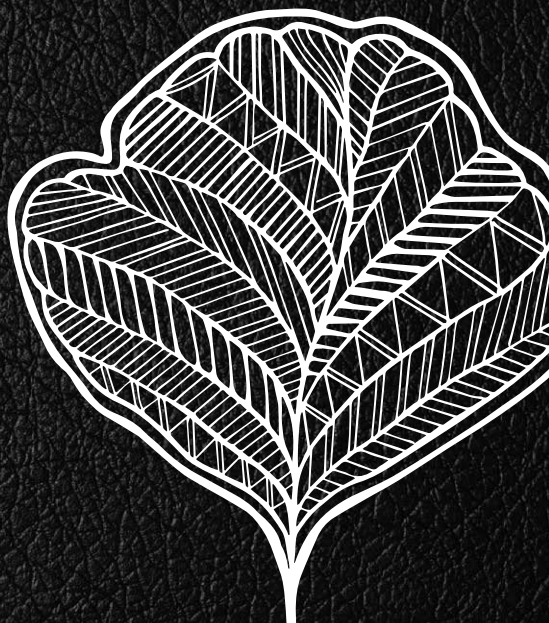


bimblebox: art – science – nature

MY BIMBLEBOX JOURNAL



Name

Class

School

Artist Journal: Artists frequently use journals or visual diaries to record their ideas, research, thoughts, feelings, inspirations in writing and through drawings, collage, thumbnail sketches, colour instructions or experiments, media experiments and anything that helps them creatively. This booklet is intended to be used similarly, though the focus is mostly on collecting information for responding to the works in the exhibition.

ABOUT BIMBLEBOX NATURE REFUGE

Bimblebox Nature Refuge is in the semi-arid, desert uplands area in the middle of Queensland. A group of concerned people thought it should be protected due to its special environment and the large number of plants and wildlife (flora and fauna) found there.

ABOUT BIMBLEBOX ART PROJECT AND EXHIBITION

For the last two years groups of artists have camped at Bimblebox and created artworks responding to the environment because they are worried that a planned coal mining operation will destroy it. They hope to document Bimblebox, and maybe save it by making people aware of this special place. This exhibition shows the artwork of 17 artists and will tour across Australia to show visitors their responses to exploring the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

ABOUT INVESTIGATING THIS EXHIBITION

What do you do in a gallery? Well, mostly you look (really look, so that you see), you think (really think about each artwork: what does it mean, how does it make you feel?), you reflect (think even more) and sometimes you do (interact with the artwork – you might listen to sounds, touch buttons, or even go home and make something inspired by the exhibition).

INVESTIGATING FURTHER

Artworks are always created within various contexts and can be viewed through different 'lenses'. They reflect the society in which they are created, the culture and the historical period that they are from. You may wish to explore an artwork through a particular lens such as:

1. Philosophical/ideological,
2. Theoretical,
3. Institutional,
4. Psychological or
5. Scientific viewpoints.

EXPLORING

bimblebox: art – science – nature

The Bimblebox artworks have all been created during a particular period, mostly *in situ* and the artists share similar cultural values. Reflect upon these in relation to the various lenses you can to investigate meaning and your response to the artworks.

This booklet has been made to help you explore the exhibition and interact with the artworks in a way that enables you to use what you discover to write about the works. You may want to undertake further research about the artist, their inspiration or the techniques used by the artists. This research, and thoughtful inspection of the works may also inspire you to create your own piece about an issue that is important to you. The Bimblebox App (*Bimblebox* by E.L. Harm & G.J. Harm) provides an excellent resource for more information. This 120-page interactive digital catalogue can be downloaded to iPad from the iTunes store at: <http://bit.ly/bimblebox>



SCAN to download the Bimblebox App for iPad

1. THINK ABOUT VIEWPOINTS

As you investigate and look at each artwork you will begin to make meaning about the story of Bimblebox. The artists want us to think about and understand this story from their point of view. There are other points of view, some which are very different from the artists. Try to think what these could be as you take notes about your selected artworks.

2. READ INFORMATION LABELS

As you enter each section make sure you read the didactic panel at the beginning: it is helpful for explaining why those particular artworks are placed together for display. As you come to each work take your time to look and notice things about it. Read the artist statement and artwork label (this has the name of the artwork, when it was made, who made it and what it is made from). These will help you understand what the artist wanted to say.

3. DECODE THE ARTWORK

This booklet provides a guide for decoding the works and how to organise your discoveries using concept mapping. Use this example to help you to develop your own concept map about one of the artworks that you are particularly interested by.

CONCEPT MAP FOR COALFACE 2014

YOUR TURN: USE THESE QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU GATHER INFORMATION FOR WRITING ABOUT THE WORK

ART ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPALS
(line, shape, colour, space, value, texture, rhythm, contrast, balance, pattern, unity, emphasis, variety).

Using these terms to help you, describe the artwork.

How is the artwork arranged?

Describe the various components of the work (visual, musical, digital, performance).

DISCOVER THE ARTIST'S PRACTICES, TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES.

How was it made?

What skills and techniques were used?

How might the artists collaborate and work together? Where would they start?

DISCOVER THE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

Who created the work and when?

