Floral Designs	Micro world	Inside the Human Body
Motorcycles	Abandoned	Hair Patterns
Rock & Roll	Posters	Origins
Surreal	Unusual Comparisons	Something's Missing
Radically Cropped	Seemingly Unrelated	Unlikely Pets
Human Figure	Sequences	Melted
Collaged Figures	Patterns	Technology