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IS FOR ALCHEMY



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POSITION AGENCY TRANSFORMATION

Alchemy is believed to be a magical process used for the transformation of one element into another, like lead into gold...

When making artworks I transform materials like Vaseline and pigment into shapes and images, using my body as the main tool. I research artists from the past, I revisit their gestures and alter them into something new. I like to think of this process as alchemy.

ADELAIDE DAMOAH

In pairs find a figurative artwork, one where people are represented, that intrigues you. Look carefully at the artwork and together consider what might be the story behind the work. Discuss how you think the artwork came about. What was the role of the model? What was the role of the artist?

As a pair, choose one of you to be the artist and one to be the model.

- 1 Artist – direct your model to mimic a pose in your chosen artwork. Document their pose through drawing, writing or photography.

- 2 Model – consider the pose you have been copying then change it into a different pose that you think is more interesting. How have you altered the story of the artwork?

Now swap roles and alter the story again.

Teachers note: This activity provides a space for an open conversation about power dynamics in art through adopting the roles of artist and model. This is an invitation for students to think about the language used in art.

ACTIVITY DEvised BY
ARTIST ADELAIDE DAMOAH
in collaboration with Schools and
Teachers Tate London Learning

BRING ART INTO YOUR CLASSROOM
You can also access the collection
artworks from tate.org.uk

Gather together for a group discussion.
Language is an important part of art, think about the words you use and what they mean.
What new stories did you create for the artwork?
How are they different from the original?
What was the power dynamic between the model and the artist, the observed and the observer?

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