

Lesson focus: Art as a form of communication

Outcomes:

- Ability to “describe the content, structure and expressive qualities” of a three dimensional artwork (VCAA, 2013)
- Understanding that art allows for subjectivity
- Solidifying knowledge of art elements and principles

Assessment:

- Students’ interview questions and responses:
 1. Students have considered what materials make up the sculpture, the effect these elements have on the viewer and the possible meanings of the sculpture (including artist’s intention)
 2. Students use art language to express their ideas about the sculptures composition
 3. Students identify the art principles and elements at play in the sculpture (particularly texture, colour, tone, proportion, focal point, composition)

Background to learning:

Student:

- Knowledge of the art principles and elements

Resources:

- Interactive whiteboard/projector (to display images of Ron Mueck’s sculptures)

OR

- Large (at least A3) coloured images of two of Ron Mueck’s sculptures (refer to website gallery for ideas), sculpture ‘Still Life’
- Images of different sculptures for each pair of students (either A coloured image large enough to depict detail, computer or tablet computer with ‘zoom’ option, etc)
- Means of recording the students interviews (art workbook/visual diary or recording device)

Development

- Show students two images of Mueck's artwork one at a time (e.g. Wild Man, Youth) (refer to link on website <http://www.visualarts.qld.gov.au/mueck/> for a fantastic zoom feature)
- Ask students to hypothesise about the images, facilitate student centred discussion

Example focus questions:

What can you find in the image? What is the subject? What are they thinking, doing, saying?

- Have them identify the type of art (i.e. sculpture). Encourage the children to use art language

How do these affect the way the sculptures look?

- Have the children hypothesise about his intention for creating this art

How does this affect you? What changes to the sculptures might change the message they send?

- Identify the creator as Ron Mueck. Show the children 'Still Life'. *What is different about this piece from the other pieces?*

Explain consolidation task to children (below)

Consolidation

In pairs, students need to conduct an interview with one person acting as Ron Mueck and the other as a journalist. The subject of the interview is a Ron Mueck sculpture. Have them develop the interview questions and answers together, focusing on using art language to describe features of the sculpture, how these features were created (materials, techniques), the impact on viewers and the purpose for which the sculpture was created; what its story is. Pairs will record their interview using a method they see fit to deliver the content to the teacher; writing, voice or video recording.

As the children have not been taught about the intent (if any) behind Ron Mueck's art, their interview should reflect their own ideas and hypotheses.

Closure

Gather students to listen to two or three pairs present their interview. Encourage the audience to question or comment.