

ART SYMBOLISM AND HIDDEN MEANINGS

Every painting tells a story, sometimes in plain sight, sometimes hidden in symbols and allegory. In this course, we'll decode the meanings behind famous Western artworks from the Renaissance to Surrealism, uncovering myth, morality, dreams, and personal identity woven into the canvas.

You'll also explore your own symbolic language by creating a personal artwork using collage, drawing, or mixed media. You'll discover how to turn everyday imagery into personal visual stories. This course is perfect for those who love art history, interpretation, and reflective creativity.

Start Date: 23 April 2026
Start Time: 10:00
Lessons: 10
Weeks: 10
Hours: 20.00

If you are interested in developing your creative skills, book onto one of our courses from the Creative Arts offer.

PLEASE DO NOT BUY TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT THE COURSE WILL RUN.

Venue

Rochester Adult Education Centre
Rochester Community Hub
Eastgate
ME1 1EW

What Will I Learn On This Course?

Learners will:

1. Decode the symbolic imagery in paintings across five key Western art movements
2. Reflect on at least 1 personal stories or beliefs and explore how to represent them visually
3. Create at least 1 final artwork using symbols to express a personal narrative

Whether you would like to learn new creative skills or to investigate the possibility of a new art-based career, MAE Community Learning courses can provide you with a stepping stone to progress

Is This Course Suitable For Me?

This course is open to all and requires no prior art knowledge. It is especially suitable for those who enjoy talking about and exploring art and art history as well as those who want to explore seasonal themes, nature, mindfulness, or gentle creative exploration.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know About This Course?

Please be aware that whilst this course is practical in nature some sessions will include theory and professional related training such as H&S, risk assessments, public liability etc

Learners will need the following tools and equipment please do not purchase until you are sure the course will run:

You will need to prepare the following tools and equipment before the start of the course:

Pen
Pencil, eraser, sharpener

You will be provided with a sketch book and basic art materials to use within the class

Will There Be Additional Costs?

Learners may wish to purchase their own art materials, but this is not essential. Your tutor can advise those who wish to purchase items after the first lesson.

What Could I Go On To Do After This Course?

Your tutor can talk to you about other subject related course available.

Medway Adult Education works with many partners locally such as MidKent College, Medway School of Arts and the University of Kent; information about their courses can be found in our studios, café and on Moodle. Medway has an exciting and wide-range of events, exhibitions and activities to inspire and help you make further progress - please see the community noticeboards in the Rochester Centre and again on Moodle. Your tutor will be able to talk through your individual progression options.

If you wish to explore your learning, work or career options, you can speak to a fully trained careers advisor on 0800 100 900. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

If you need further advice please telephone 01634 338400.

What Is The Attendance Policy?

Multiple sessions-

To get the most out of your course you will need to attend as many sessions as possible. We recommend at least 90%. If you do have a holiday booked during term time, please let the tutor know in advance so that we can help you catch up on missed sessions and ensure that you still achieve the course outcomes. If you are unavoidably ill or unable to attend, please contact 01634 338400 so that we can let your tutor know, and so they can send you any work you may have missed

Health & Safety

Health and Safety Disclaimer

By participating in the live class, you accept that you understand that art involves potentially hazardous tools and equipment and that such activity carries the risk of injury. You understand that it is your responsibility to judge your motor skills and physical ability.

It is your responsibility to ensure that by participating in classes and activities from Medway Adult Education, you will not exceed your limits while performing such activity, and you will select the appropriate level of task for your skills and abilities.

You understand that this is an art activity, and you will need to be suitably dressed, you will need protect your work surface and be mindful of the correct Health & Safety processes when working with art materials. MAE is not responsible for damage to items in your house / home or person.

The creators, owners and distributors of this site and the material available MAE are not responsible for any injuries you may experience because of your use of this site and the material contained here on. By remaining on this site and/or accessing and / or using any material, you are accepting that you have read, understood and agreed to follow these basic instructions.