

Teacher/Adult's Side (1)

# Liverpool Biennial

## KS4 Art & Design – Starting Point

The learner will use a sound piece by artist collective SHELL LIKE (created to accompany sculptures by Liverpool Biennial 2021 artist, Alice Channer) as inspiration to create their own artwork.

Estimated time = 1 hour

### Curriculum Extract:

#### Subject aims and learning outcomes

GCSE specifications in art and design must encourage students to:

- Actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Develop creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts and products
- Become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques
- Develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills

#### Knowledge and Understanding

GCSE specifications in art and design must require students to know and understand how sources inspire the development of ideas. For example, drawing on:

- The work and approaches of artists, craftspeople or designers from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures

#### Skills

All students engaging with GCSE art and design specifications must demonstrate the ability to:

- Apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to their work
- Record their ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses

### Key Terms:

- **Audio** – Sound, especially when recorded, transmitted, or reproduced.
- **Sound art** – Art which uses sound both as its medium (what it is made out of) and as its subject (what it is about). Read more about sound art here: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/sound-art>
- **Commission** – In art, a commission is the act of requesting the creation of a piece, often on behalf of another. Artwork may be commissioned by private individuals, by galleries or art institutions, by the government, or businesses.

Children/Learner's Side (1)

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**Artists:** SHELL LIKE and Alice Channer

**LB2021 Project:**

For Liverpool Biennial 2021, artist collective SHELL LIKE has created the audio work *FIRST BIRTH* which has been designed to accompany the artworks of artist Alice Channer at the Lewis's Building.

SHELL LIKE creates a dedicated space for sound art and focuses on the importance of listening - particularly as a group - as an important social and political act. Led by writers Amy Lay-Pettifer and Fer Boyd, SHELL LIKE has developed over three years to encompass deep listening events, commissioning and producing, experiments in exhibition and event formats, and co-authored experimental writing and sound works.

Listen to *FIRST BIRTH* via the link below:

<https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/programme/first-birth-shell-like/>



Watch a video about Alice Channer's artworks for Liverpool Biennial 2021 via our online portal here: <https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/programme/alice-channer-studio-visit/>

Pictured to the left:  
*Soft Sediment Deformation, Full Body (fine lines)*, Alice Channer, 2018

**Activity Instructions:**

Use SHELL LIKE's sound piece/text as a starting point to create a piece of work. This sound piece is an artwork in itself, so just like you would take inspiration from a painting or an artwork that you can see, you can take inspiration from an artwork that you can hear.

Choose how you would like to respond to this piece. It could be through painting, drawing, installation, moving image, sculpture, photography, textiles, print – you can choose!

You can access this artwork by listening to the sound piece, or through reading the text version underneath. You can use the whole piece as inspiration, using the atmosphere it creates to inspire you, or take a small section, or even a single sentence or phrase that stands out to you, to begin your own artwork.

Each person will take away something different, which means that each piece of work that is created in response will be different. The work focuses on the act of listening. As you listen, your individual interpretation of this work this will lead you to create an artistic response that is personal to you.

Think about the following questions to help you unpack this artwork, to be able to use it for your own creative inspiration:

- How does it make you feel?
- What imagery does it conjure up in your mind?
- Who do you think is narrating this sound piece?
- Where does this sound piece take you? Can you visualise the place that the narrator is talking about?

