

But, Is It Art?

Exploring art through the National Contemporary Art Award

2015 Teacher Resource Booklet



Waikato Museum, Te Whare Taonga o Waikato is the artistic and cultural heart of our city. We value and celebrate our rich and diverse cultural heritage and our region's artistic vibrancy and flair for scientific innovation.

Waikato Museum is an ideal place for learning and enrichment.

Our programmes extend the learning environment beyond the classroom for both students and teachers. We have developed relevant and useful teachers' notes and can tailor unique classes to meet the needs of our visiting education groups. These provide stimulating learning experiences related to the exhibitions and tours described.



But, is it Art? Ever asked yourself this question while looking at an 'interesting' piece of art? Art can be a confusing and challenging thing, especially with the wide range of mediums open to artists today.

But, Is It Art? explores student's concepts of artistic elements, art and artists and looks at how we can view art in different ways. It also challenges students to 'think like a critic' and ask that huge question 'Can and should art be judged?'.

The *National Contemporary Art Award* promotes and celebrates New Zealand's contemporary art and is now in its 16th year. Waikato Museum is proud to host the finalists and winner and to showcase the diversity, creativity, imagination and artistic brilliance of local and national artists.

Our programme consists of a classroom presentation, exhibition tour and practical activity that will explore some of the concepts discussed. Tours of other art exhibitions or a specialist visit to our collections storage can be arranged.

Above: Making sense of sense, Elke Finkenauer, National Contemporary Art Award finalist 2014.

Cover image: Cerulean, aqua, gold, Nell Nutsford, National Contemporary Art Award finalist 2014.

People use these competencies to live, learn, work, and contribute as active members of their communities. They are the key to learning in every area. Museum learners will become confident, connected, actively involved, life-long learners.

Thinking	Use creative and critical thinking to make sense of the information, experiences and ideas explored in the Museum.
Using Language, Symbols and Text	Students will make meaning of the language, symbols, text and specific terminology of the Museum.
Relating to Others	Interact effectively with a diverse range of people in different and new contexts. Listen actively and share ideas in the Museum.
Participating and Contributing	Understand the role of the Museum in the local and wider community. Develop a sense of belonging and confidence to participate within new contexts. Make connections between exhibitions and their relevance to local, national and global environments.
Managing Self	Students will see themselves as capable learners who develop strategies for meeting challenges. Students develop a can-do attitude with increasing independence.



Specific learning experiences

Students will...

View and discuss selected works in the gallery

Explore the concept of art, it's purpose and value in society

Develop an understanding of how ideas and concepts are explored through artworks

Discuss and share ideas, as well as create their own art work in response to the exhibition

Suggested pre-visit activities

View a variety of art using different medium and explore their thoughts and opinions about the pieces.

Brainstorm prior knowledge about art and artists, famous artists etc.

Create a question web, thinking about what they know and what they want to know about past and contemporary art.

Create a pictorial timeline of art styles, discussing changes in art over time.

Explore art in magazines and print media, advertising etc.

Choose a favourite painting or art work from a book or online and present it to the class, discussing why they like it and attempting to sway others to their viewpoint.

Explore art created to send a message, such as protest art etc.

Host a debate with suggested themes like...

'Is all art worth keeping?'

'Is art of value to society?'

'Should art be aesthetically appealing?'

'Should art galleries be funded by City Councils?'

'Does art enhance society?'

'Can art be judged, is there good and bad art?'

Suggested post-visit reflection activities

Discuss some of the artworks students saw, debate their merits and failings.

Reflect on questions raised before the visit, did they get answers or do they have new questions.

Did they agree with the judge on the winners and finalists, what criteria would they have used and which art works would they not have considered?

Research the judge of this, and past awards. Should only artists judge artworks? What sort of background do you feel a judge of an art award should have? What about the opinions of the general public, should they impact on an artworks standing?

Create their own 'contemporary' artwork.

Interview each other as 'artist' and 'critic' and create their own art-speak TV show.

Create a contemporary art award exhibition with their art works, enlist a judge and develop criteria to measure work against.

Review artworks they viewed before their visit, have their opinions changed about the pieces and if so, why?

Explore in greater depth how art is used in advertising, sales etc.

Can an advertisement or poster for a product be considered art?

Choose a theme, such as 'peace', 'loyalty', consumerism' etc. and theme art works around it. Explore different medium and techniques. Create an exhibition for other to view.

Investigate and research the life story of a famous artist, either contemporary or historical and explore and compare different stories. Are their aspects of their lives that are similar? Do all artists struggle financially, socially or emotionally? Are their artworks appreciated more after their death then when they were alive?

Discuss how art could change over the next 20, 50, 100 years. Will there still be a place for art galleries in the future? Will art still be a part of future societies? Should art/ art history or art appreciation be taught in future schools?



Before you arrive

We will confirm your booking. Health and safety guidelines and RAMS forms are available to download through our website.

Please discuss with the Education Manager your timetable and organisation for your visit.

Please arrange for your group to leave their bags at school or on the bus as we have limited storage in the Museum.

Discuss with the Museum educators whether photographs or video may be taken in exhibitions as there are different conditions for every exhibition.