Artists:
Alison Clouston & Boyd

Date:
2014

Image: *Coalface* (detail) 2014, Alison Clouston & Boyd. Soundtrack, audiovisual system, aluminium, rubber, coal, greenhouse audit and offset.
Photo: Stephen Oxenbury

DISCOVER THE MEANING OF THE WORK

Meaning is found in a number of ways including by discovering the artist's intentions and through how you, the audience, interprets what you experience when viewing and interacting with the artwork.

DISCOVER HOW THE WORK IS MADE

DESCRIBE

Media:
Multi media artwork composing of soundtrack, audiovisual system, aluminium, rubber, coal, greenhouse audit and offset.

Size:
1050 x 1710 x 900 mm

Art Category:
Installation – Sculptural form accompanied by sound and presented through performance



COALFACE 2014

DISCOVER THE CONTEXT FOR THE MAKING OF THE WORK

Title of the exhibition?

bimblebox: art – science – nature

Biographies?

- Alison Clouston is a visual artist and Boyd is a musician/composer
- Boyd went to Sydney Conservatorium of music
- Alison has a long history in Australian Sculpture
- They collaborate and bring together the natural and technological worlds

Other works and projects

- *Carbon Dating* 2013 *
- *What Lies Beneath?* Goulburn Regional Gallery 2013

Who?

17 visual artists

What?

Various paintings, installations and other visual works

When?

2012-2013

Why?

To highlight threat to unique nature refuge

How?

Created over two years at artist camps on site at Bimblebox

QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU DISCOVER THE MEANING OF AN ARTWORK

What is the artist's intention (read the artist statement)?

.....

Why was it made?

.....

How did the artists' experiences whilst at the Bimblebox artist camp influence the creation of the artwork?

.....

VIEWPOINTS – POINT OF VIEW

When you are asked to consider a viewpoint it is like asking you to look at it through another person's eyes. Imagine putting on a pair of glasses that let you see the work through a different lens. Consider the following viewpoints.

DISCOVER THE WORK THROUGH AN IDEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT

This is about questioning the artwork in relation to morals and values that the artists present in the work.

DISCOVER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ARTIST AND THE AUDIENCE

What meanings and messages do you find in the work?

.....

What thoughts and feelings does the work provoke when you view it?

.....

Does the work confront environmental destruction? How?

.....

What do you consider appropriate action for this environment? Why?

.....

What are appropriate actions in relation to unique environments and land ownership and cultural heritage? Why?

.....

How can we make a difference to the environment?

.....

DISCOVER THE WORK THROUGH A SCIENTIFIC VIEWPOINT

Consider yourself a scientist viewing the work and think about what questions you would ask of the work?

.....

What is the impact of coal mining on the environment?

.....

Does this extend beyond the Bimblebox zone and the Great Barrier Reef? How? What is the impact?

.....

What safe practices and technological advancements are there in renewable energy as opposed to burning fossil fuels?

.....

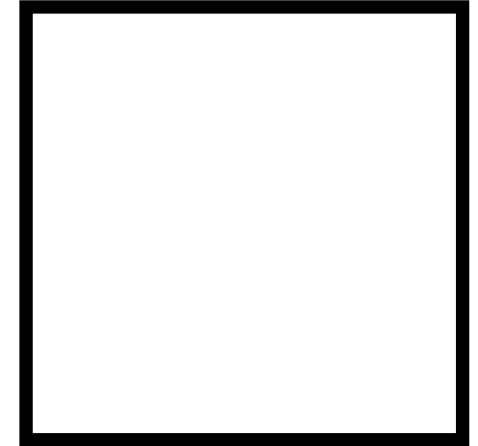
ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR STIMULATING WRITING ABOUT ARTWORKS

Take a 30 second look at a selected artwork then walk away and describe what you remember about the art work to a class mate.

Try using five senses as a memory aid – pretend you are inside the painting and think about what you feel? taste? smell? see? hear? Imagine the process the artist followed to create the work of art and what sort of transition words and pictures you would use to illustrate the process:

CHOOSE AN ARTWORK TO RESEARCH AND FOLLOWING THE CONCEPT MAP GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SELECTED ARTWORK

Create a thumbnail sketch of your selected work.



Record details from the artist statement:

Artist:

Title:

Date:

Description:

Add your **DISCOVER** titles and key questions here, then find your answers.

.....

A STEPPING-STONE

TO INSPIRE FURTHER ART MAKING

1

Create an IDEAS BLOG

- Write, sketch, doodle or draw about the processes and ideas from the exhibition. Start a class blog of ideas inspired by Bimblebox.
- Consider and list environmental issues in your community or that concern you.

2

Using what you saw, experienced and discovered through visiting the exhibition, consider art ideas that would express your viewpoint on an environmental issue important to you.

Explain how your artwork may be used to evoke thoughts and actions about this issue in the format of an artist's statement – just like the Bimblebox artists.

3

Map out an App of your own work and the environmental context it is responding too.

Upload it to the Bimblebox web site (bimbleboxartproject.wordpress.com).



bimblebox: art – science – nature is a touring exhibition partnered by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland and Redland Art Gallery in association with Bimblebox Nature Refuge. Assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, the Gordon Darling Foundation and proudly sponsored by Artfully, Tangible Media, Planet Boab, Wotif.com, Platypus Graphics, artisan and At A Glance.