

OAK LODGE SCHOOL FOR  
THE DEAF

Present

# The Colour of Music INSTRUMENTAL

A year-long project inspired  
by the paintings of artist  
Wassily Kandinsky

in association with

**SHAPE**

(Disabled and Deaf People and the Arts)

and

**NEW LONDON ORCHESTRA**

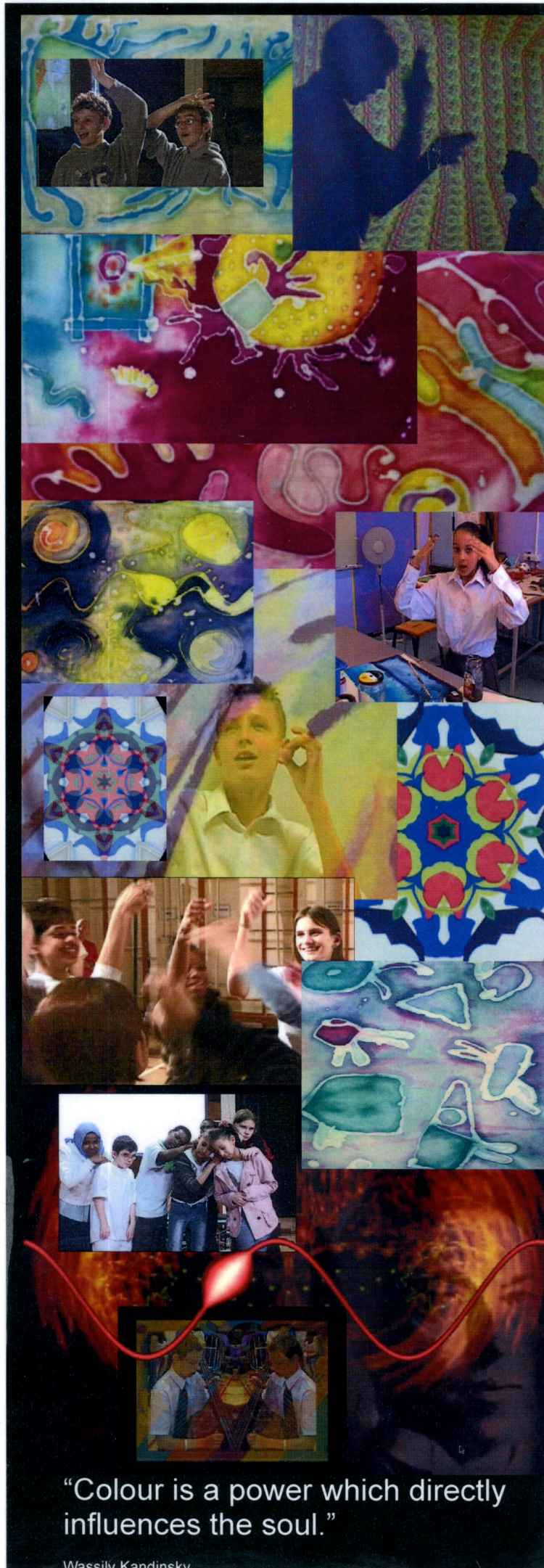
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development



disabled and deaf people  
and the arts



“Colour is a power which directly  
influences the soul.”

Wassily Kandinsky

“The Colour of Music” is a year long, cross curriculum project that involved year 7 and 9 students. Students explored the work of Abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky in order to assist their understanding of rhythm, sound and music.

The project was conceived by SHAPE, who introduced the school to two creative Deaf practitioners who proved strong role models for the students. Steven Webb used “Theatre in Education” techniques to develop links between Kandinsky’s work and physical movement. Ruth Montgomery used musical Instruments to develop an understanding of the link between emotions and music.

Initial thematic work provided a springboard for cross curriculum projects, not only highlighting the visual strengths of our students but the creativity and determination of our excellent teaching staff. Students have created a variety of expressive responses to the theme in the form of creative signed poetry, screen printed t-shirts, signed stories, creative movement pieces and even a 5 metre batik mural.

