

Grove Park Primary School - Black History Month 2020
Being a Citizen of the World

This year we are inspired by the life and work of Yinka Shonibare.

“So, really, my work evolved out of asking those questions, and the issue of how people perceive you through various stereotypes. “

Who Is Yinka Shonibare?

Shonibare's work explores issues of colonialism alongside those of race and class, through a range of media which include painting, sculpture, photography, installation art, and, more recently, film and performance. He examines, in particular, the construction of identity and tangled interrelationship between Africa and Europe and their respective economic and political histories. Mining Western art history and literature, he asks what constitutes our collective contemporary identity today. Having described himself as a 'post-colonial' hybrid, Shonibare questions the meaning of cultural and national definitions.



Inspired by Yinka Shonibare's 'bookcase' art installation, as a school we have produced a collaborative piece of artwork which reflects the patterns, colours and vibrancy of traditional African textiles. We researched the life of Yinka and discussed how his art celebrates the contribution of black artists to British culture.



Artist of the Week: Each week in Black History Month we spent time reflecting on the life and work of at least one black artist e.g. in Class Assembly time: Chris Ofili, Lubaina Himid, Steve McQueen, Anthea Hamilton, Frank Bowling, Sokari Douglas Camp, Chakaia Booker, Faith Ringgold, Thelma Johnson Streat, Augusta Savage, Alma Thomas

Parents: Big Foot Arts Company are making films for Black History Month. We purchased these and sent them to parents so they could view, discuss and use them at home if they wished to.

“The use of colour in my paintings is of paramount importance to me. Through colour I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness, rather than on man's inhumanity to man.” Alma Thomas