**Materials:**

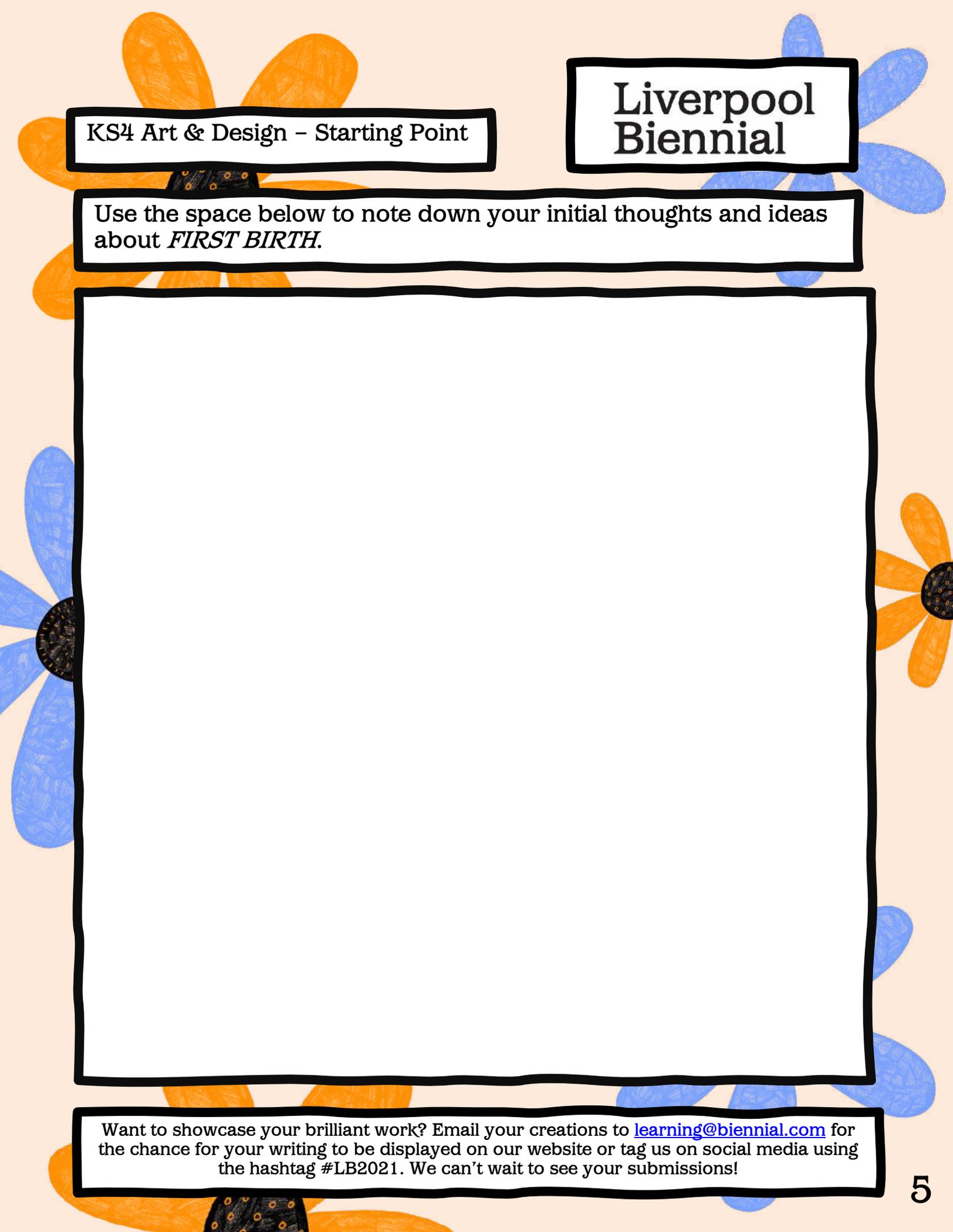
- Any materials that you like!  
Experiment with different media to see the effect that it has on your work.

You may want to try the following exercises to explore what this work means to you.

1. Listen once through following the 'physical instructions for remote listening' outlined below the sound piece online. When you listen again, close your eyes and hold a pen or pencil in your hand. Take the pen for a walk and as the sound piece takes you on your journey, create different shapes according to how you feel.
  - Do you feel calm? Your lines may be rounded and soft.
  - Do you feel anxious? Your lines may be jagged and sharp.
  - Do you feel lost? Your lines may spiral aimlessly across the page.
2. Draw an image of what or who you think is talking.
3. Write down 10 words which jump out to you. These words could be words that you are unfamiliar with or words which interest you in some way. Use these as starting points for creating artwork.



