

invite gifted & talented Year 5 and 6 children
children with a love of art and big issues to



‘Artivism... Taking action, with art’

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able and creative children. This *On Location* program will run for two full days.

Can art make a difference? Yes indeed! Art has the power to inspire people to call for social, political, environmental and even economic change. By using their art to raise awareness, artists become advocates, challenging prevailing attitudes and actions about some of the biggest issues of our time. No artwork has become as important a symbol of anti-war movements as the heartbreaking painting *Guernica* by Pablo Picasso which depicted the overnight bombing of the Spanish city of Guernica in 1937. Chinese artist Ai Weiwei currently highlights numerous social issues through his installations and sculptures. A 2016 installation in Berlin for example, showcased 14,000 used life jackets previously worn by refugees travelling from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos.

Do you want to use art to make a difference? One of the biggest issues today is climate change. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world are raising their voices to demand action be taken to slow or halt the rise in global temperatures. These voices include those of children, spearheaded by sixteen year-old Greta Thunberg and her school strike for the climate. In this program we will explore how artists have attempted to raise awareness on this issue as well as the plight of endangered fauna and flora and other environmental catastrophes. We will also take the time to observe the consequences of global warming at McClelland. Join us as we raise our voices to comment on climate change and use our art to make a difference.

Over the course of the program you will experiment with a wide range of printmaking and collages techniques, explore the role artists play in raising issues and use graphic art to express a point of view.

Before attending the program

Think about climate change and what makes you feel the most upset/afraid/angry about it. If you had the power to change one aspect of our world affected by climate change, what would it be (some examples could be coral bleaching, animal species being endangered or driven to extinction, people losing their home or business to bush fires etc.)? You can do some research about your chosen topic and find one or two articles to bring along that you feel sum up the situation.

Day 1

Today we'll explore the concept of *artivism*, where art meets activism. We'll look at the works of *artists* in Australia and worldwide across a range of art forms (performance, photography, photo-collage, installation) before focusing on those artists' whose works comments on climate change. We will brainstorm various ways of translating views into an artwork to raise awareness.

Our art-making today will focus on two major printmaking techniques, relief printing and monotypes. Relief printing is a technique for transferring an image on paper from a raised surface. A range of material such as rubber, linoleum, styrofoam, wood can be used. With this technique, the print is a mirrored image of what has been drawn. The monotype is another technique which produces a "one-of-a-kind" print. Artists use ink, paint and other printing material (such as yarn, leaves, etc.) on a surface (metal, glass or even jelly!) and press the plate paper or fabric to create a unique print.

We'll experiment with both techniques, using recycled surfaces to print on and imagining ways to upcycle objects and diverse material to create our prints. We'll choose a word or a symbol linked to our chosen climate-change-related issue, and design a series of powerful postcards to get our point across strongly. Your postcards might explore the effects of bush fires, or ocean warming, or perhaps the increasing number of catastrophic weather events that have been put down to climate change... or another related issue.

We will then take a walk in McClelland Sculpture Park with the aim of discovering artworks that interrogate the relationships between humans and nature. We'll focus on each artists' intention, from defending animal rights to alerting us to climate change. We will use these artworks as a starting point to imagine our poster for Day 2 and will experiment with collage techniques to develop our ideas.

Day 2

"Many would argue that all art on the street is political, that the action of illegally putting something on a wall is an overtly political action or statement in itself. [...] My art seeks to provide a sense of wonder and the idea that anything is possible. Hopefully we can take the idea into our daily lives, that we do have a voice and can make a difference in both a smaller and larger context."

Melbourne-based artist Baby Guerilla (Interview published by Beautiful Bizarre, September 2014)

Today we will explore activism in public spaces and the streets more closely, ranging from legal and commissioned art to unauthorised/illegal installations. We will study different street art forms (graffiti, urban interventions, poster art etc.), focusing on Australian and international artists, from internationally famous artist Banksy to Melbourne-based artist Baby Guerilla.

Our art-making will be inspired by a printmaking technique widely used in street art, stencils. To make a print, artists create a stencil made out of paper, cardboard or other material to create an image or a text that can be easily reproduced. Then, they apply paint with a paint can or roller on the stencil-free area.

We will combine the three techniques we've learnt to create our own poster or sign commenting on climate change. We'll use relief print and/or monotype to create our background and stencils to complete the artwork. The posters will advertise a day of action or will be aimed to be used as signs during climate change protests.

Our Exhibition

At the end of our second day, we will organise and curate our own exhibition, deciding how to display our art in the beautiful Sarah and Baillieu Myer Education Pavilion. Our investigations, explorations and thought-provoking artworks will be visible to parents, carers and friends from 3.15pm.

Requirements:

Please ensure that students bring a hat, insect repellent, a refillable drink bottle and a nut-free snack and lunch on each day. Also bring sunscreen or wet weather gear (gumboots, raincoat or poncho – no umbrellas please) depending on the forecast. Please wear old clothes (you might want to bring a change of clothes just in case!)

About the Presenter:

Marie Allaman is the Education and Programs Manager at McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, where she develops education and public programs that foster creativity and encourage critical and creative thinking. Marie is deeply concerned about climate change and its terrifying consequences for the environment. She is convinced that every single little action matters and that art has a role to play to raise awareness.

Furthering her passion for arts as a means for personal growth, wellbeing and social change, Marie has worked for ten years as programs manager for museums and galleries in Australia and overseas where she gained extensive experience in education, learning strategies and community engagement.