

Year 12

Bridging Unit





What:

Reaffirm the idea of a sketchbook as a **tool for figuring things out.**

Present your artwork in a good quality **sketchbook** preferably A5.

How:

Read through the slides which discuss the practice of keeping a sketchbook, and give examples by well known artists.

Complete the tasks on slides 8, 9, and 10.

The practice of 'sketch-booking'...

Keeping a sketchbook is a widely adopted **art practice**.

You might associate sketchbooks with something that is meticulously kept and presented (there is a tendency to do that at GCSE) however **in reality working artists use sketchbooks very differently**.

Sketchbooks can be used for **noting down ideas, rough sketches, collecting scrap bits of paper, thumbnail designs, drawing and planning**. They rarely include finished pieces of work.

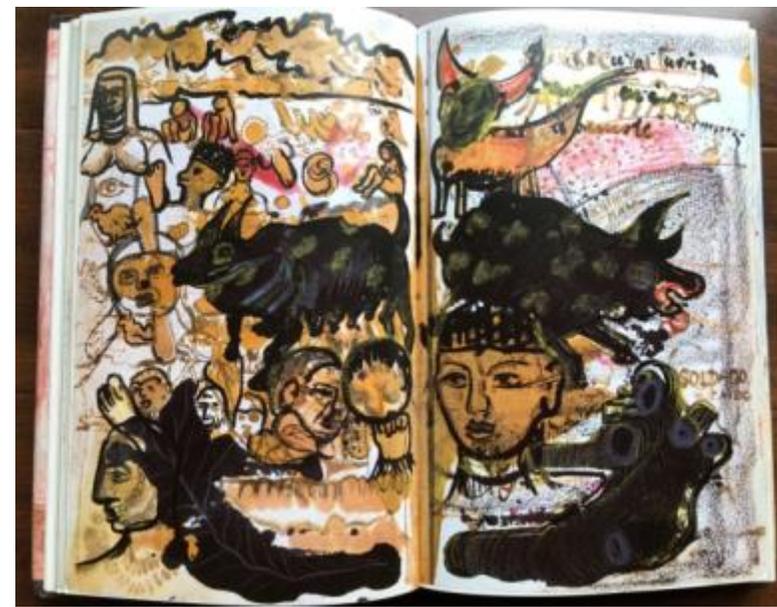
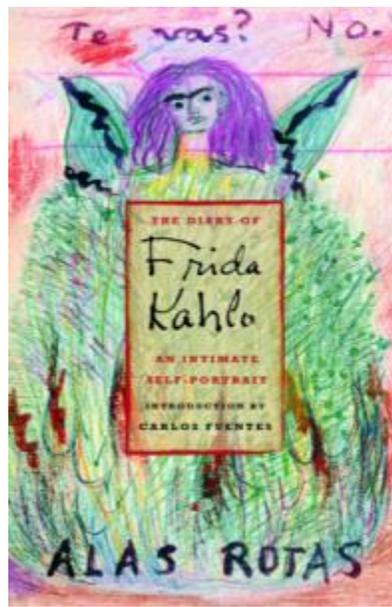
We want you to keep this bridging unit sketchbook in a similar fashion, **emulating a practicing artist** and departing from the "perfect scrap book" sketchbook format you might be familiar with.

Take a look at the following exemplars of artists' sketchbooks to get an idea of how to keep yours ...



