



Education Programme: Digital Painting

Petra Cortright, *Clouds Over the Ocean_with_dark_painting*, 2017

**City
Gallery
Wellington**
Te Whare Toi

Part of
experience
Wellington
wellington museums trust

Principal Funder
**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Civic Square, 101 Wakefield Street
Wellington 6140, New Zealand
T: +64 4 913 9029
E: citygalleryeducation@experiencewellington.org.nz

citygallery.org.nz

City Gallery Wellington's Education Service
is supported by the Ministry of Education's
LEOTC fund.


MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

Teachers' Resource Card

Petra Cortright: RUNNING NEO-GEO GAMES UNDER MAME

About the exhibition

LA artist Petra Cortright gives analogue painting a digital upgrade. Her paintings are made entirely in Photoshop, using internet-sourced imagery, which she manipulates using a stylus, Wacom tablet, and online software. Lifted from Google Images and Pinterest, colours, patterns, and skin tones are broken down to become the digital 'paint' from which she builds densely-layered abstractions. She presents these both as still paintings and animated works where the painting slowly morphs through its many layers, making and unmaking itself before our eyes.

Cortright also makes Flash animations. Squawking and chirping digital wildlife journey through painted worlds made up of gestural brushstrokes and lush fields of colour. The serious forms and languages of painting are mashed with the kitschy aesthetics of the screensaver.

"It's about bringing digital things into a physical space," she says. "It's so different on the screen when it's small. But really blowing it up in a technical way to fill the space, it completely changes. I'm interested in that kind of transformation. That's the thing about digital work – it's so flexible. It can be morphed in so many different ways."

Pre-visit

Discussion: Is art today different to art from the past, and if so how and why? What impact does the Internet and digital technology have on making art?

Watch a short video Digital as Medium to gather some ideas. www.nytimes.com/tiffany/new-ways-of-seeing.html?smid=fb-share

During the visit

You'll visit City Gallery and Capital E to think about painting—past, present and future.

Students will:

- View and discuss Petra Cortright's exhibition and think about painting in a digital age. (CI)
- Create an artwork at each place using both traditional and digital painting techniques. (DI, PK)
- Consider how the Internet has changed the way we can make, share, view and value artworks. (UC)

Elements and principles: shape, line, space, colour

Techniques and processes: layering, mark-making, selecting, collage/cut and paste

Ideas and themes: abstract art, digital art, continuity and change in a digital age

Follow-up activities

Reflect on your visit. Describe and evaluate the process of making your painting at City Gallery and Capital E. What did you enjoy about making each artwork? What was easy or hard about the different approaches? Do you value one painting more than the other? Why?

What have you learnt about how the Internet has changed the way some people make, share, view and value art?

Download the digital artworks you made at Capital E www.capitale.org.nz/digital/downloads/

Brainstorm some ways to exhibit the work you made either physically or online.

Make some more digital art.

Download paint.net (www.getpaint.net/index.html) or GIMP (www.gimp.org/) software.

Make four layers representing the four elements (earth, air, water, fire). Use them to create a fantasy landscape.

Find images on the Internet to manipulate and add into your landscape. For images you can reuse search using www.search.creativecommons.org

Research the work of André Hemer, a New Zealand artist who explores painting in a digital age. He integrates digital and handmade elements, either by translating computer generated imagery into handmade paintings or combining printed imagery with layers of spray paint, oil, acrylic and thick impasto. www.andrehemer.com