

Lesson focus: Making sculptures

Outcomes:

- Ability to work independently to create an art work that attempts to incorporate influences from Ron Mueck's sculptures including relevant artistic principles and elements
- Ability to plan and evaluate their art work throughout the creating process
- Understanding of the qualities and potential of the medium

Assessment:

Students' responses in their visual diaries/art book and anecdotal notes:

- Students plan their sculpture using a photograph, in their visual diary/art book, with sketches and explanation of the artistic principles and elements they want to incorporate in their sculpture to help portray their subject
- Students detail the process of creating their piece using photographs (or sketches) and by annotating its features
- Students describe different methods of manipulating the clay medium and justify this by relating them to certain artistic principles and elements

Background to learning

Teacher:

- Knowledge of Ron Mueck's sculptures, and the notable art elements and principles they incorporate (refer to website video links about his work)

Student:

- Knowledge of the art principles and elements

Resources:

- Self-hardening clay or Pottery clay
- Clay tools, e.g. toothpicks, paddle pop sticks
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- Buckets

- Small containers for water
- Hand towel/s
- Optional: Paint and water-based varathane (to add colour to the sculptures, time permitting)
- Photographs brought from home by the students of themselves or another person

Development

- Have students remind you about Ron Mueck as an artist – *what do they remember about his art work from the previous lesson?*
- Show them the part of the Youtube clip ‘Making Pregnant Woman’ relating to Mueck’s planning and sculpting of this piece

Example focus questions:

What does Ron Mueck do before he even begins to use sculpt? Why? Why does he refer to real people or pictures of real people when creating his sculptures? What did you notice about the way he created the large sculpture? Why do you think he did this?

- Explain the consolidation task to the students

Consolidation:

Students are to begin planning their sculpture by referring to their photograph; this includes planning the basic shaped figure made from scrunched newspaper and tape that will sit under the clay. They need to explain their thinking by annotating the drawings, particularly by using art language, including identifying the mediums they will use. After creating the newspaper figure, they can begin laying their clay over the top and shaping it. Water containers need to be placed on each table so the clay can be dampened when required. If possible photographs of the creating process can be taken to later paste into students’ visual diaries.

Closure

Pack up materials, clean classroom. Close the lesson with some reflection about the task. What challenges and triumphs did they have with the task? *Why was the planning important to creating a sculpture that captured the person in the photograph? What art elements or principles are the most important to this type of sculpture? Why do you think the type of artwork is valued by people?*