

Activity Sheet

The Midnight Garden

By Bruce Ingram

Mixed media

2006

50x30x30cm

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Discuss the following questions with your group in front of the sculpture

What are your first reactions to the artwork? What do you think the artist is representing?

The artist, Bruce Ingram, is interested in using everyday found objects. What objects can you see in this sculpture? Why do you think he has used these materials?

Ingram uses cut-out images to make an object that looks like it is from another world. What pictures can you see? How does he use these pictures to create a new object? What would this be used for in another world? What would your created world look like?

About the Artist

Bruce Ingram is an artist who lives and works in London. Exhibiting since 2004, Ingram has displayed his work all over the world, and has recently been taken on by Spring Projects gallery in London.

Ingram is interested in collecting objects from everyday life and reorganising them to make an object that is 'otherworldly'. Ingram focuses on using collage (using cut paper to make new images) to layer real and imagined elements. He refers to moments throughout art history with his choice of cut out images, such as the sculpture cut out in **Midnight Garden**. His artworks often contrast traditionally beautiful objects with harsh lighting or crude textures. By using these techniques Ingram examines the strain between historic and futuristic elements. Overall, Ingram's artworks play on our ideas of space, time, and ultimately, reality.

Suggested extension activities

1. Creative Writing

Find an interesting everyday object at home that you feel says something about yourself. Imagine that you are in another world and this object is all that you have with you. Write a story about your adventures in another world with this object. Why did you choose this object? What does this object say about you? What do you use the object for?

2. Make a 3-D Collage

Bring in pictures of simple objects for the class to use. The objects can range from shapes to everyday objects.

Using modelling clay make a 3-D version of the picture that you are looking at. Think about the shape and texture of the object you are making. How can you use modelling clay to show texture? Does this change how the object looks?

Once you have finished think about light and the space that the sculpture takes. Has the object changed by making it 3-D? How do you feel about the object now?

3. Song writing

Bring in found objects for the class to use. Split the class into smaller groups and encourage them to write a song describing the object but not saying what it is. If the group is struggling to create a new song encourage them to use the tune of a popular song, such as the happy birthday song.

What words can you use to describe the object? What is it used for? What does it look like? What does it feel like? What does it smell like? Bring all your lines together to make a song that describes this object. How can you use rhythm to describe the object?

Perform it to the whole class asking them what they think you are describing.