



Isiaha Barlow *St Sandy (Sandy Adsett)* 2000

Resource Card *Every Artist*

**City
Gallery
Wellington**
Te Whare Toi

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tihaka o te Mātauranga

Resource Card

Education Programme: Every Artist

About the Exhibition

Every Artist is a group exhibition by New Zealand and international contemporary artists with art history as it's subject. Through paintings, drawings, films and even video games, these artists map their artistic genealogies, reconsidering the history of art and the connections we make between artists.

The exhibition springs from Australian artist Agatha Gothe-Snape's collaborative project *Every Artist Remembered*. Her large text works are like mind maps or constellations of remembered artists' names. Each work was made in conversation with another artist as they took it in turns to think of a name that connected with the one before.

Isiaha Barlow's paintings of Māori artists as saints form a pantheon of contemporary Māori art. One of these, a triptych in the style of a medieval altarpiece, pays tribute to a pioneer of contemporary Māori art, Emare (Emily) Karaka. A large painting by Karaka hangs nearby in which she maps her own sources and inspirations.

Ella Sutherland's paintings reveal oversized letterforms taken from the spines of archived books. These works question how graphic design might offer alternative perspectives for understanding history through typography.

Also included in the show are two playable video game works: Johnson Witehira's *Maoriland Adventures* plays out the politics of Aotearoa's colonisation by remixing images lifted from the histories of Māori and Pākehā art. Italian artists *The Cool Couple* present a remake of soccer game with artists as the players (from Tintoretto to Tracey Emin to Simon Denny). Each team is a different art movement with a strip designed to match it's style.

The exhibition features work by twelve artists. Hundreds of others are listed, pictured, invoked, collaborated with, played, or performed.

Vocabulary

Inspiration— Someone or something that gives you an idea.

Source—A point of origin.

Art movement— A style of art shared by artists with a common philosophy or goal.

Triptych— An artwork divided into 3 sections.

Diptych—An artwork divided into 2 sections.

Typography—The style and arrangement of letters and text.

Pre-Visit Discussion

What do you know?

Make a list of some artists that you know. What style of art do they make? What sort of art do you find most inspiring? Why?

What do you think?

Is it important to look at work by other artists to make your own art? Why or why not?

Post-Visit Activities

Reflect on your visit. What did you see and do at the Gallery? What did you learn or discover? Which artists do you want to find out more about? Why? What ideas did you find inspirational?

Journal your art inspirations. Make weekly entries with artworks or artists that inspire you. Stick down images and identify what, in particular, has captured your attention. What do you like about the style or way of working? What would you like to try in your own work?

Design a soccer strip inspired by an art movement. Find out about some art movements here:

mymodernmet.com/important-art-movements/

or try this game:

www.tate.org.uk/kids/games-quizzes/quiz-which-art-movement-are-you

Pick your favorite style of art and identify some key features to incorporate into your soccer strip design.

Create a display in your classroom honoring some of the figures in Isiaha Barlow's artwork. These could include Emily Karaka, Robert Janke, Sandy Adsett, Robyn Kahukiwa, Cliff Whiting, Kura Te Waru Rewiri, and Katerina Mataira. What can you find out about their life and work? Make an artwork for one of these figures inspired by your research.

Look at other work by Johnson Witehira. You can find his 70-foot-long mural *Ngā kakano The Seeds* near City Gallery, wrapping around the outside edge of Te Ngākau Civic Square. Find out more about the mural and other art and design projects including his wero (challenge) to create a Māori typeface.

www.johnsonwitehira.studio/whakararecitygallery.org.nz/education/resources/

Find out more about artists who use text or lettering in their work:

Watch a video about Agatha Gothe-Snape

www.mca.com.au/stories-and-ideas/agatha-gothe-snape-artist-interview/.

Check out Emily Karaka's website

www.emilykaraka.com/about

Read an article about Ella Sutherland

designassembly.org.nz/2017/09/29/language-made-visible-an-interview-with-ella-sutherland/