

MYTHO - POETIC Glen Skien SECONDARY STUDENT WORKSHEET

Before you begin this worksheet have a wander through the exhibition.

While you are looking think about how the artist has unified the exhibition. What techniques has the artist used to create a mood or feeling. Spend some time looking at each artwork and write some notes.

What are the main ideas and themes of the artworks in this exhibition.

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Make an inventory of all the materials Glen Skien has used to make his artworks.

We are all shaped by our experiences and our own personal history. Glen Skien is very interested in this idea.

Find an artwork where you think the artist is telling us a story and explain how this has been achieved.



In the exhibition catalogue Glen Skien says "The stories we claim as 'our own' grasp the framework of our personal references. However, these stories are transformed once shared with the communities we inhabit."

What do you think he means by this?

Artists use Repetition as a creative tool. It sometimes gives the work more meaning.
Choose an artwork where you think the artist has used it and explain how it is used.
Do you think it gives the work more meaning or not? Explain your reasons.

Why do you think the artist has obliterated some things with red ink and what do you think the red writing represents?

Have you ever played Chinese whispers?
You'll be surprised how stories change as they
are passed on from one person to another!
Have a go at school.

Stories as history as inspiration for artworks

When Glen Skien was a child he lived near the coastline at Mackay where an aeroplane crashed in heavy fog. Sadly all 29 passengers died. A stone memorial now stands in the picnic area in memory of the sorrowful accident. This effected Glen and the whole community and has remained with him all his life. The artist has used this story from his childhood in his artworks Resemblance I, II and Object-poem: Trace.

Can you think of an event that has really effected you? It might be a happy experience or something sad. These experiences form part of who you are.

Explain how the artist has retold this story through visual imagery. Think about what kind of materials and techniques the artist has used that might further enhance the final works and give them meaning.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glen Skien has used many different materials and techniques in the exhibition MYTHO-POETIC. Using many materials requires skill and knowledge of different forms of art making. The main technique used is printmaking but the artist also enjoys combining printmaking with collage and other materials. Describe what you know about these terms. If you are not sure discuss or look them up.

Etching:

Aquatint:

Artists Books:

Encaustic:

Muslin:

Collage:

Mytho-Poetic:

Assemblage:

Photo Transfer:

Ink:

Strawboard:

Interview with Glen Skien

1. **When did you first realise you wanted to be an artist?** I remember being about 7 or 9 years old and began an interest in painting but we didn't do art at school. I did a signwriting course which was very creative and it wasn't until I was 25yrs old that I went to Art School to do a Bachelor of Fine Art.
2. **Which of your artworks have given you the most satisfaction?** I have really enjoyed making the 4 big artists books. I love making books and combining printmaking with collage and drawing.
3. **What artists do you admire and why?** I have always admired Joseph Cornell. He often uses small images or objects to gather and put together in boxes in a poetic way.
4. **What is your preferred medium and why?** Etching initially has been my preferred medium but over the years I like to combine printmaking with collage and drawing.
5. **What would be the best and worst thing about being an artist?** The best thing about being an artist is that you are always using your imagination to understand the world and find meaning. I guess the worst thing is finding appreciation for what you do.
6. **What advice would you give a young artist just starting out?** Be aware of your own sensibility and understand how you perceive every day life.
7. **If you weren't an artist or a teacher what would you be doing?** I would try to be creative, pursue something creative like writing poetry or being a bad musician or maybe even a whale watcher!
8. **If you were stranded on a deserted island what are three things you couldn't be without?** My sketch diary, a pencil and a hat.
9. **What's the most bizarre thing about you that no-one else knows?** I am a mad State of Origin Gld supporter and that I used to represent North Queensland in Rugby League.
10. **If you had superpowers what would they be and why?** I'd be an invisible man so I could go places and no-one would know and I could rob banks!



MYTHO-POETIC: Print and Assemblage Works by Glen Skien is organised by the Gympie Regional Gallery and toured by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland. This project has been assisted by the Gordon Darling Foundation and the Australian Government through the Ministry for the Arts' Visions of Australia program.