

Challenging Stereotypes

Aim

To explore and engage with the stereotypes surrounding artists.

Objectives

- To create a representation of a stereotypical artist.
- To understand why these stereotypes arise.
- Understand the limitations of stereotypes.

Activities

1. Warm-up Game – Looking at social stereotypes

Pupils stand in a circle. Explain that in a moment they are going to turn and face outwards and then you are going to say a word to which they will have 3 seconds to create a physical demonstration and then turn in to face the group.

Use words from the list below. After each one, count aloud to three and ask the pupils to turn in showing their physical demonstration. They can have a quick look at other members of the class then turn back out and wait for the next word.

- Actor
- Teenager
- Student
- Mother
- Father
- American
- Italian
- Brit
- Vicar
- Football Player
- Rugby Player
- Politician
- Celebrity Artist

Make a strong point that most of these images have drawn upon the stereotypes that we each hold about many people in society.

2. Looking at a stereotype of an artist

Pupils should be sat back down. Explain that they are going to look at what they think an artist is and then they are going to reflect on their thoughts.

Ask pupils to consider:

- What is an artist?
- Is it a man or woman?
- Where do they live?
- Where do they work?
- What tools do they use?

Pupils should represent an artist in a drawing.

Reflect upon the interpretation created by the pupils.

- Are the stereotypes correct?
- How truthful are they?
- Why do we have this stereotype?
- What is the impact of stereotypes?
- How can we avoid stereotypes?

Again ask pupils to consider:

- What is an artist?
- Is it a man or woman?
- Where do they live?
- Where do they work?
- What tools do they use?

Pupils should represent their new ideas of an artist in a drawing.

- How do their pictures differ?