



Term 4 Art: AJ Maxam



Who is AJ Maxam?

AJ Maxam was a ceramic painter and calligrapher who decorated vessels for the Mayan Kings

Key Fact

AJ Maxam is one of the rarely attested Maya artist whose name survives in the archaeological record.

What is his style?

Maxam's designs use and combine natural motifs (like water lilies), religious imagery and hieroglyphic text.

When was he most famous?

He was active around the mid to late 8th century CE during the Late Classic Maya Period.

ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY

Ceramic	An object made from clay that has been fired.
Vessel	A container such as a pot or vase
Form	The 3D shape of an object
Texture	How a surface feels or looks
Calligrapher	An artist skilled in decorative handwriting
Hieroglyphic	Ancient writing that uses pictures and symbols.
Score	Scratching clay to help pieces stick
Refine	To improve or make small changes
Motif	A decorative image or design especially a repeated one forming a pattern.
Evaluate	To judge how well a product meets the design criteria.



MAKING LINKS TO PREVIOUS LEARNING. What should we already know?

- How to observe and talk about an artists work
- How to draw and create our own designs.
- Evaluate and reflect on our own finished work.
- Use our sketchbooks to develop and refine our ideas.

MAKING LINKS TO NEW LEARNING. What will we know?

- Pupils will;
- Develop techniques using clay
 - Improve mastery of sculpture techniques
 - Learn about a contemporary artist.
 - Understand how artists use form and texture to express ideas and style.