Celebrating Townsville

EDUCATION RESOURCE

Hervey's Range [detail] by James Brown 1992, JCU Art Collection
ARTIST: JILL O’SULLIVAN
ARTWORK: The Annunciation

The Annunciation is part of a print series made by the artist of images depicting people placed in local and domestic settings. These artworks resulted from her research into the depiction of the figure in domestic and religious interior settings during the Northern European Renaissance period of the 15th, 16th and early 17th century.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Jill O’SULLIVAN
b.1941 Australia

The Annunciation 2000
Lithograph
47.5 x 32 cm
Edition 2/7

Collection of the artist

Photograph: Michael Marzik

ARTIST STATEMENT

“This work takes compositional direction from Jan Vermeer’s painting, titled The Love Letter 1666. Receiving a love letter was a recurrent theme in Northern European domestic imagery.”

Figure 1.
“However, through the title, my work also refers to another common theme in the fifteenth century art. The subject of this very popular theme – the Annunciation – depicts the moment that the angel, Gabriel tells Mary that she is pregnant!”

“...the use of light and dark in black and white to create dramatic effects. Notice the dimensional gradation of tone created between the darkened doorway and the lit window in the background. The image was developed through compositional drawings and photographs I made of friends posing in domestic settings.”

**INVESTIGATE**

*Explore* the use of tone by *drawing* a section of a person’s face from life (eyes, mouth, nose etc.). *Look* closely to identify where the shadows (dark tones) and highlights (light tones) are.
ABOUT THE ARTWORK

The artist has stated "Domestic Artefact" is composed of a collection of assorted shaped bottles sitting on a kitchen window ledge above a sink in a Townsville house. It is part of an ongoing series that continues my interest into everyday domestic settings. The work also focuses on compositional patterns created by the placement of the forms in specific positions as well as the meanings that everyday household objects can reflect. This work is loosely linked to the still life paintings created by the Dutch and Flemish masters of the 16th and 17th Century. The use of light and dark plays an important part in this composition to emphasise the rhythmic placement of the bottles which suggest musical notation or a score. This work was developed through photographs, compositional drawings and ongoing observation of this particular setting.

RESEARCH

Both of O’Sullivan’s artworks are described as lithographs. Research what lithography is and describe how a lithograph is made.

For a full explanation see the Minneapolis Institute of Art Youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHw5_IHopsc
PROJECT

**Find** examples of Dutch and Flemish paintings and prints that reference the domestic interior.

To get you started, here are a few renaissance artists to search for:

*Jan Van Eyck, Jan Vermeer, Robert Campin, Petrus Christus, Pieter de Hooch*

**Compare** how these artists have depicted the various interiors. **Draw** something from your own home interior/environment.

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*Reference List:

Retrieved from http://www.johannes-vermeer.org

Retrieved from http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/56.70/*
Celebrating Townsville EDUCATION RESOURCE for secondary students

The aim of this resource is to offer insights into the works of art featured in the exhibition. It is intended as a starting point for generating ideas, for encouraging student research, and as a basis for discussion during exhibition visits. The resource provides background information on the development of particular works, and offers focus questions and suggested activities. It can be used in a variety of ways, both for student groups, and for individual study and research.

Acknowledgment: Thank-you to the artists who provided a statement about their work to assist with the development of this resource.

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