

Canal to Creek

WestConnex

Transurban

THE WESTCONNEX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



VADEA
NSW

VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

MIKE HEWSON

ST PETERS FENCES | STAGE 4 WORKSHEET



Mike Hewson
St Peters Fences
40 x 20 x 6m approx.
Materials: Heritage brick & sandstone, rubber concrete, refurbished play equipment, structural steel

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

VOCABULARY - Interactive, blur boundaries, pastiche, recontextualisation, displacement, diaspora, whimsical, poetic, metaphor, archival, immigration

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - ARTWORK

Hewson's **St Peters Fences** in Simpson Park is part of the [WestConnex Public Art Program](#) - Canal to Creek which was commissioned by WestConnex, a tunnel and motorway project in south-western Sydney. The theme of the overall project was **TRANSFORMATION** with artist's encouraged to explore responses to changes in place and culture. Hewson has created an assemblage sculpture that has dual functions as a children's playground as well as documentation of the many homes, past and present, in this culturally diverse neighbourhood of St Peters. Hewson reconstructed climbable brick fences using images of front fences of homes in St Peters, demolished for infrastructure expansion projects around the area combined with play equipment to create a whimsical magical space for children to play and adults to question and remember. It is a large-scale play area, utilising salvaged brick, heritage sandstone and Victorian terrace fencing where possible, most of which has been salvaged from homes recently demolished along Campbell Street.

INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS - CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

ARTIST: Hewson is an inclusive, collaborative artist who works mainly as a public artist. His interests lie in connecting people to sites and leave a legacy for the future.

- Explain how he is inclusive and collaborative?
- How has he connected people to "Simpson Park" and how might this leave a legacy for the future?

ARTWORK: By upcycling bricks, sandstone and iron from demolished local homes, the artists brings them to life again.

- List 10 key words that describe **St Peters Fences**. e.g. playful, architectural, cultural,
- Describe **St Peters Fences** in your own words using these words. Use descriptive evocative language to create a 'word picture' so that anyone reading your paragraph can accurately imagine the artwork within its site. (1 paragraph)

AUDIENCE: Here is an adult explanation of their experience of moving through the playground.

"Moving through the playground, an uprooted post becomes a snake and a contorted monkey bar a ladder. In the gutted frame of a terrace two swings hang from the beams of the second floor. A slide dives over a lattice brick wall. At ground level climbing rope is webbed across an archway...you find small shiny stones lined up on a sandstone block, as if a child has laid out their precious collection and at waist-height potted plants crown brick columns. The fences make me remember the many migrant families past and present who have made St Peters their home and how much they have given to our neighbourhood"

From the artists website at <https://mikehewson.co.nz/2020/9/st-peters-fences> (accessed on 6/4/2021)

- Write an explanation of how an 8-year-old child might experience the playground. Consider physically, emotionally and intellectually. Talk about individual features of the playground (refer to the PowerPoint) and how they might respond to and interact with sculptural elements.

ARTWORK: Hewson believes that public art is important because artists identify the story behind a site and anchor this to a specific place. They connect with communities in many ways, ensuring public art contributes positively, leaving a legacy for future generations.

- What is public art and how does it differ from art found in a museum, gallery or in someone's home. Where is it found? (2 sentences)



Annotate this image with some of the features explored in this worksheet.

ARTMAKING TASK

The images right were taken by the artist as part of his site investigation. They include a variety of architectural features from the local St Peters area that he has included in his work ***St Peters Fences*** - Simpson Park.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use your phone to photograph the architectural and decorative features when walking around your local area. Look at fences, letter boxes, windows, doors, eaves and other decorative features.
2. Take a series of photos from different angles of a local playground.
3. Download back at school, edit to create 5 or 6 black and white high contrast originals then print off your selected images including your best playground image.
4. Use this source material to create a 'playground collage' from the black and white photocopies, using the best playground image as your base and recreating the playground using the photographs of the architectural features.



5. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Hand colour your collage using watercolour pencils.