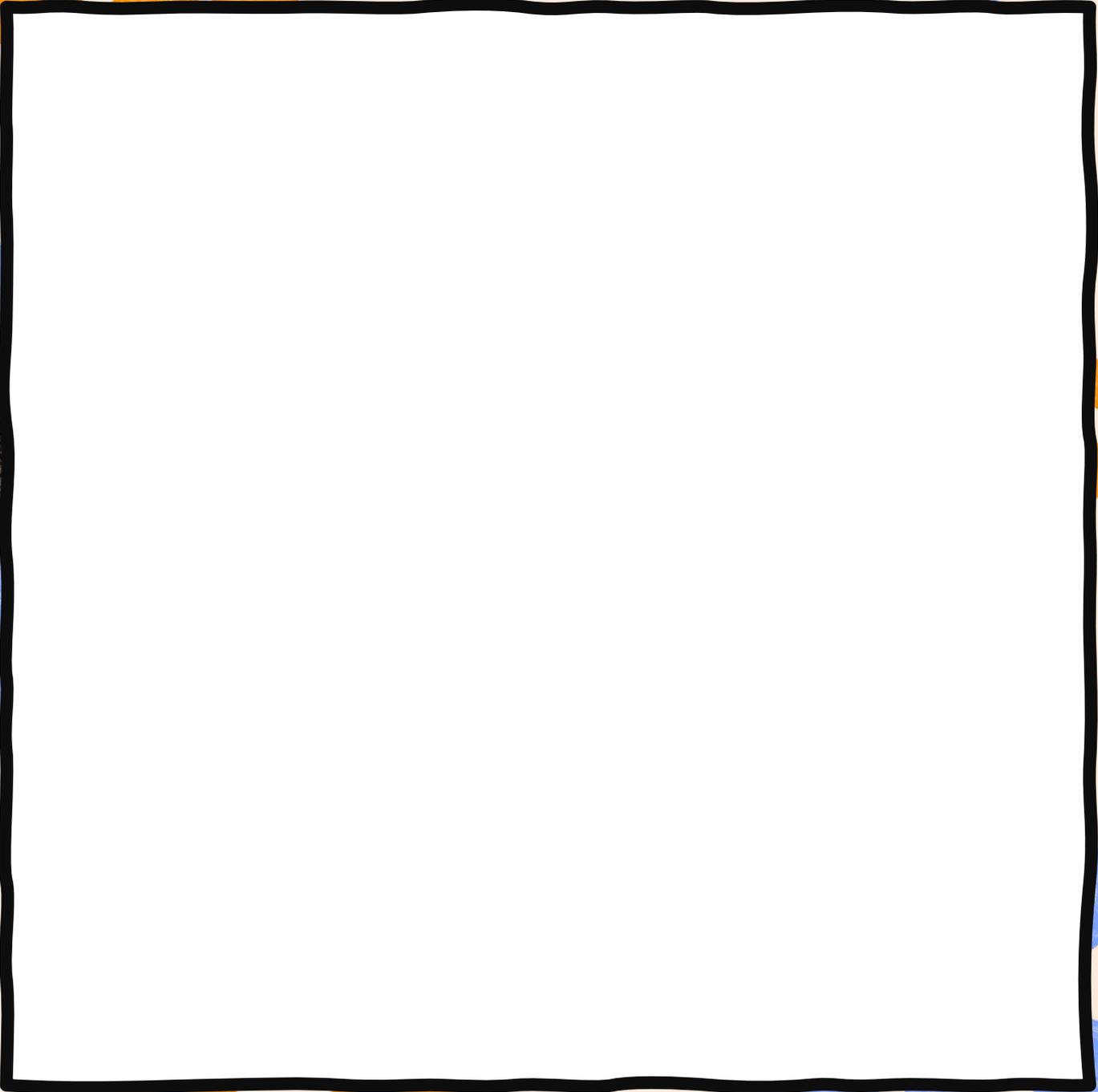
Visual by SHELL LIKE (2021).



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Use the space below to note down your initial thoughts and ideas about *FIRST BIRTH*.



Want to showcase your brilliant work? Email your creations to [learning@biennial.com](mailto:learning@biennial.com) for the chance for your writing to be displayed on our website or tag us on social media using the hashtag #LB2021. We can't wait to see your submissions!