




MODULE 2

Training Package 2.2

Ways to maximize environmental impact through art

	<p>Lesson's description</p>	<p>The lesson offers examples, and best practices on approaching ecological issues.</p>
	<p>Goal</p>	<p>The aim of this lesson is to educate and familiarize you with ecological artistic movements and practices</p>
	<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify how art can contribute toward fighting climate change ● Identify practical ways to raise awareness of climate change <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrate the ability to create a link between art and the environment ● Use the information provided to make behaviour change easier <p>Attitudes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach climate change as an integral element of your practices

1. Environmental Art - Definition

Environmental Art is a movement adopted by artists of different disciplines, who are inspired by nature or use it as a raw material, transmitting its beauty and encouraging us to take care of it. The natural wonders of the planet have inspired us to express ourselves in more than words for thousands of years. From Palaeolithic cave paintings to high impact digital photographs of the animal kingdom. However, the environmental crisis we now experiencing has driven a new artistic movement that goes beyond capturing and depicting nature as in the past, to transforming nature into the work itself.

2. Art and nature

The first thing that comes to mind when you think of nature in art is landscapes. This genre of painting has been popular in Asia since ancient times but was disparaged in Europe until it became fashionable in the Dutch baroque period and was then exported to other countries. The world's most renowned landscape painters include the Flemish master Jacob van Ruisdael, John Constable from England, American Thomas Cole, Dutchman Vincent Van Gogh and Monet and Cézanne from France, among many others.

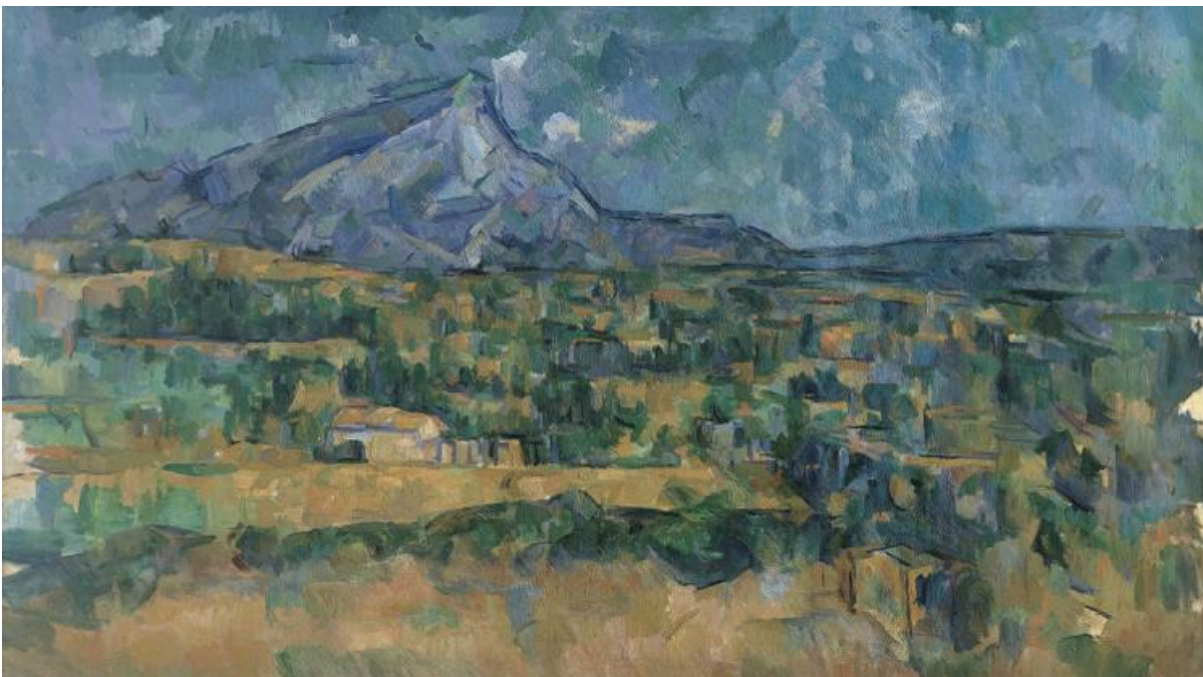
Nature is also a recurring theme in other visual arts. It has inspired everything from the gardens of Versailles (France) by André Le Nôtre to sculptures like Peine del Viento by Eduardo Chillida in San Sebastián (Spain) and the photographs of Yosemite National Park in the United States by Californian Ansel Adams. Japanese architecture blends into its surroundings by using plant materials like paper, bamboo and wood.



