



Teachers' Resource Card *Patrick Pound: On Reflection*

Patrick Pound, The Great Exhibition, National Gallery of Victoria 2017.

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Patrick Pound: On Reflection

About the Exhibition

New Zealand-born, Melbourne-based artist Patrick Pound is an avid collector. He collects and displays items—from found photographs and everyday things to priceless artworks from institutional collections—forming unique connections and themes to create wondrous 'museums of things'.

On Reflection plays on ideas about mirroring and the double. It is organised as a vast palindrome or Rorschach test, unfolding from the entrance of the installation with each item reflecting on and directly corresponding with something else. Bringing together thousands of items from his private collection with more than 80 treasures from Te Papa Tongarewa, Pound blurs the lines between public and private collections, and significant and insignificant objects and images.

Pound is interested in how things can be found, and made, to hold ideas differently. He says: 'Things are pliable—they aren't as set in their ways as we might think.' He puts the very idea of a meaningful collection to the test. "The visitor gets to rethink what it means to collect and to categorise, to sort and to store, and to even find patterns and a little poetry in our attempts at ordering and explaining our world," says Pound.

Art Terminology

Curator—puts together exhibitions and helps to explain them.

Found photography—a genre of photography based on finding and exhibiting lost, unclaimed, or discarded photographs.

Vernacular—everyday or commonplace things.

Vernacular photography—examples include holiday photos, family snapshots, and photo-booth images.

Techniques and Processes

Collect—find and gather things together.

Classify—sort and put things in groups or categories.

Arrange—put things in a particular order. Ways of arranging include lines, clusters and grids.

Display—show things to an audience. Methods of display include hanging on a wall, putting on a shelf or containing in a vitrine.

Label—writing to accompany the display.

Pre-visit Discussion and Activity

Think about collections:

- Are you a collector? Tell a friend about any collections of things or taonga you or your whānau have at home. What started the collection? Are you still adding to it? Will your collection ever be complete?

- Why do humans collect things? Is there a difference between a personal (at home) and public (in a museum) collection?

Start a class collection. Bring in a seemingly 'worthless' item to school (clean things only). Look at the objects. Can you see any patterns? Find lots of ways to sort, group and order them into different categories, e.g. size, use, colour, weight, material, shape. What interesting connections can you make between pairs of seemingly un-related objects? How could you arrange them?

Post-visit Reflection and Activities

Reflect on your visit:

- What did you see, think about and do? What did you enjoy the most?
- What did you learn about Patrick Pound? What was interesting about how his collections were selected, arranged and displayed?
- Was everything displayed valuable?
- Patrick Pound didn't make the images or objects in the show. Do artists need to make the things they exhibit?

Review your class collection. What new ideas have emerged following the visit? Can you think of new ways to classify, arrange and display the objects? How could you develop the collection? What new objects/images could you add? Should certain objects be traded for others? Write some labels to help people think about the collection, these could take the form of factual descriptions, intriguing questions or imaginative stories. Invite people to look at and respond to your collection.

Print the photographs you took at the Gallery and consider the effect of the background colour and arrangement of objects. What else would you like to try? Take more photographs of collections to experiment with colour and composition.

Brainstorm words that connect in some way with one of the following themes: Air, Space, Water, Strength, Hope, Calm, Light. Compare your words with those of a friend – did you think of different things? Draw or find an image for each word in your brainstorm and experiment with interesting ways to arrange them together into a visual collection, e.g. clusters, rows, grids, groups. What new connections form between images in each arrangement?

Research other artists who make collections of things or explore ideas around collecting: Joseph Cornell, Richard Killeen, Fiona Pardington, Cornelia Parker, Mark Dion.