

# THE MASK SESSIONS



by Go Create for the Tyca Festival

\*\*\*ONLINE ON ARTS TAUNTON – YOUTUBE\*\*\*

**The Mask conceals something from view – it can be worn to disguise, to protect, hide, amuse or to frighten others. It may be something we “metaphorically” wear to present ourselves to the world, but use to hide what we really think or feel...**

This series of four related (but stand-alone) ‘workshop starters’ are here to hopefully enable creative journeys to be begun, ideas to be explored and new and exciting artworks to be produced...

**Workshop 1 – ‘The Functional Mask’** – design/make a mask for a specific purpose - to protect, to disguise, to amuse or to frighten...

+Explore and develop ideas through investigations, sketches, research into relevant artists’ work. Be inspired to collect images, refine ideas and plan a playful design for a welder’s mask, or a face-covering to reflect your personality!

## Explore:



We identified 4 main functions of the mask:

**to protect** – the one we are most familiar with during these Covid-19 times...but there are other protective masks...

**to disguise** – to hide behind, to hide feelings from the outside world, to be someone else...

**to frighten** – to disguise ourselves in order to frighten, Hallowe’en, horror films...

**to humour** - to amuse, to make others smile...

Researching masks online can lead to a treasure trove of discovery!

Masks from around the world made during Covid-19 reveal many humorous and indeed scary items...have a look for yourself – print out a few that appeal to you and on a large sheet of paper, annotate each function and start thinking about the kind of mask you might like to design...

## Refine:



Having completed a wide exploration of the functions a mask could perform, now zoom in on one area, research a bit more, make notes, start sketching, doodling, designing and develop a few ideas.

Its' good to annotate your thoughts at the time...

Try to come up with a couple of ideas...you can always return to this stage and create more than one mask design or actual mask...

This sheet shows how one picture found online, gave the idea of a mask just covering one eye, but the artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe, provided the inspiration for zooming in on a flower and painting it in detail...

## Create:

Once you have an idea for a design or a creation, sometimes the resources to hand dictate how the design proceeds...you may need to go on a hunt around the house, garage, garden for objects, resources and these may make you adapt the original design – this is exciting – let it happen! (...but do please ask before using objects around the house!!)

Your end-product or piece of art, may be the detailed design or it may be an actual mask – you may even make a fabric mask, or sculpt a mask out of a whole host of materials. We hope you will be inspired to create something new and original... below is a crazy mask for a bee-keeper inspired by flowers in the garden and a slightly horrific mask made with cardboard, plastic bottle tops painted with acrylic paint...



## Share:

Please upload any images of your creations in response to this session, via this link:

<https://tycafestival.co.uk/visual-arts-submission-form>

Thank you – we will return on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with another **Mask Session – The Cultural Mask**

Liz Hutchin & Jenny Keogh, Go Create Taunton CiC