



WATER

LEARNING RESOURCES

QAGOMA
LEARNING

This resource has been developed in collaboration with Andrew Peachey, QAGOMA Learning Teacher Advisory Group Volunteer.

Authentic experience

Developing an investigation based on an *authentic experience* visit to the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) 'Water' exhibition

IA1 - Art as knowledge

Developing an investigation based on the 'Water' exhibition at GOMA, Brisbane.

Prior knowledge: What do I know about water?

Three aspects of water I already know:

- Water exists in three different states – gas, liquid and solid
- 60% of the human body is made of water
- Humans need to drink 2-3 litres of water a day for their brain to function normally

How do artists generate solutions to visual problems?

Direct stimulus – stimulate curiosity

Before Your Visit

What am I interested in?

Three aspects of water I'm interested in:

- The body immersed in water
- Play in water
- Rituals in water

Direct stimulus/first-hand experience

Which artists are also interested in these ideas?

Bill Viola

Media: Time based media

Focus: ritual, spiritual cleansing, appropriation of renaissance paintings

Euan Macleod

Media: Painting

Focus: The figure in landscape

Bill Viola
The ascension



Bill Viola
The messenger



Euan Macleod
*Seated figure
beneath rocks*



Euan Macleod
Man on water



During Your Visit

Authentic experience

'Water' exhibition GOMA - Direct stimulus/first-hand experience

Developing new knowledge

View the whole exhibition.

Before you make any artwork selections get a feel for the whole exhibition.

Then analyse the whole exhibition. Ask yourself:

- How has this exhibition been curated?
- What do you notice about the groupings?
- How does this relate to your prior thoughts and knowledge?
- What in this exhibition has challenged your prior knowledge?

ONCE you have critically evaluated the intentions and challenges the exhibition holds for you as audience, now reflect on your own potential focuses you had before the exhibition
THEN choose two artworks.

In this example where the prior focus was where the human figure is engaged with water either through ritual or immersion, the potential artwork choices are:



Martina Amati
Under (Depth) 2015



Angela Tiatia
Holding On 2015



Paul Blackmore
Heat 1 (from 'Heat' series) 2018



Ruby Djikarra Alderton
Mayan 2011

After Your Visit

Direct stimulus/first-hand experience
Experimentation in response to Tiatia's and Blackmore's works.

I asked a friend to photograph me in shallow water.

Reflection:

How has my experimentation challenged my thinking?

How has my own reflection and evaluation of my work enhanced my understanding of Tiatia's and Blackmore's works?

What new knowledge will I take forward to help sharpen what I want to say with my work?



After Your Visit

Researching

How do artists react to stimulus?

What has prompted each of the artists to create these works?

Reflecting

How do artists consider ideas and information, media techniques and process?

Having experienced the 'Water' exhibition, researched artists, experimented with some photography in situ I need to consider the ideas and information I have gathered. I need to also consider which media, techniques and processes I am competent at using and investigate which direction I will take.

Developing an inquiry question

What do I want to say?

The question must be open. It must commence with How or Why.

Potential questions and contexts:

How has our interaction with water changed over time? Contemporary context (Angela Tiatia, Ruby Djikarra Alderton)

How is playing in water so different from playing on land? Personal and Cultural contexts (Ruby Djikarra Alderton)

How does the human figure change when it is immersed in water? Personal and Formal contexts (Martina Amati, Paul Blackmore, Ruby Djikarra Alderton)

Why is water used in spiritual/religious rituals? Personal, Cultural, Contemporary contexts (Martina Amati, Angela Tiatia)

How is water representative of life and death? (Angela Tiatia, Ruby Djikarra Alderton)

Captions

Unless otherwise stated, all artworks © The artist.

Paul Blackmore / Australia b.1968 / *Heat 1* (from 'Heat' series) 2018, printed 2019 / Archival inkjet print / Courtesy: The artist | **Martina Amati** / Italy b.1969 / *Under (Depth)* 2015 / Digital film, colour, 11 minutes, looped (one channel of 3-channel installation) / Dimensions variable / Courtesy: The artist | **Angela Tiatia** / New Zealand/Samoa/Australia b.1973 / *Holding On* 2015 / Single-channel high definition video, 16:9, colour, sound, 12:11 minutes / Courtesy: The artist and Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney | **Ruby Djikarra Alderton** / Yolngu language group / Australia b.1993 / *Mayan* 2011 / Video, 16:9 ratio, 3:32 minutes / Dimensions variable / Courtesy: The artist, Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre and The Mulka Project

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