Visual Arts: Express and explore ideas Levels 5 and 6 – Student work sample 2

Transcript

I'm here with art critic Monsieur Mustachio, and we are going to discuss about Aly de Groot's artwork.

What are… What elements are used in the artwork?

Well, she has… All of her pieces are usually woven. Um… She has used cool colours and warm colours. Um… She has used… With textures, some are soft, some are bumpy.

Can you describe the elements' look when they are in the artworks?

Well, the colours are sort of...point outwards, so it almost makes it look like it's real. She's put some so they look huge and they're floating. And some have… So, more in a confined space, like they are trapped in the ghost net.

Do the elements help tell the story of the artworks?

Yes. Some tell stories of how the animals are stuck and died in the ghost nets.

Do they help the artist express her ideas? If so, how?

Yes. They do.

She expresses them through the artwork of how she wants to save the marine animals and give the ghost nets a second life into... by creating them into marvelous artworks.

What materials have the artist used to make the artworks?

Well, she has used ghost nets that have caught the animals. Um, she has used... She's used fishing hooks to hang them. She's used recycled Barbies for making mermaids. She's used small jars to make the jellyfish to put in there. And the jellyfish are almost confined in those small spaces that she has used the jars for.

Can you describe the properties of these materials?

Um… Well, the ghost nets are very strong, but also very flexible, so she can bend them and make them into shapes for her materials and artworks.

Why do you think the artist has chosen these materials?

Well, these ghost nets catch thousands of animals a day, keeping them trapped as they sail back, crossing the water. She uses these to express how she would like to save these animals from getting caught in the ghost nets.

Has the artist chosen the materials to help express the ideas and tell stories? If so, how?

Um… She has chosen these materials to show the story of how these animals are getting stuck in these and how she is expressing herself through these is that she wants these animals to be free. She wants to give the ghost nets a second chance at life as well, by creating them into artworks that she has put her heart into.

What techniques has the artist used to make the artworks? Can you name them?

She has used line, she has woven. Um, she's used warm and cool colours. She uses patterns. And she uses sort of ideas of how these animals are getting affected by the ghost nets.

Describe the techniques/methods the artist has used to make artworks.

Well, she used the ghost nets and other things, like the duck - his insides aren't exactly correct because once ducks eat rubbish, they can swim for longer, but it starts to affect them. And then eventually they will die because the plastic has reached their body and killed them.

What subjects of the artworks can you describe?

Subjects of the artwork. Well, she's used… The subject is about the marine life. And how it's been getting stuck. The turtle was also affected by straws as well. And in the turtle photo, there's plastic wrapped around its fins and that's how the turtles can get stuck. 'cause they don't know really. The plastic almost looks like fish and once they eat it, they can get sick. But once they get caught in the nets, it also affects them.

Can you describe the artist's ideas?

Well, her ideas are with the marine animals, as I said. And the ghost nets. How things can get caught and carried in there. They can't get out.

Have the artist used elements, materials and techniques to tell the story, express their ideas? Can you describe how?

Well, ghost nets express how she wants to reuse these and she wants to save the animals from them. And when she does the animals, these animals she wants to help save, because she doesn't want them to get stuck in these nets as well.

Bonus question - what are the similarities and differences between the artworks of the Mirrar Elders and Aly's artwork?

Well, they are both woven. They both use colours and patterns. They both…use materials that they have reused and found.

WOMAN: What are the differences?

The differences between them is that Aly's is more about sort of how these animals are getting stuck, and the elders' are more of a traditional works because they use them for, like, day-to-day things. Like they make baskets and mats that they can sit on.

Yeah.