

Transurban

Canal to Creek

TRANSURBAN PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

ALEX LEHOURS

THE SPIRIT OF ST PETERS | STAGE 4 WORKSHEET

The Spirit of St Peters is a large-scale mural on the wall of the City Star Motors and Antoniou Fillo factory building in the Sydney suburb of St Peters. The precisely hand-painted tribute to these long-standing businesses evokes a strong sense of nostalgia while celebrating their histories. For artist Alex Lehours, the families and stories behind these local businesses are reflective of the broader “hard-working, honest and authentic spirit” of St Peters.



Alex Lehours, *The Spirit of St Peters*

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

VOCABULARY - mural, stylised, motifs, decorative plasterwork, ornamental, domestic architecture, collaboration, partnerships

STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK

1. Alex Lehours' mural is filled with layered images and text. Look carefully across the artwork. In the space below, make a list of as many things that you can see as possible.

Choose three main features you have identified and list them in the first column below (e.g. portrait of a man and woman). For each feature, write one descriptive sentence that provides a clear picture to someone who has never seen it before.

Key words: realistic, black and white, bold, vintage, chrome, typeface, advertisement

Feature	Descriptive Sentence

2. ***"I wanted to capture a sense of nostalgia"*** - Alex Lehours, artist

The idea of "nostalgia" plays an important role in ***The Spirit of St Peters***. Familiarise yourself with this term by researching and writing a definition of it in your own words.

Nostalgia definition:

3. Choose **one** feature you identified and described in the table above. Explain how the artist uses this feature to create a sense of ***nostalgia*** in the artwork.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK – AUDIENCE

4. **The Spirit of St Peters** spans (metres) in length. Imagine if the artwork was only the size of a postcard. With a peer, discuss how the monumental scale of the artwork adds to its meaning and impact on the audience. List your ideas in the space below.

5. Consider everything you have learnt about **The Spirit of St Peters**. Do you think you need to be a local resident of St Peters to appreciate and understand the artwork? Why/why not?

ARTMAKING TASK

Pop Culture Collages

Like *The Spirit of St Peters*, Alex Lehours' artworks are characterised by a bold collaging of portraiture, symbolic images and text. Like many Pop Art works from the 1950s and 60s, they often focus on figures from pop culture. Create your own collaged composition based on your favourite pop culture or art history icon.

1. Familiarise yourself with Alex Lehours' style by visiting his [website](#). As you explore his artworks, consider the following questions:
 - What do you notice about his use of colour, text and images?
 - How does he use repetition and pattern?
 - How does he make some elements of his compositions stand out more than others?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Extension Activity

Research artists such as Andy Warhol, James Rosenquist or Eduardo Paolozzi from the Pop Art movement. Consider how these artists incorporated aspects of pop culture in their artworks. Document your findings in your Visual Arts Diary.

2. Decide which figure from pop culture you will base your artwork on. You might choose a movie or sports star, or your favourite musician.
3. Research and collect as many images as you can that relate to your chosen pop culture icon. Try to include a combination of portraits, symbolic images (e.g. sport equipment for a sporting legend) and text (e.g. a logo or typeface associated with the figure).
4. Start to plan your collage by sketching possible compositions in your Visual Arts Diary. As you plan, think carefully about:
 - **Scale and hierarchy:** what are the most important images? How big should they be compared to other images?
 - **Layering and direction:** Can I rotate some elements to make them horizontal or vertical? Which elements can go behind or in front of others?
 - **Repetition and pattern:** Can I add interest to my composition by repeating some elements to create a pattern?
 - **Colour:** Will my composition be more effective if I limit my use of colour (e.g. make any portraits black and white or only use three main colours). Can I digitally edit some of my images to change their colour?
5. Finalise your composition by seeking feedback from peers and/or your teacher.
6. Begin to assemble your collage. This can be done digitally or by hand. If you are working by hand, edit any of the images you have collected digitally and print them before beginning to cut and assemble them onto a sheet of paper or card.
7. Write a short artist statement to accompany your finished collage. Include an explanation of why you have chosen this particular pop culture icon and the ideas you want your work to communicate about them.