

Silo Art

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Explain the BTN *Silo Art* story to another student.
2. In which country town is the artwork being created?
3. Who is Guido van Helten?
4. In your own words, describe his artwork.
5. What is the aim of the 'Creating Coonalpyn' project?
6. Why did Guido decide to feature local kids in his design?
7. How does he create the artwork on the silos?
8. How tall are the paintings?
9. Do you think the artwork will encourage people to stop at Coonalpyn? Give reasons for your answer.
10. Do you think the artwork is effective? Explain your answer.

ACTIVITY

Class Discussion

After watching the BTN *Silo Art* story, respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- How did this story make you FEEL?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?

Hold a class discussion about the BTN *Silo Art* story then ask student to respond to the following questions:

- Where is the artwork that featured in the BTN story?
- What is the aim of the project?
- Why were children chosen as the subjects?
- What do you think would have been some of the challenges of the project?

KEY LEARNING

Students will respond to the artwork of Guido van Helten and develop a deeper understanding of the purpose of public art.

AC AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The Arts / Visual Arts – Years 3/4
Identify intended purposes and meanings of artworks using visual arts terminology to compare artworks, starting with visual artworks in Australia including visual artworks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples ([ACAVAR113](#))

The Arts / Visual Arts – Years 5/6
Explore ideas and practices used by artists, including practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent different views, beliefs and opinions ([ACAVAM114](#))

The Arts / Visual Arts – Years 7/8
Identify and connect specific features and purposes of visual artworks from contemporary and past times to explore viewpoints and enrich their art-making, starting with Australian artworks including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait ([ACAVAR124](#))

Develop ways to enhance their intentions as artists through exploration of how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes ([ACAVAM119](#))

Analyse how artists use visual conventions in artworks ([ACAVAR123](#))

ACTIVITY

Coonalpyn Silo Art

Students will examine the art created by Guido van Helten on the silos in Coonalpyn, South Australia. Ask them to respond to the following:

- Describe the artwork giving as much detail as possible.
- What materials, techniques and special equipment were used? Why might the artist choose these materials?
- What do you like or dislike about the artwork? Why?
- What emotions does the work evoke/ how does it make me feel?
- Do you think the artwork is effective? Explain your answer.



Design your own silo artwork

What would you paint on a silo? Students design an artwork they think would work on a silo. They could create a self-portrait or use objects or ideas that reflect the rural community. Students share their designs with the class. They may be able to use their designs to create artworks on objects in the school, for example, water tanks.

ACTIVITY

Meet the Artist

Students will find out more about the work of Guido van Helten, the artist who created the artwork on the silos in Coonalpyn.

Look at [Guido's artworks](#) and ask students to describe the type of artworks he creates. Then ask them to choose one piece that they are interested in and explore in detail.

- What is it? Describe what the artwork looks like using as much detail as possible.
- What materials are used to make this artwork?
- Draw a picture of the artwork.
- What do you like or find interesting about the artwork?
- Why do you think the artist created the artwork?



Source: [Guido van Helten](#)

ACTIVITY

Public Art

Students will find out more about what the purpose of public art is. Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What is public art?
- Where might you see public art?
- Can you think of examples of public art in your community? Describe the art.
- What is the purpose and value of public art?

Students can design a piece of public art or an artwork for their school.



Source: [KidTown](#)

USEFUL WEBSITES

ABC Landline – Creating Coonalpyn

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2017/s4642553.htm>

Guido van Helten

<http://www.guidovanhelten.com/>

ABC Rural – Brim silo artwork: the tall tales and colourful characters behind Guido van Helten's paintings

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-07/brim-grain-silos-guido-van-helten-art-wimmera-victoria/7072768>