

Keg de Souza: Common Knowledge and Learning Curves

Education Resource



Griffith University Art Museum
226 Grey Street South Bank
Brisbane Queensland
07 3735 3140 / artmuseum@griffith.edu.au

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This resource has been created for use by teachers and students to engage with artworks and themes in *Keg de Souza: Common Knowledge and Learning Curves* at Griffith University Art Museum.

The exhibition provides engaging cross curriculum connections for units of study relating to collaborative and enquiry based learning and critical thinking in The Arts, Social Sciences, English and beyond. This resource can be utilised by school groups visiting the exhibition or to assist with learning experiences in the classroom.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Common Knowledge and Learning Curves stems from an ongoing interest in the way we teach and learn. The exhibition seeks to break down hierarchies in typical knowledge exchange, exploring radical pedagogy and its tenets including democratic dialogue, lived experience, inquiry learning, solidarity and unlearning.

With a particular focus on the ways in which space informs teaching and learning, the familiar aesthetics of a classroom are utilised in unexpected ways. Props such as chalkboards, uniforms, award ribbons and venetian blinds are deconstructed and employed as architecture to divide the gallery into temporary spaces of varying materiality and functionality. In the spirit of play and experimentation, visitors are invited to use these architectural and sculptural forms. The exhibition becomes a space where ideas and actions can emerge through critical and collective interaction.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Keg de Souza is an Australian artist working between the disciplines of architecture, food, film, mapping and dialogical projects to explore the politics of space, influenced by her formal training in architecture and experiences of radical spaces through squatting and organising. She often creates site- and situation-specific projects with people, emphasising knowledge-exchange.

De Souza has been shown in key international exhibitions including the *20th Biennale of Sydney* (2016); *Setouchi Triennale Japan* (2016); *Temporary Spaces, Edible Places* Vancouver, New York, London, Scotland (2015); *If There's Something Strange In Your Neighbourhood*, Indonesia (2014); *5th Auckland Triennial*; *15th Jakarta Biennale*; and *Vertical Villages* Sydney (all 2013). In 2013, she also received a Creative Australia Fellowship from the Australia Council for the Arts.

KEY THEMES

Radical pedagogy	Unlearning
Democratic dialogue	Solidarity
Knowledge exchange	Inquiry learning
Lived experience	

KEY CONCEPTS

Breaking down hierarchies in typical knowledge exchange.

The ways in which space informs teaching and learning.

Ideas and actions emerging through critical and collective interaction.

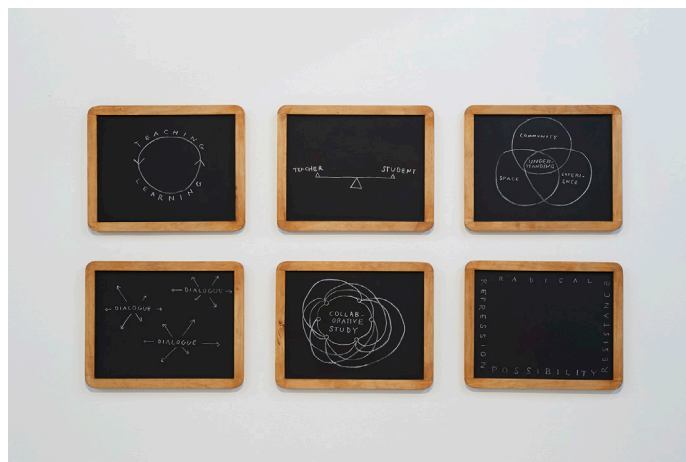


Image: Keg de Souza, *Chalkboard Studies* 2018
Courtesy the artist. Photo: Zan Wimberley

PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESPONDING

Keg de Souza has created a wonderful space full of colour, with a classmate, play a game of eye spy to list all the colours you can see.

As a class with the help of your teacher, discuss how you could move the seating blocks featured in the exhibition into a configuration that you feel would encourage a conversation between a group of people.

List all of the items used in the exhibition that you might find at your own school. Tip: look closely at the materials used to make the curtains! Compare the list with your classmates, have they discovered some items you did not see at first?

MAKING

Taking inspiration from Keg de Souza's projection work, make a collaborative 'stained glass window'. Start by cutting out a variety of shapes from coloured cellophane and stick them to a window in your classroom using clear tape. Experiment with pattern by repeating shapes, and with colour by layering different colours on top of each other.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

RESPONDING

One of the key themes of Keg de Souza's exhibition is 'radical pedagogy'. Research the term 'pedagogy' and write down the definition in your art journal. After you have done this, consider how adding the term 'radical' alters the context. Discuss your thoughts with a classmate.

Write a critical analysis exploring the ways in which *Common Knowledge and Learning Curves* inverts ideas about teaching and learning. Using examples from the exhibition, justify how the artist has been successful in creating spaces that encourage collaborative thinking and critical analysis. Consider the functionality of the spaces and how items can be moved and used.

Take a close look at the yellow award ribbons featured in the exhibition. Choose 5 words or phrases that you have not seen before and research their definitions on the internet. Write down the meanings in your art journal and discuss the concepts you have discovered with the class.

MAKING

Using one of the phrases you discovered on the yellow award ribbons in the exhibition, design a mural to feature on a wall of your classroom. Investigate interesting font and colour options to create a visually arresting design.



Image: Keg de Souza, *Circular Questioning*, 2018.
Courtesy the artist. Photo: Zan Wimberley