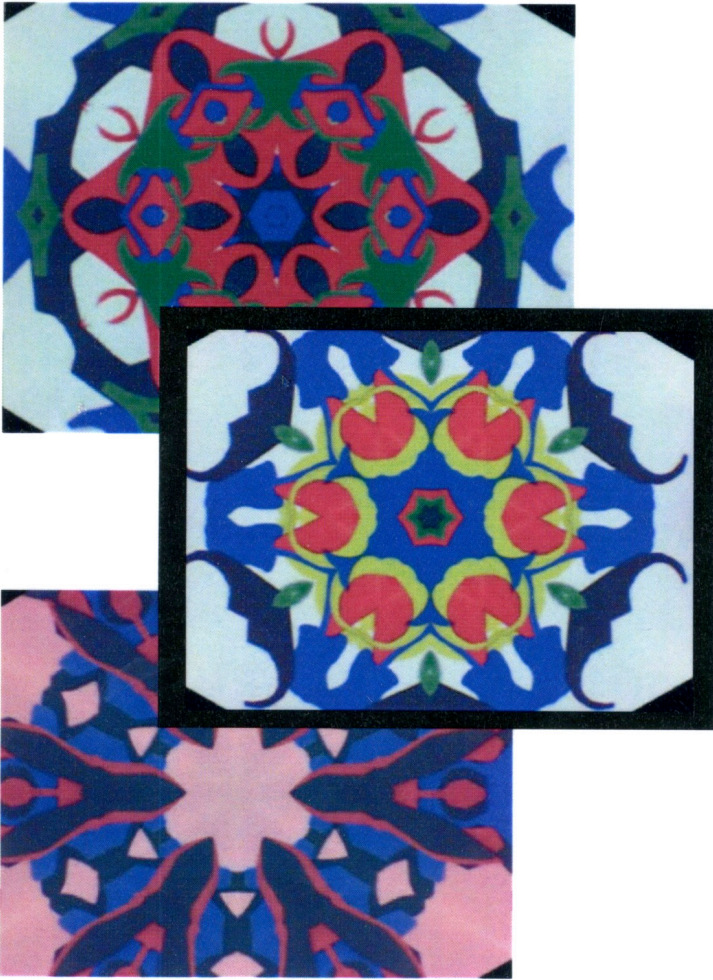
Oak Lodge School strives to use technology in creative ways to give our students access to the curriculum. New developments in digital video technology have enabled our students to explore video and animation within this project, with outstanding results. A video documentary by Darryl Bedford, outlining the process and showcasing student’s involvement in the project will be screened on the 8th of March at Oak Lodge School, along with a musical performance by hostel students, accompanied by The New London Orchestra. An enormous Batik mural will also be unveiled. This celebration will be attended by Teachers, Governors and Community leaders.



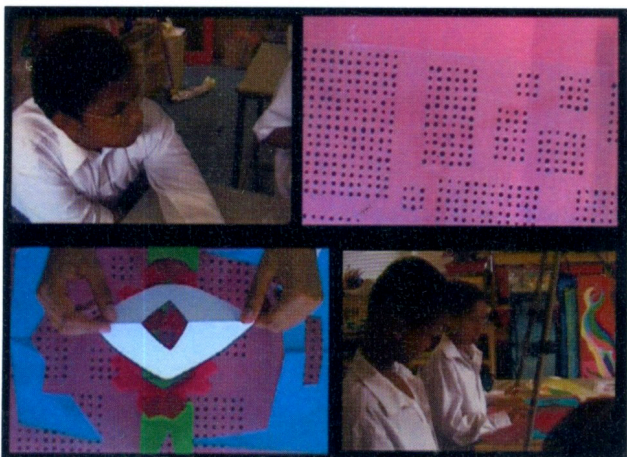
Colour  
Music  
Animation  
Rhythm  
Dance  
Expression  
Movement  
Vibration  
Sound

# Cross

Maths Students investigated symmetry and reflection. They cut out colourful shapes influenced by Kandinsky's paintings and created Mandalas using laptop computers with web cams.



They also made some animation and learnt to sequence ideas.



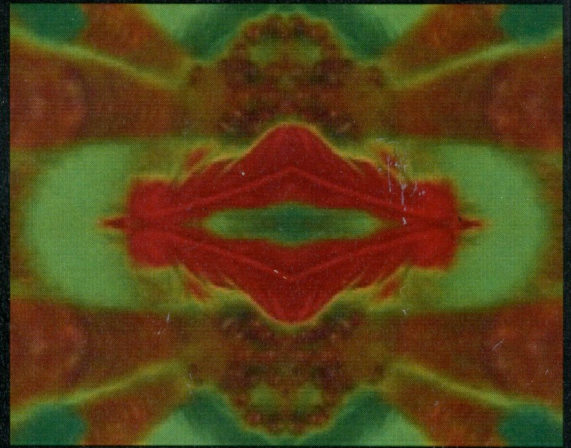
# Curriculum



Students created Abstract compositions in Design Technology. They screen printed them onto t-shirts.

