

ARTIST OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2024

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the 'Artist of the Month' basket next to the art gallery display or email it to enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Friday 29th November 2024

This month's artist is: **Eileen Agar**



'Bride of the Sea' (1979)



'Le Lapin' rock in Ploumanach (1936)



'The Magician' (1980)

Eileen Agar (1899-1991)

Eileen Agar was born in 1899 in Argentina. Her mother was American, and her father was Scottish, and they moved to London when she was around twelve years old. She was a British surrealist

painter and object-maker. She was mostly interested in painting and 'assemblage' art. Assemblage is where you put together different objects you've found and turn them into new ones.

Eileen Agar was keen to make art that everyone could appreciate.

Eileen Agar did lots of travelling and lived in different countries. One day while she was watching some fishermen in France, she noticed there was a pot stuck in one of their nets. She asked them if she could have it. The pot turned out to be a Greek amphora, a special type of vase that was 2000 years old.

She used it as the main part of her famous sculpture *Marine Object*. Inspired by the sea, she stuck other found items onto the sculpture. Whenever she was on holiday she enjoyed beachcombing. Beachcombing means looking on the sand for interesting shells and objects washed up by the sea.

Marine Object also has a ram's horn that she found in the countryside. Adding a treasure, she found in the country to a sculpture about the sea gave the finished artwork a surreal twist.



Eileen Agar took so many photographs that she also became admired for her photography. For her taking photos was like keeping a diary. She described them as 'a look at my life'.

Eileen Agar enjoyed taking photos on her travels of the architecture and landscapes she saw. She also took portraits of her fellow surrealist artist friends like Man Ray and Pablo Picasso. When she died in 1991 at the age of 91, her photos were donated to Tate to keep in the archives.



She also took photos at home. This is a photo she took of her cat, Bella.

Find out more about Eileen Agar by following the link below to take you to the Tate gallery website.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-eileen-agar>



Your turn Eileen Agar also loved to take photographs when she was travelling around. She was playful and took photos from unusual angles.

Take photos from different angles and learn to see like a curious creature. Follow the link below to a fun photo challenge inspired by the work of Eileen Agar.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/art-technology/photo-challenge-angles>





A photograph of a hand feeding seagulls (1950)



Photograph of Eileen Agar lying on a beach with a plastic swan and a rubber shark (1938)