'Green Wheat Fields, Auvres', by Vincent Van Gogh (1890)



'The Poppy Field near Argenteuil', by Claude Monet, 1875.



'Mont Sainte-Victoire', by Paul Cezanne, (1902-1906).



3. Characteristics and aims of environmental art

Environmental art encompasses these traditional genres and modern art, addressing ethics and conservationist activism. This new approach to art emerged at the end of the sixties and, unlike the classics, it does more than depict a landscape or include the environment in its creations. The environment becomes the work of art, to raise awareness of the harm we are causing to the environment and call us to action.

Our polluted air and oceans, global warming, deforestation and the consequences of mass consumption for the environment are among the subjects dealt with by contemporary environmental art through photography, painting, drama, dance and sculpture, among other disciplines. Ecoart uses natural, sustainable materials like earth, stones, leaves and branches.

The main aims of environmental art are to:

- Raise awareness of the dangers facing the planet and promote its conservation.
- Encourage communication and citizen participation to protect nature.
- Incentivise political commitment to fight global warming and its impact.

13. Networking opportunities

Following the links above you can find numerous organisations, projects & initiatives that build connections between earth and art:

1. Artists & Climate Change;
<https://artistsandclimatechange.com/organizations/>
2. Climate Museum UK;
<https://climatemuseumuk.org/2021/12/31/resources-networks-for-culture-change/>
3. Arts For Sustainability Transformations;
<https://www.artsfortransformations.earth/networks>



KEYS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ART

RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Using a range of artistic disciplines to focus on nature and raise public **awareness on environmental problems**

ENCOURAGE RESEARCH

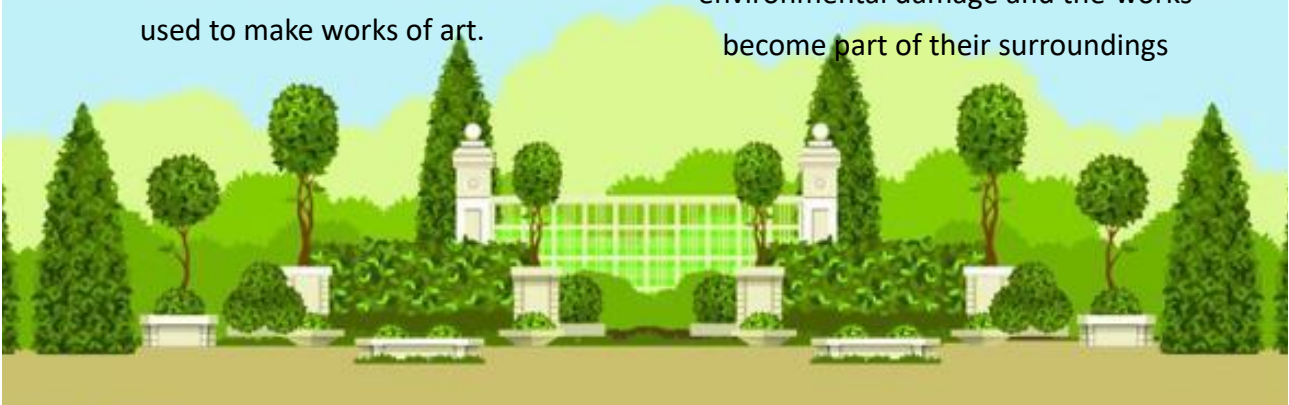
Improve understanding of natural phenomena through **scientific illustrations** and interdisciplinary practices

PROMOTE THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MATERIALS

Natural raw materials like sand, branches, leaves, rocks, feathers, etc. are used to make works of art.

RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Art made with **biodegradable and recycled materials** do not cause environmental damage and the works become part of their surroundings



Source: UNALMED