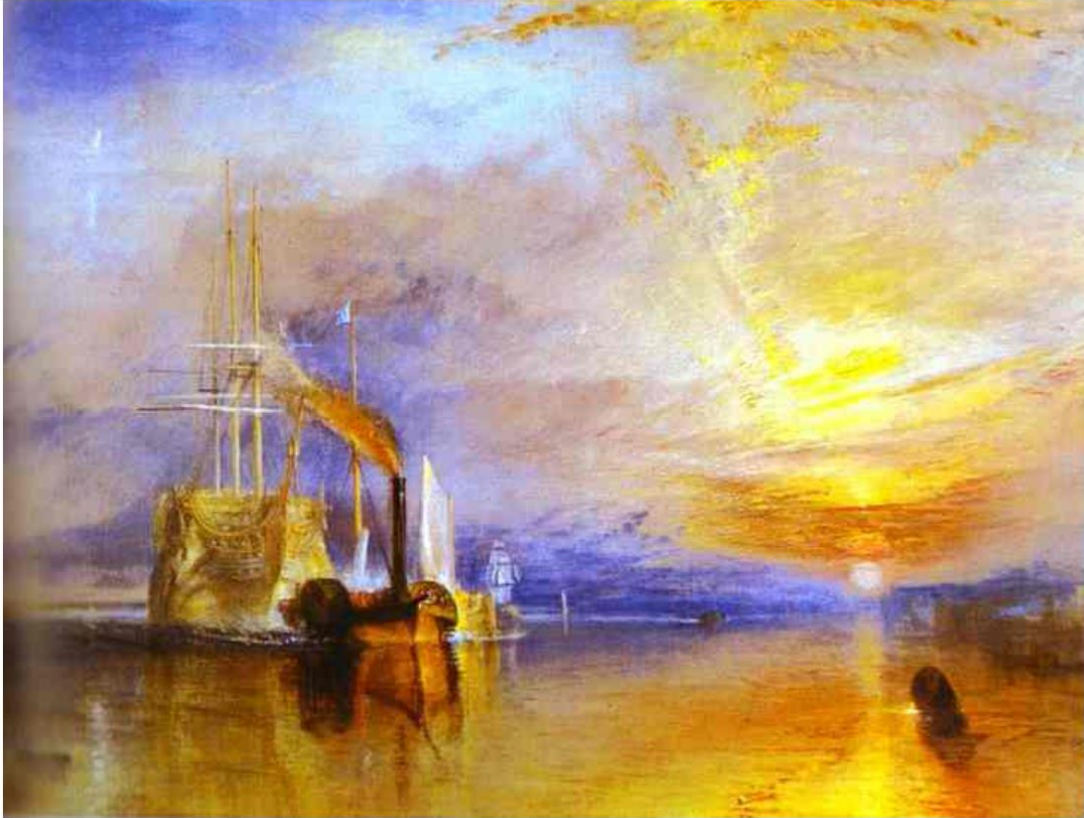


DLD College - World Art Day – My Favourite Work of Art

Peter Hopkins – Head of Creative Arts Faculty



Turner, 'The Fighting Temeraire' 1839 – oil on canvas

I've known this painting since my teens and had a copy on my bedroom wall. I always enjoy re-visiting this unique and visually striking painting. The subject is very poignant: a classic sailing ship that fought in the Battle of Trafalgar 1805, being led to its destruction by a 'modern' steamship. The old supplanting the new. Very symbolic of so many things, isn't it? And I loved Turner's revolutionary technique of painting with light in a way that was revolutionary at the time, and is still unique, both creatively and technically. The French Impressionists were surely influenced by his work. And, like all great works of art, it still looks very contemporary, despite its age, and retains its the power to completely demand your attention.