When you arrive

Bring your group to the School Entrance at the top right of the Museum. Your educator will meet you at that door.

Bus parking is available near the school entrance on Grantham Street. Three hour paid parking is situated in the Museum car park off Victoria Street, or in the Knox Street car park building.

We supply any pencils, paper or other equipment that you may need for your visit however students, teachers and supervisors are encouraged to bring I.T. devices to support their learning. (Please note there is no wifi in the Museum)

Late arrivals

We regret that in most cases we cannot extend your lesson time beyond the time that has been booked as our educators may have multiple commitments throughout a day.

At the conclusion of your visit

Please sign off the numbers of children in your group and details of payment with the front-of-house host.

We appreciate knowing what we are doing well and to hear any suggestions you may have for improvement. We encourage students to communicate with us about their learning and experiences of their visit and we request that you complete the on-line evaluation form.

<http://waikatomuseum.co.nz/education/evaluation-form/>



Body in Action

4 July - 11 October 2015

Experience the human body like never before – crawl through the nasal passage, slide through the gut. Learn about blood, skin, bones and muscles. Our classroom programme introduces the body's systems. Explore the exhibition and complete a project. Packages available.

Giant in the North

13 June - 15 November 2015

Waikato's wonderful giant penguin is back in a new exhibition. Explore sustainability and climate change in our unique programme featuring the *Giant In The North* and *Planet Warriors* exhibitions.

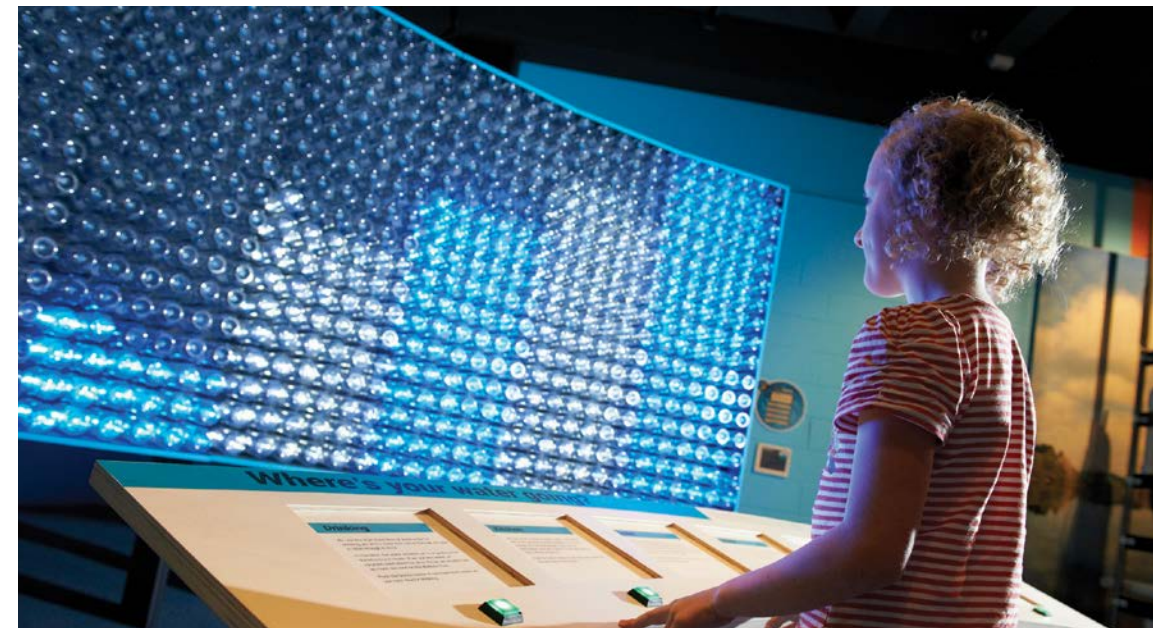
Image: Detail, Untitled (The World's Largest Penguin Species?), Ronald Cometti, 2007. Courtesy of Simon Cometti and Amanda Wilson.

For Us They Fell

Take the opportunity to see this major exhibition. Make it a full day by combining our Museum based programme with a visit to the cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – we will support your teaching with a detailed guide to the park.

Fabulous Art

The Museum is full of wonderful art. Book now for our *But, Is It Art?* programme and explore the featured exhibitions. NCEA study opportunities.



Science Magic

Turn kids on to the magic of science with our new Science Magic Programme. Learn about the various strands of science and the scientific method while being amazed and amused by the experiments. Students from years 1 to 8 will walk away with a whole new appreciation of the world around as they participate in the various activities. The programme includes a visit to *Exscite* and *Planet Warriors* - inclusive cost \$8.

Planet Warriors

Experience the inspiring world of Planet Warriors. Discover through our classroom session and interactive exhibition that making small changes to the way we do things can have a big impact on the health of our planet. Let us help you explore the sustainability of New Zealand's unique ecosystems. The programme includes a classroom session, exhibition tour and Mission Card Challenge - inclusive cost \$8.

Exscite

The Exscite science gallery is jam-packed with great interactive ways to learn about science. The programme includes a classroom session (tailored to your group), exhibition tour and interactive fun - inclusive cost \$8.



Waikato Museum

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