



Composition in Grey and Black, 2006, wood and paint.

Resource Card **Glen Hayward: Wish You Were Here**

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

citygallery.org.nz

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Te Tihikanga o te Mātauranga

Resource Card

Glen Hayward: Wish You Were Here

About the Artist

Glen Hayward is an artist from Aotearoa NZ, whose sculptures invite us to look and think again. Mainly working from photographs, he recreates everyday objects and environments in hand-carved and painted wood.

In 1916, Marcel Duchamp famously coined the term 'readymade' for ordinary, found objects displayed as artworks. Glen Hayward's sculptures have been described as 'the readymade's stealthier cousin'¹. His meticulously hand-made sculptures masquerade as found objects like 'double agents that aim to blend in'².

His works invite us to explore ideas around what's real or illusion, what's art or not art, what we value as precious and worthwhile, and how we react on discovering that what seemed like commonplace, everyday items turn out to be perfectly carved sculptures.

About the Exhibition

Wish You Were Here focuses on Hayward's projects of the last decade which involve the construction of whole spaces or environments. These include sculptural recreations of the interior of a Toyota Corolla; Neo's office cubicle from *The Matrix*; a hidden-in-plain-sight utilities cupboard; and an accoutrement-studded ceiling.

It also features new works based on Hayward's travel to some of the world's major art galleries. Rather than translating profound art experiences he recreates fixtures and fittings such as drinking fountains, handrails, and ceiling pipes.

Pre-Visit Discussion

What do you think? Ask students to consider/debate these questions, giving reasons for their answers.

Does it matter if an artwork is ready-made or hand-made? Why?

Do you think mundane, everyday things are worthwhile subjects for artworks?

Is technical skill or idea/meaning more important to you in an artwork?

Vocabulary

Trompe l'oeil—French phrase meaning 'deceives the eye' used to describe artworks that create the illusion of a real object or scene.

Readymade—manufactured or everyday objects presented as art.

Post-Visit Activities

Reflect on your visit. What did you see and do at the Gallery? What aspects could you explore in your own work? Revisit your pre-visit discussion, has any of your thinking changed?

Make and exhibit sculptures that mimic everyday objects. Select an exhibition space in your school eg your classroom. Look around and choose everyday objects to recreate as sculptures. Observe the objects carefully—measure, draw, and take photographs. Sculpt in clay, wood, or card, then paint to look as realistic as possible. Display the sculptures craftily so that they blend into your chosen space. Invite visitors to sleuth through the exhibition. Can they spot the sculptures?

Look at more examples of Glen Hayward's artwork. paulnache.com/glen-hayward-dot-com

Related Artists/Artworks

Compare and contrast with works in *Wish You Were Here*.

Marcel Duchamp *Fountain* 1917. A readymade sculpture. bbc.com/culture/article/20170410-the-urinal-that-changed-how-we-think

Hemi Macgregor *Agent Provocateur #1*. An 'assisted readymade' resembling a surveillance camera. aucklandartgallery.com/explore-art-and-ideas/artwork/31232/agent-provocateur-1

Peter Fischelli, David Weiss *Untitled (Tate)* 1992 – 2000. An installation of hand-carved and painted sculptures of everyday objects. tate.org.uk/art/artworks/fischli-weiss-untitled-tate-t12468

Eva Rothschild *Technical Support* 2016. A tower of cast and painted tape rolls. youtube.com/watch?v=bPOLQDsD1-A

Ricky Swallow *Come Together* 2002. A precisely carved wooden beanbag. davidkordanskygallery.com/artist/ricky-swallow

¹ Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū. Glen Hayward Red Form. Retrieved April 2022.

christchurchartgallery.org.nz/collection/2013-004a-d/glen-hayward/red-form

² As above.