

**Lesson focus:** First of two part lesson: Introductory lesson for 'Designing and creating puppet' lesson

**Outcomes:**

- Recognising puppets as a means of communicating as well as performing
- Ability to “describe the content and expressive qualities” (VCAA, 2013) of different puppets, using art language

**Assessment:**

- Students use art language in their written responses, and identify aspects of their drawings to express their ideas about the puppets composition and how this influences the effectiveness of the puppet as a means of communication

**Background to learning**

Teacher:

- Knowledge of Ron Mueck’s puppets (refer to website video links - ‘Inside Labyrinth’ and ‘Shirl’s Neighbourhood’)
- Knowledge of the different types of puppets (see website link [www.cln.org/themes/puppetry.html](http://www.cln.org/themes/puppetry.html) and War Horse YouTube clips)

Student:

- Knowledge of the art principles and elements
- An introductory lesson to Ron Mueck as a sculptor

**Resources:**

- Interactive Whiteboard with internet connection

**Development**

Have the children explain *what a puppet is* as if you have never seen or heard of them before.

- Explain that Ron Mueck has created puppets for television and film, including ‘Ludo’ in Labyrinth. Show them the Youtube clip ‘Labyrinth: Wiseman and the hat’ (Wiseman not created by Ron Mueck but demonstrates an interesting puppet)

- Facilitate a student centred discussion about what they noticed about Wiseman using the principles of 'visual thinking strategies' (VTS, 2013)(Vimeo, 2013). Encourage the students to use art language.
- Show them a small part of the clip 'Shirl's Neighbourhood'
- Follow on from the first discussion by asking the children what they noticed about the puppets in Shirl's Neighbourhood compared to the Wiseman in Labyrinth
- Show the children the two 'War Horse' clips of the goose and horse
- *What did they notice about these puppets compared to the ones previously explored? Which were the most realistic, which did they enjoy the most?*
- Explain consolidation task to children (below)

### **Consolidation**

- Students need to draw a sketch of Wiseman and the 'War Goose' from memory and describe what they noticed about them - *remember the art principles and elements*
- Show the children a digital image of the Wiseman and the 'War Goose'
- Ask them to add to their drawing (using another colour) referring to the image and annotate it including: *anything they did not notice before, the materials they think make up the puppets, their thoughts about how effective the puppet was in communicating with the audience*

### **Closure**

- Show the class the Youtube clip 'Inside Labyrinth: Hoggie'
- Focus questions: *Did you notice these small details when looking at the other puppets we've seen? Do you think Hoggie would be simple or difficult to make? Does a puppet need to take a long time to make to be entertaining or communicate well?*
- Brief the children about the next part of the lesson. Ask them to think about the kind of puppet they would like to make, the materials they would like to use to create this puppet and bring these to the next lesson.