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**Cloth: From Seeds to Bloom
Education Kit**



Cloth: From Seeds to Bloom **Education component**

This educational resource is designed to support learning outcomes and teaching programs associated with viewing Australian Design Centre's touring exhibition, *Cloth: From Seeds to Bloom*.

The exhibition showcases the 20 year textile practice of artist Julie Paterson, founder and creative director of Cloth Fabric. Nine key textile themes make up Paterson's work and are the focal point of the exhibition. Colourful fabric drops define each of the nine spaces while furniture, lighting, swatch books and soft furnishings make up the vignettes. Original artworks, sketches and design prototypes are featured in the "How I Work" display area, offering the audience an opportunity to see how Paterson takes an inspiration or idea through to the finished printed textile.

SUPPORT VIDEOS

This resource consists of a collection of videos made by the artist and a corresponding set of activities, it may be used in conjunction with a visit to the exhibition or as a pre-visit or post-visit resource for teachers. The videos provide information about Paterson's source of inspiration, processes and key works.

Please note: These videos are only for teachers and students' use in a learning environment. They are not for external use, or display in a gallery context.

VIMEO PASSWORD: cloth2015

WATCH

Video 1: Seeds (1997)

<https://vimeo.com/146207386>

ACTIVITIES:

1. Paterson describes her work *Seeds* as 'a big what if?' What does she mean by this and why do you think she took this approach to her work at the time?
 2. Research the batik process. Write down what you have learnt and then experiment with this technique.
 3. What natural shapes inspire you? Draw these in your process diary and make a note as to what you like about the shape/ what you associate them with in your everyday life.
 4. Choose one of the shapes from your process diary and look for the main repetitive shape. Use this shape to draw a simple pattern on paper. Experiment with where you place the shape, think about repetition and what colours you would use to print this pattern.
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WATCH

Video 2: Raw cloth (1998)

<https://vimeo.com/146208176>

ACTIVITIES

1. In this video, Paterson mentions collaborating with another artist, who is this artist? Read this: <http://www.verandahmagazine.com.au/simplicity-takes-time-art-desing-julie-paterson/>. Summarise what you have learnt about the artist from this article and discuss this in a small group.
2. What does Paterson say is the cornerstone of a textile range?
3. Find a classmate you think you would be able to collaborate with on a project. Develop an idea for a piece of cloth through discussion and research. What source of inspiration will you use for your design? What symbols, patterns and colours will you use? Display your initial design, showing your research and planning drawings. Discuss the difficulties and benefits of a collaborative project.

WATCH

Video 3: Drawn from the Land (2002)

<https://vimeo.com/146319874>

ACTIVITIES:

1. Consider the images in Paterson' work.
 - a) Do you think it would be easy for viewers from all over the world to identify the Australian bush influence in Paterson's work? Give reasons, supported by examples, for your answer.
 - b) Think of ten icons associated with Australian culture and draw/ create a collage of them.
2. Design your own pattern based on one icon that could be printed on fabric.
3. Choose another country you are interested in and draw at least 10 icons you think could identify that country. Test these on your classmates and see if they can guess the country.

WATCH

Video 4: In the Shed (2006)

<https://vimeo.com/146324186>

ACTIVITIES:

1. In this video, Paterson mentions that the work is designed around travelling. Research two other Australian artists whose work centres around the theme of travel. Write a one-page summary of how these artists have used the theme of travel in their work
 2. Patterson noted that as she looked out the car window, she noticed the patterns the bulldozers made. On your way home from school, look out the window and sketch the patterns you see.
 3. Create a visual story of your journey home only using lines and pattern. Think about how certain types of line can express different emotions (e.g. sharp, jagged lines express anger)
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WATCH

Video 5: Sunroom collection (2007)

<https://vimeo.com/146330248>

ACTIVITIES:

1. Consider the suburb you live in.
 - a) How many different cultures live in your suburb? What different things signify different cultures? Make a list and count the number of different cultures. (Consider restaurants, writing on advertisements, garden decorations, languages overheard, clothing or gift stores)
 - b) In pairs, consider how you might tell a story of through the shapes and patterns you see around you. Come up with a design together that represents this suburb.
 - c) Cut triangle pieces of hemp and linen for bunting and print your visual story of the suburb onto the pieces of fabric.

WATCH

Video 6: Bloom (2014)

<https://vimeo.com/146333826>

ACTIVITIES:

1. Paterson describes her more current work as “really energetic”. How has she made her current work more energetic than her older collections?
2. As a whole class, choose an area of your school that you would like to see look more energised. Make stencils of shapes you vote as the cleanest and simplest and using chalk paint create a giant pattern on the ground.



Cloth: From Seeds to Bloom is an Australian Design Centre Touring Exhibition, developed and first presented by Sturt Gallery, Mittagong as Cloth Fabric: 20 Years in the Making. Object: Australian Design Centre is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. Object: Australian Design Centre is assisted by the New South Wales Government through Arts NSW, and the Australian government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.