Frida Kahlo

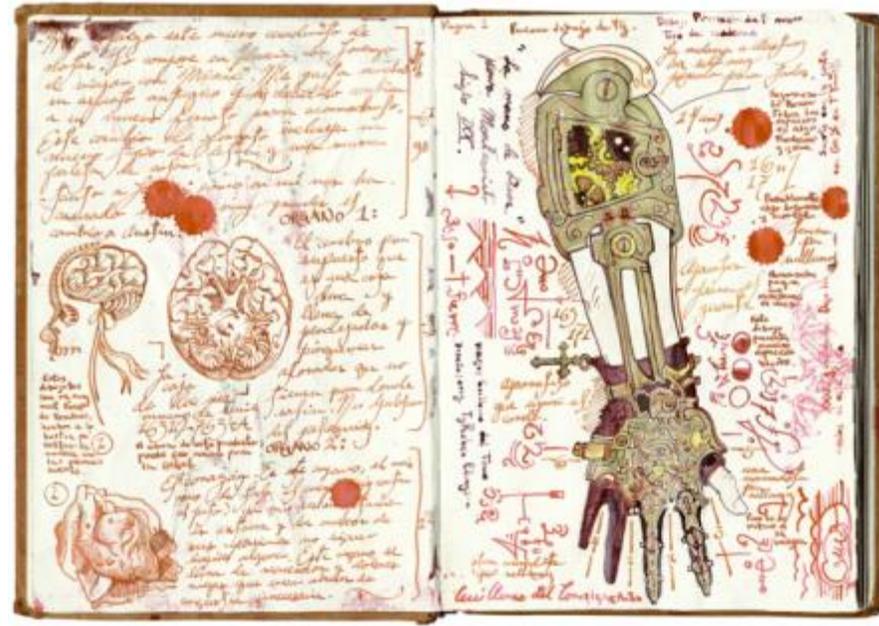
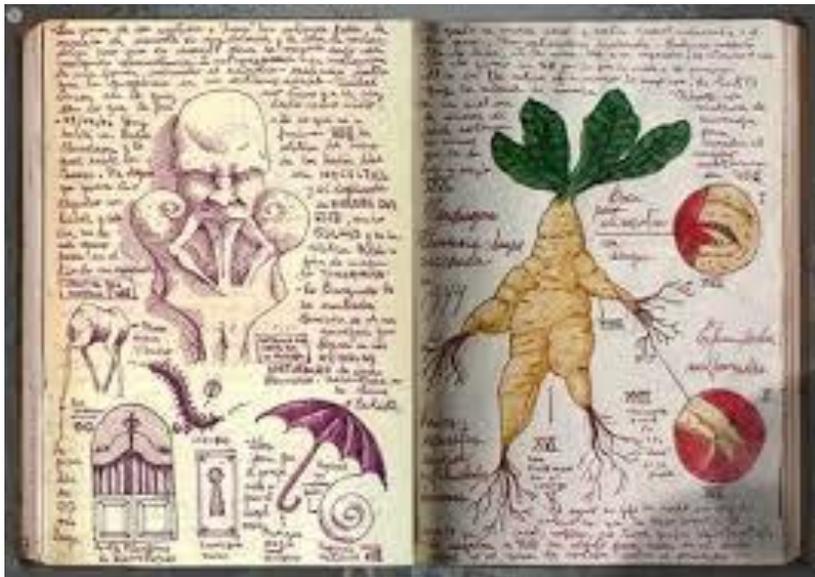
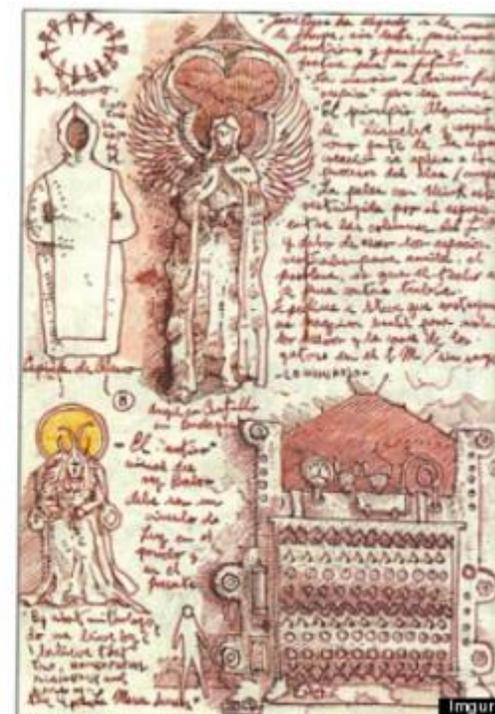
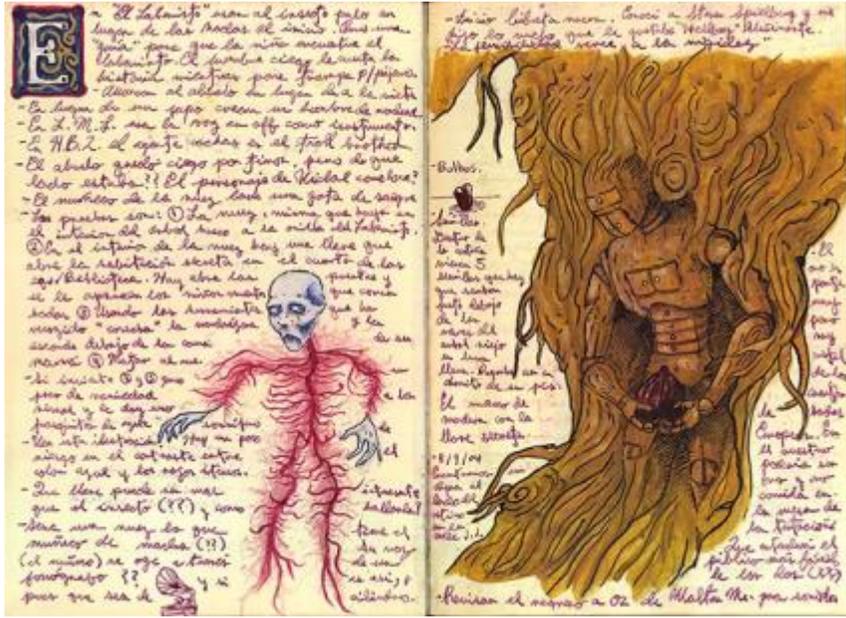
Frida Kahlo's life was expressed through her work. A chronological look at her artwork provides an understanding of the events that changed her life: her passions, motivations, disappointments, and desires. Painting was cathartic for her, however, writing and keeping a diary also helped her to establish a relationship with herself, and to find a way of expressing her afflictions during the final 10 years of her life.



