**The Proudest Blue Art Activity**

This lesson is taken from a series created by Tate Modern to enable young children to be involved in art appreciation. It picks up the theme of blue in the book The Proudest Blue – looking at the colour in depth and the emotions that it can engender. This is an art appreciation lesson, rather than a practical one. However, teachers may like to use some of the ideas suggested in the text.

**You will need**

The associated PowerPoint

Remind the children of how proud Asiya was of her blue Hijab. The blue material is spoken about in terms of reminding her little sister of the sea and sky. Tell the children that today they are going to look at the colour blue and to see how a colour can change the way we think.

**Slide 1**

There are lots of costumes and makeup on the characters in this painting! How does it make us feel?

Ascertain that the colour blue can be playful and magical. Isn’t it strange how a colour can make us feel a certain way?

Think about what outfits make you feel magical and powerful!

**Slide 2**

This is a photograph not a painting. It is of a place called Angkor Wat in Cambodia. It looks amazing doesn't it? It looks like nature has taken over that temple!

Helmut Federle, the artist who took the picture, travelled to lots of places to take pictures of trees. Do you think that you are seeing the real colours of this scene?

Is it weird to see a blue tree? Do you think it is daytime or night time in this image? It's funny how changing the colour of a photograph really changes it! How does it change what you imagine the place to be like? Is it cold or hot there? Friendly or scary?

**Slide 3**

I really like these blue and pink chairs! Have you ever looked at the chairs in our classroom and thought about making an artwork out of them? You can make art out of lots of different everyday objects...like spoons or plant pots.

Prunella Clough was an English artist who liked looking for strange shapes in the things she saw around her. She used these shapes to make her paintings. What objects can you see around you that are just made up of shapes? Like triangles or circles? Would it be a better or worse painting if all the chairs were blue? Why? What colour chairs would you have chosen?

**Slide 4**

Can you guess what this picture was drawn with? Here's a clue – We have at least one in our classroom.

A blue biro! Have you ever sketched with one? Graham Sutherland went to Venice in Italy to draw this building. He drew it really fast. What could you draw in 10 minutes? 5 minutes? 1 minute?

Would you change this sketch? Would using more colours make it better or worse? Why?

**Slide 5**

Roger Hiorns has a very different way of creating art. He covers rooms and objects with something called copper sulphate which is a liquid chemical. When the liquid evaporates you get these amazing blue crystals! Wow!

What do you think the surface feels like? If you looked at this really closely, what would it look like? Do you think it's blue underneath? What ordinary object could you make sparkle and glow like this artwork?