



JUNK:rubbish to gold

These downloadable notes are aimed at tutors / teachers for Key Stage 5





JUNK: rubbish to gold partnered with charities to gather broken and unserviceable junk jewellery that they couldn't sell. Over the course of one week jewellers came to the School of Jewellery in Birmingham and in a public setting with limited equipment and materials transformed this raw material into new objects of desire.

Aims: For students to develop independent thought processes around material use, resulting in object and design development based around the above themes.



By using found, broken, unserviceable junk jewellery, the project aimed to explore:

- Materials and their meaning
- sustainability
- reuse
- transformation
- wearability

Questions to answer:

- What are the differences between recycling, reuse and up-cycling?
- Define each term to find the differences and the overlaps
- Can you think of examples of each of these in everyday life?
- How do these differences appear in the objects that have been created within the **JUNK: rubbish to gold** project?



What other reasons might a maker have in choosing to use such materials?

How much do you need to change a piece of jewellery to turn it into something new?

Culturally jewellery serves many purposes and has a very long and rich history.

In groups discuss what some of these purposes are.

Consider

- Value
- Status
- Identity

Within your discussion discuss how might items made from JUNK jewellery be perceived?

How might an artist's intervention affect how the finished object is perceived?



Consider:

- The type of tools used: simple and/or high-tech
- The techniques used, eg glue, soldering etc
- How much or little the "raw" materials are deconstructed before reconstruction
- What additional materials are added of low value or high value
- How much does a name add status and value to an object?

Tasks:

- Choose 20 pieces of found/used jewellery of your choice
- Choose two additional materials (suggestions below, remember your additional material choice will effect your chosen technique)
- Choose one main technique create at least one new piece of jewellery



Suggested additional materials:

- Embroidery thread
- Glue
- Paint
- Silicone

Suggested techniques:

- Binding/sewing
- Appliqué/sticking/painting
- Melting/reforming

Research the project by:

- Watching the live-stream on YouTube
- Day One https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U--__TLQc_c
- Day Two <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU3fkHBryPI>
- Day Three https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PvmjD_1soY
- Day Four <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYvdJSTGsfU>
- Day Five <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBhNFPsdKbE>
- Exploring the website
- Watching the **JUNK: rubbish to gold** film on www.rubbishtogold.com
- Visiting the online exhibition on www.crafthaus.ning.com/group/junk-rubbish-to-gold
- Read the **JUNK: rubbish to gold** book on ISSU.





www.rubbishtogold.com

