

Osprey Art - Inspired Ideas for Art Teachers

The Rutland Osprey Project field officer John Wright, is not only an accomplished field naturalist but is also a good photographer and a very talented artist. He spends thousands of hours in the field observing and recording ospreys both photographically and by sketching, painting and drawing them.

As a result the project has a unique and detailed record of the birds, which contributes considerably to the whole project. His pictures in all media are used both on the web, in books and in magazines. This is perhaps a different perspective to many children's idea of artists and the way that they work.

Using the gallery of pictures in this folder it is possible to let the children view a selection of John's photos, drawings and paintings. There are also videos and webcams on the project's website (www.lrwt.org.uk/rutland-ospreys) which allow the students to see how the birds move and behave.

Using the gallery and website as stimulus, as well as for inspiration and motivation, they can be set to draw, paint or sketch ospreys or some aspect of them and the way they live.

There are opportunities to explore a variety of media and styles appropriate to the subject matter in two and three dimensional work.

Possible ideas could include;

1. Whole bird in static pose, possibly holding a fish.
2. Bird in flight, with or without a fish, seen from the side or from below.
3. Birds on a nest
4. Chicks on a nest.
5. Osprey eggs, like many birds, the eggs of an osprey are beautifully marked, the patterning is an artwork in itself.



Colour texture and form as well as more detailed treatment of osprey subject matter can be explored.

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A selection of John's paintings



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A selection of John's photos



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A selection of John's drawings