Kahlo found that writing, as well as painting, was useful not just for communicating with her family and friends—and also as a way of connecting with her own feelings, conveying her ideas on her artistic practice, and expressing her worries and pains, both physical and emotional.

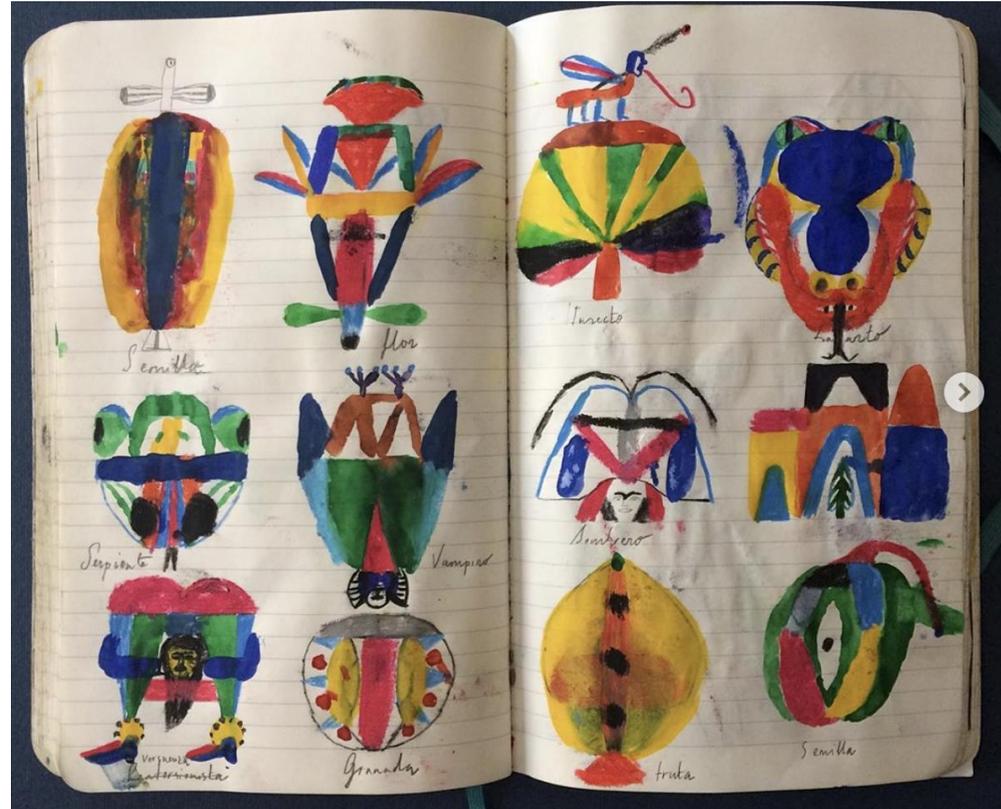


Guillermo Del Toro





Jesus Cisneros



Self Portrait

Self-portraits continue to be a recurring, fundamental theme in many artists' practice. Why do you think this might be? Is it because artists are narcissistic? Or are the reasons for self-portrait's popularity far more practical?

I want you to create two self-portraits, one using a dry medium and one in wet medium. Before you get started on drawing/ painting you need to **watch the video (in full)** and use its tips to go forward i.e. **set up, thumbnail sketches**.

Reflect on anything new that you might have picked up from the video, excerpts and article from Art Pedagogy, and list how you have applied this in practice. This can take form of a quick informal note underneath/ next to your drawings.



Watch in full and follow tips:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKL-57HexCk>

Read and reflect on the questions in this article:

Part 1:
<https://www.artpedagogy.com/self-portraits-pt1-about-face.html>

Part 2:
<https://www.artpedagogy.com/self-portraits-pt2-more-than-just-a-pretty-face.html>

Success criteria:

- Watched Video & Read Articles (40 minutes)
- Drawing space set up with mirror (you don't need a stand if you don't have one, make do with what you have on hand)
- Create 4 pencil thumbnail sketches exploring different compositions in sketchbook (10 minutes)
- Dry Medium drawing i.e. coloured pencil, oil pastel (40mins)
- Wet medium drawing i.e. ink, watercolour (refer to Art pedagogy for colour tips) (40mins)
- Short written reflections in sketchbook



A suggestion of laying out your pages/ spreading the work:

Page 1) preface

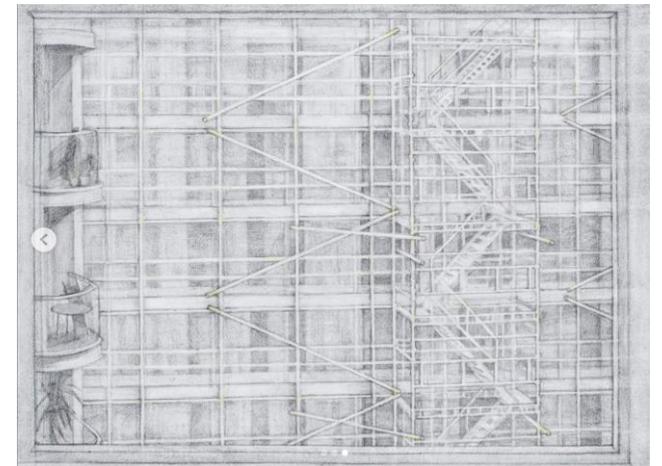
Page 2) Thumbnails/ about self portrait

Page 3 + 4) Self Portraits and notes

Page 1 Inside



Page 2 Outside



Fill two sketchbook pages:

The first, dedicated to “inside” spaces. **The second**, to outside spaces. These can be drawn out of the window.

Aim to spend around 1h on each page.

You can either do one big drawing to fill a whole page or several smaller sketches that fill the space using a medium of your choice.

Both tasks should challenge your ability to convey perspective, depth and distance, but also to express a sense of belonging.

I would recommend refreshing your knowledge on perspective drawing if you feel rusty.