Sources of inspiration
Learning outcomes

AFTER COMPLETING THEME 2 ABOUT INSPIRATION, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO

• Explain and discuss the role of sources of inspiration in a creative process, including understanding the importance of actively searching for inspiration and not just passively waiting for a ‘good idea’

• Analyse and discuss the use of sources of inspiration in a given creative assignment

• Search for, store and use sources of inspiration as a creative resource

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What do you think when you hear the words “inspiration” or “sources of inspiration”?

Do you use inspiration?

How do you use inspiration?

Where do you find inspiration?
Ancient times (about 750 B.C.E. – 400 C.E.)

- Euphoria (furor poeticus – divine rage or insanity).

- Unvoluntarily and not controllable—direct message from the muses

- The human is only a tool for the gods and/or muses’ message
Early Christianity (the Old and New Testament)

- Inspiration is a gift from the Holy Spirit
- The individual is overwhelmed by God who speaks through the individual without the individual’s acceptance
- According to Paul, Apostle of Christ, the whole Bible was written in this way
Sources of inspiration

Romanticism

- Return to Ancient times and the mystical: Inspiration comes from external sources

- The poet is unique and able to receive the mystical divine messages

- The poet seeks the mysterious and demonic
Modern theories (what we currently think)

- It is about creative intuition and/or feelings – but it is not coincidental. The ability to be able to come up with creative and innovative ideas are based on one’s own experience

- Creativity exist in the artist’s mind and has its’ root in the unknown. The artist is considered as different and mentally wounded. Unsolved conflicts and childhood traumas can be a source and a resource for creativity that can be put into action.
When do you need inspiration?

- You seek inspiration to start up a process of your own choice

- You may need inspiration if you are assigned a task that needs to be solved

- If your process hits a bump and you need something to get going again new inspiration can be added to help start up the process again
Where to find inspiration?

You can take an active choice about where to find inspiration.

Sometimes it can be smart to find inspiration in the same domain you are working with and other times it can be smarter to look in different domains not directly related to the domain you are working in.
Where to find inspiration?

Where did the architects find inspiration for the building?
Where did the designer find inspiration for the dress?
Where to find inspiration?

Den Blå Planet (The Blue Planet) Aquarium in Copenhagen, Denmark.

By 3XN architect studio.

Inspired by the sea and marine animals.

Porcupine Dress
From the collection: Defensive Gowns

By Amisha Gadani

Inspired by how animals (here a porcupine) protect and defend themselves.
Where do car designers find inspiration?
Where to find inspiration?

Where do car designers find their inspiration?

From a study about where car designers find their inspiration: *Inspiration, images and design: an investigation of designers’ information gathering strategies*. 2008. C. Mougenot, C. Bouchard & A. Aoussat.
How to use sources of inspiration

Use of inspiration sources can contribute to:
- Define a context for a project
- Imagine new ideas via combining already existing examples
- Create a language and a range of references to support participants in a shared process
- Set constraints and limits to where your project should be headed or not be headed.