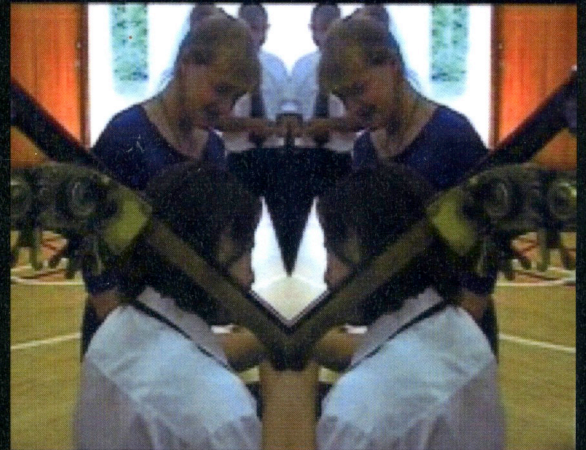
# Enrichment Day Animation

During the July Enrichment day several students participated in an Animation workshop. Buttons, feathers and fabric was used to create stop frame animations. The theme was “Visualizers”. Students viewed the iTunes visualizer; a fractal generator controlled by sound. Their animations were composited and layered using mirroring and green green



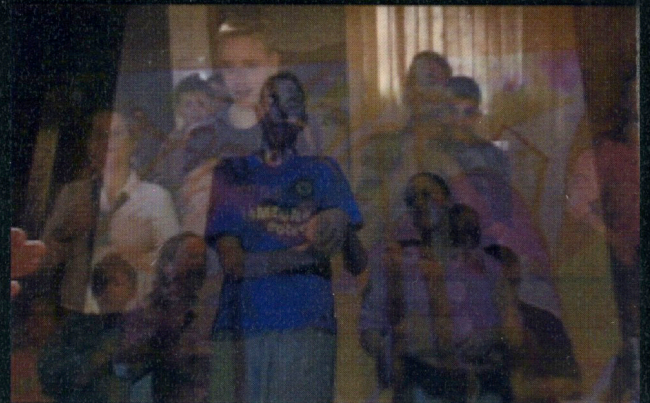
## Orchestration

The New London Orchestra lead several workshops focussing on the rhythm and pulse. Students were able to try their hand at conducting and they learned how recorded sound can be displayed visually using a computer.



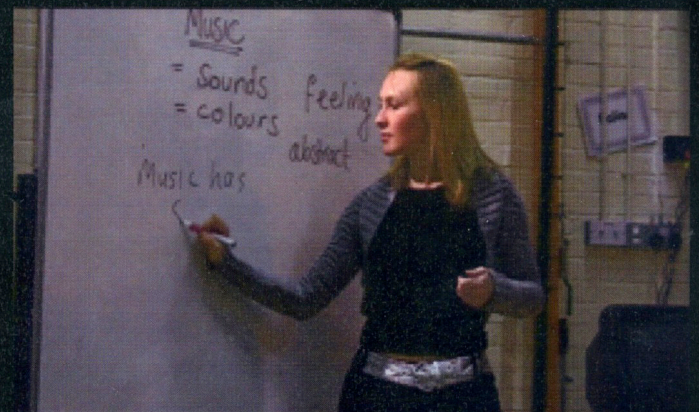
## Interpretation Through Movement

Steven Webb worked with students’ to develop links between Kandinsky’s work and movement, using “Theatre in Education” techniques.



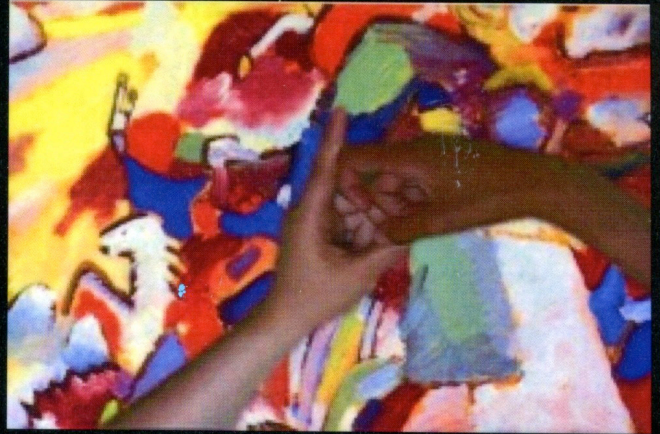
## Exploring Music

Ruth Montgomery worked with the students to develop an understanding of the link between emotions and music.



## Kandinsky Sign

Using stop frame animation, year 9 students developed a quirky approach towards fingerspelling KANDINSKY. Green screen technology was used to superimpose the animation over one of Kandinsky's paintings.



## Sign Poetry

Year 9 Students' wrote poetry in response to Kandinsky's paintings in their English class. They then performed them in British Sign Language. This is one example by a very expressive student.



