

Visual Art 2019 v1.1

Unit 2 mid-level annotated sample response

January 2023

Examination — extended response

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers to match evidence in student responses to the characteristics described in the assessment objectives.

Assessment objectives

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

1. implement decoding skills to read visual language and communicate understanding of ideas and representations in artworks
2. apply literacy skills using relevant visual art terminology, reference to artworks and language conventions to recognise and distinguish features of selected artworks and practices
3. analyse and interpret visual language, expression and meaning in artworks through a specified context
4. evaluate art forms to appraise the significance of relevant similarities, differences and ideas
5. justify a viewpoint supported by evidence of artistic processes, intentions and expression
8. realise a written response to demonstrate knowledge about how artists employ artistic qualities to create meaning.

Note: Objectives 6 and 7 are not assessed in this instrument.

Task

Answer one of the following questions.

- **Question 1**
Evaluate how artists manipulate media and techniques to communicate contemporary issues. Justify your viewpoint by comparing two chosen artworks from the stimulus.
- **Question 2**
Evaluate how artists use symbols and metaphors to communicate their personal values. Justify your viewpoint by comparing two chosen artworks from the stimulus.
- **Question 3**
Evaluate how artists repurpose found objects in response to cultural influences. Justify your viewpoint by comparing two chosen artworks from the stimulus.

Sample response

This is a mid-level response because the student:

applies literacy skills within the response using relevant visual art terminology, reference to artworks and language conventions that recognise features of selected artworks and practices

implements decoding skills to read visual language and communicate understanding of ideas and representations in artworks

analyses and interprets literal meaning and the ways personal context shapes ideas in artworks and influences artists' practice

Question 2

Evaluate how artists use symbols and metaphors to communicate their personal values. Justify your viewpoint by comparing two chosen artworks from the stimulus.

Artists Narelle Autio and Song Dong each take different approaches to communicate meaning using their personal values, interests and concerns. The *Summer of Us* by Narelle Autio uses a collection of lost things to show the things we leave behind whilst Song Dong uses personal objects in *Waste Not* to express the memory of old and unused things. Artists use a variety of media such as recyclable and claimed objects to express their interests in objects and symbols. They also comment on their concerns about how this waste has an impact on our environment and what we value. Visually these artists select colour, shapes and arrange these collected items in a way that reveals the stories of these items to the audience.

Autio's *The Summer of Us* documents through a series of photographs, the objects she beach-combed over a number of years. The title alludes to the time of year the items were documented – Summer, but the title is also a play on words, that the items are 'the sum of us' and symbolise our shared connection to the beach. The artwork is a view of different items that have been left on beaches by people after holidays and day trips. Autio's body of work consists of togs, clothing, dead animals, an old tyre, plastic spade and several other objects left by humans. Each photograph shows one object on a white background to show the details of sand that the artist thinks is beautiful.

The artist communicates to the audience through the selection of objects that she has a great bond with the water and beaches. The sand and salt water would leave the items either broken, decayed or covered in sand and barnacles. Some of these items can be used as a reminder that we should not litter or damage our natural surroundings. But mostly, Autio took a liking to the items as each had a story to tell and she wanted to share these stories with the audience. There are over a hundred different

evaluates art forms to appraise the significance of relevant similarities, differences and ideas

justifies a viewpoint supported by evidence gathered from artistic processes, intentions and expression

realises a response demonstrates knowledge about how artists employ artistic qualities to create meaning

images of lost items that have been left accidentally or purposely. The evidence within this artwork provides a reminder of time spent and gone and about the decay and crystalised sand. Autio communicates her own personal value and connection to the beach and how she recognises that other people have this same connection.

The artwork *Waste Not* by Song Dong is his mother's possessions of house items that have been collected over five decades. This collection was to show the artist's mother's personal belongings. His mother would collect items as she saw these items as a necessity for survival during social and political turmoil. The collection holds useful and useless items from bottle caps to pots. Dong has presented the installation as a symbol of personal value and how the house can hold personal memories through objects. In a way, the collected objects have become a metaphor for his mother and the hardship she suffered in her life. He has used this collection as a tribute to his mother, as she passed in 2009. This installation of items lasted six years as a time capsule for himself. His layout was to display everything so that he could communicate his story within the artwork. Collections are evidence of stories and memories and as such thing can reveal both positive and negative points of view.

Autio and Dong use large collections to communicate their different interests. The use of the gallery space is important in the display of these grouped items for both artists. However while Autio's images are arranged on the gallery walls, Dong allows the audience to walk through and around his mother's personal belongings. They both use lighting and space so that individual items can be singled out from the rest of the installation. Autio uses photography to line the walls where Song Dong used found household items. These both draw the audience in as they are using space, lighting and colour to the artworks advantage. Each artist uses objects and symbols to express not only the artist's personal interests but concerns for the environment.

In conclusion, artists communicate their personal values by what they see as important and symbolic in meaning and what they make into artworks. Each show the positive aspects however also try to express the concerns and personal values through their choice of symbolic items. These collective artworks hold meaning as each artist takes a different approach with their use of media and techniques. Autio expresses adventure and stories through photographs that are a documentation of her walks and finds on the beach, the images of deteriorated human objects are reminders of humanities' impact on the environment. Dong expresses memories and his concerns on humanity's litter problem. Their use of colour and space makes these collective artworks and invites the audience to investigate the artworks. The small things presented by the artists are metaphors that hold bigger meanings and each of the artists are expressing this in their own way. Therefore, artists throughout the community each take a unique approach to communicate their personal values, interests and concerns.

References

Autio, N 2010, *The Summer of Us* (Type C print), Hugo Michell Gallery.
Dong, S 2013, *Waste Not* (installation), Carriageworks multi-arts centre, Sydney.

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