



Gasworks Arts Park Secondary School Tour Booklet

Information for teachers

This booklet is designed for secondary school students taking part in Gasworks Arts Park tours. The tour and associated discussions and activities are recommended for supporting The Arts domain of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

This booklet is recommended for use for students in Years 7 to 10. Where relevant, key learning focus statements associated with the standards 'Exploring and Responding' or 'Creating and Making' are noted.

Introduction

Welcome to Gasworks Arts Park. Gasworks Arts Park is made up of two theatres, three gallery spaces, a café and sixteen resident artist studios.

Every year, there are more than 200 performances in our theatres, 30 visual arts exhibitions in our gallery spaces, and more than 1,000 workshops including a school holiday program.

There is a Farmers Market once a month, which sells fresh fruit and vegetables, and lots of homemade treats. Gasworks Arts Park also has a beautiful eight-acre park where people come and walk their dogs, look at the public art sculptures, and enjoy the sunshine.



Introduction

Image: Retort House and Coke Yards, South Melbourne; circa 1880s.

Discussion Questions:

1. Gasworks Arts Park was developed from the remains of the old South Melbourne gas plant in 1992. Why do you think the Council decided to create an arts venue and not another development (for example, housing, a shopping centre etc.)?
2. Think of other arts venues that you know. What are some benefits and disadvantages of using a converted historical site for an arts space?

Notes:

Foyer Exhibition

(Exploring and Responding: Influence, cultural and historical contexts)

Question 1:

Select a work in this exhibition. When was it created? How was the artist influenced by cultural and historical contexts?

Question 2:

Are there any symbols in the work that stand out to you? What do they mean?

Angela Roberts-Bird Gallery

(Creating and Making: Intention)

Question 1: What do you think was the intention of the exhibiting artist when creating these works?

Question 2: If you were commissioned to develop a series of works for an exhibition, what would it be and why?

Sketch your ideas for your own exhibition here:



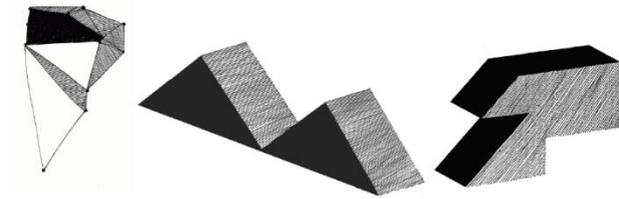
Back at school

As artists are often influenced by the works of other artists, if you had to make a new artwork that was influenced by the ones that you saw at Gasworks Arts Park, what would it be? What would it look like?



Midden

(Exploring and Responding: Aesthetic Features and Abstract Concepts)



Midden was carved by artist Matthew Harding in 2008. It was carved in the Gasworks sculpture studio from Victorian bluestone.

The work reflects the remnants of South Melbourne’s industrial past. The shapes used echo the industrial, cultural and ecological heritage of the Gasworks Arts Park site.

Question 1: Midden is placed in a natural setting rather than a gallery or exhibition. How does this affect your interpretation of the work? Would you feel differently about it if it was in a different space? How does the piece interact with the natural environment?

Question 2: If you were to develop an outdoor sculpture for the Gasworks Arts Park that works in harmony with the outdoor environment, what would it look like? Sketch your ideas below.

Back at school

Midden reflects the industrial history of the area. Select a building or parkland that you know of with an interesting history. If you were asked to create a sculpture to reflect that history, what would it be like?

Not Without Chomley

(Exploring and Responding: Interpreting content and meaning)

Question 1: Why do you think this name was selected for the piece?

Question 2: What do you think is the story behind this sculpture? What might have inspired the artist to create this piece?

Question 2: What mood is captured in the piece? If the figures were arranged differently, would this mood change?



Back at school

Consider the way in which your eye was drawn to different parts of the sculptures at Gasworks Arts Park and what their various focal points were. Create a sculpture that is made up of multiple parts. Examine the sculptures of your classmates and discuss what elements of each sculpture you are drawn to and why.



The Angel

(Creating and Making: Effective Implementation of Ideas)

The Angel by Simone Francis (1992) is made from found timber and fabric. The wings are made of untreated pieces of wood. The empty dress is mounted on a wooden support. Some people view the piece as a 'guardian angel', watching over the patrons at Gasworks Arts Park.

Consider the placement of The Angel and materials used in the creation of this piece. Choose a building that is known to you, and imagine that you have been commissioned to develop a work of art to represent that building.

The building that I have selected is: _____

The work that I would create would be titled: _____

I would utilise the following materials:

Sketch your piece here:



Final task...

Consider all of the artworks that you have seen today. What piece resonated with you the most? Sketch a map of today's tour with a depiction of your selected piece on the finished map.