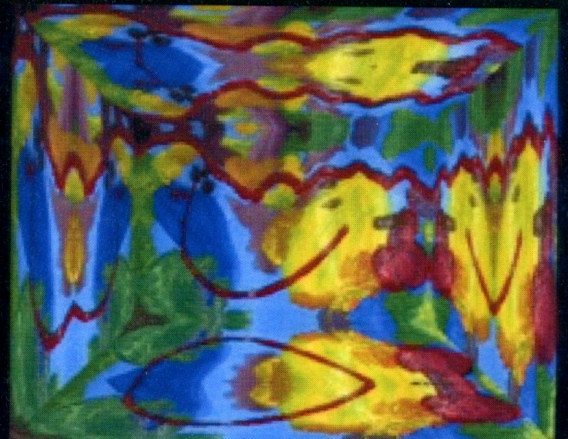
## Feel the Beat

The New London Orchestra provided students with opportunities to develop their understanding of the principles involved in music production. They focussed on Beat and Rhythm.



## Painted Animations

Each student was given half an hour to create a painting. Time Lapse Animation was used to record their efforts. The animations have been composited to resemble a mirrored box.



Kandinsky's approach towards abstract painting was reduced to two basic approaches:

# Structure and Freeform

The students explored these two approaches using movement, creative music and artistic expression. This multi sensory investigation culminated in the creation of A3 Batik compositions.

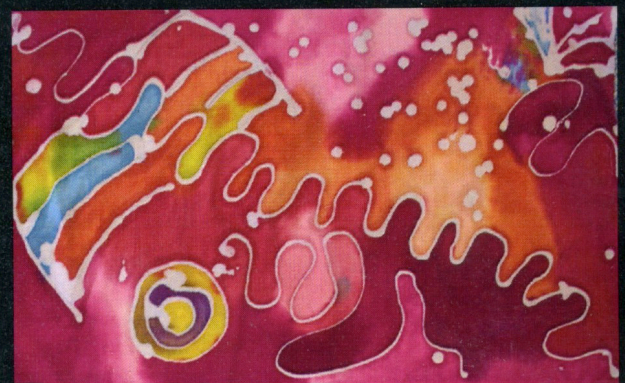
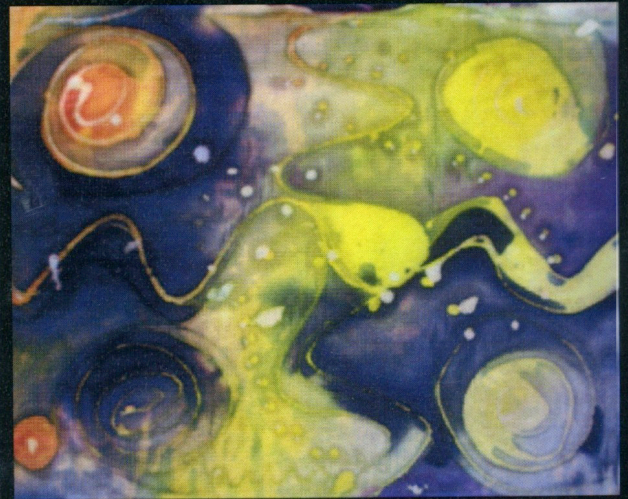


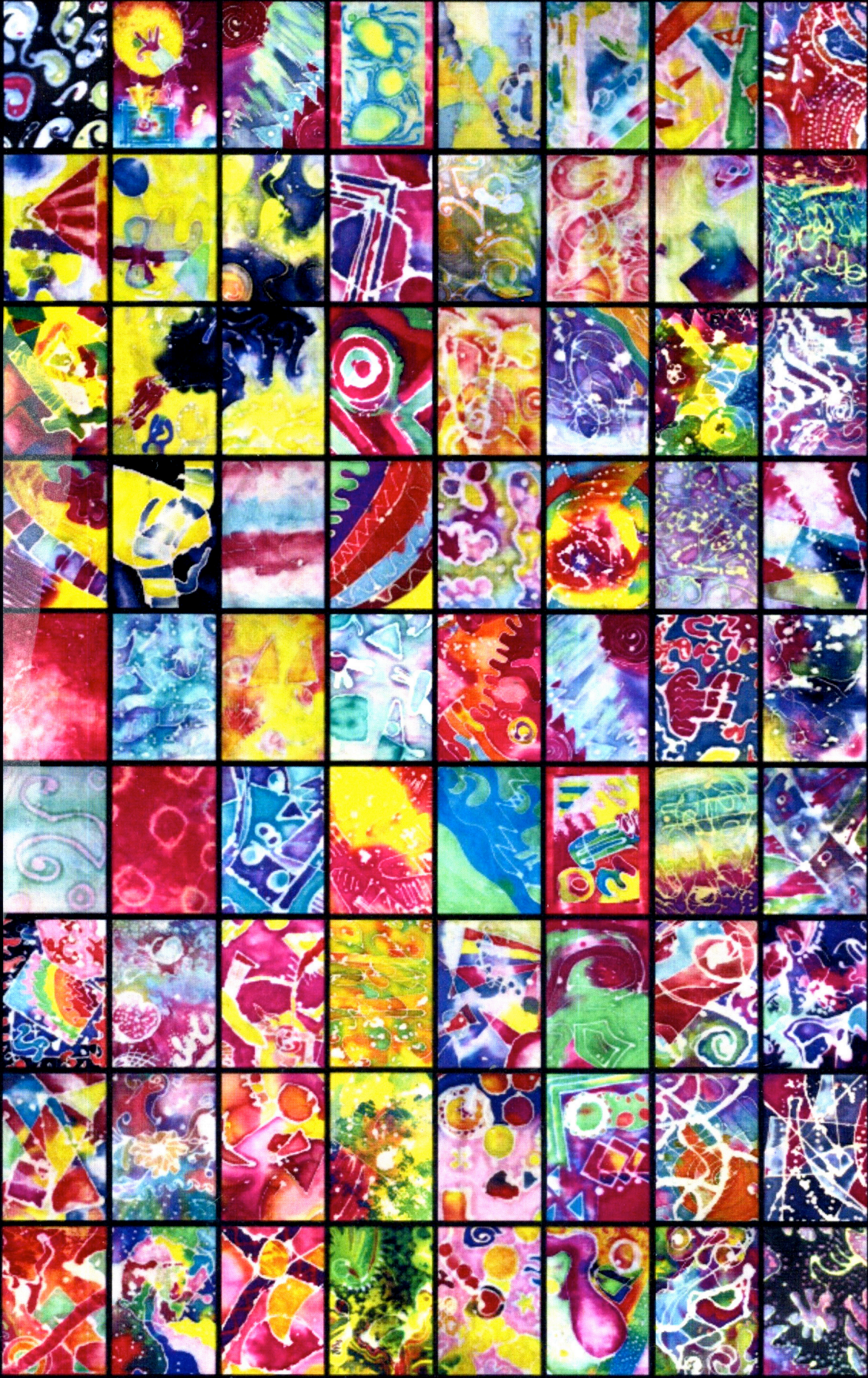
Each individual composition was joined to create a large group mural.

## Structure



## Freeform





# The 5 Metre Batik Mural

# Our Sponsors



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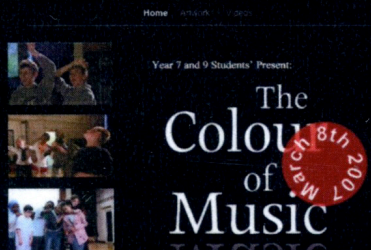
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disabled and deaf people  
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# Our Web Site

Watch the video  
snippets and view  
the artwork:



Colour  
Music  
Animation

Rhythm  
Dance  
Expression

Movement  
Vibration  
Sound

Oak Lodge School for Deaf Children present "The Colour of Music", a Year long project that focussed on the work by the Russian Artist Wassily Kandinsky and his musical influences. This highly successful project aimed to facilitate Deaf students' enjoyment and understanding of Music through the study of Kandinsky's Abstract paintings. Kandinsky's work is implicitly linked to music and thus provided an excellent springboard for creative learning.

Many professional organisations contributed towards the learning content:  
SHAPE (Disabled and deaf people and the arts)  
New London Orchestra  
Oak Lodge School Cross Curriculum Projects:  
Art  
Deaf Studies  
English  
Maths  
Design Technology

The scope and success of the project can only be fully appreciated by viewing the accompanying documentary. A venue for showing the documentary and unveiling a 5 meter Banks mural, showcasing abstract artwork by Oak Lodge students, is yet to be confirmed. But watch this space!

The New London Orchestra are soon to begin work with a group of Hostel Students to produce a musical performance for the Night.

"The Colour Of Music" March 8th 2007

(Venue to be decided)

For now, you can view some video snippets from the project and some of the accompanying student artwork.

"The Colour of Music" is a project conceived and partly funded by SHAPE.

The project is also funded by The New London Orchestra, The Learning Circuit, SOA Development and Oak Lodge School.



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<http://web.mac.com/clayjourney/iWeb/Projects/Projects.html>