

ArtSway

Contemporary Visual Art in the New Forest



JOEL PAPPS: goodpasture's

28 July – 16 September 2007

Teachers' Pack

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Teachers' Pack Contents:

Page 2: Exhibition Information.

Page 4: Themes and Ideas for Lessons and Workshops.

Page 6: Images from Joel Papps: goodpasture's.

Page 7: FREE Guided Tours and Workshops at ArtSway.

Page 8: Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway.

goodpasture's is an exhibition of new artwork by Joel Papps, the winner of ArtSway *Open06*. For his solo exhibition at ArtSway Papps has developed intricate sculptural cut-outs from industrial wood board that reference medical diagrams (such as MRI scans and X-rays),



microscopic organisms, anatomy books and medical data readings.

Joel Papps entitled his exhibition *goodpasture's* after Goodpasture's Syndrome, a sudden and debilitating illness he suffered in 2000. Goodpasture's syndrome is a rare disease that can affect the lungs and kidneys. It is also called anti-glomerular basement antibody disease and is an autoimmune disease - a condition in which the body's own defence system reacts against some part of the body itself. Since recovering from the disease Papps has explored the medical mapping of the human body, and the aesthetics of illness.

Papps works with pared down materials, creating sculptural works that are



reminiscent of theatrical stage-sets, casting a delicate play of light and shadows. These intriguing images create a tension caught between the appeal of the objects themselves and the frightening diseases that they portray. For ArtSway Papps has created a site-specific installation that is at once indicative of high theatre, and a meditation on the inner workings and mysteries of the human body, particularly as it is attacked and manipulated by illness and disease.

The use of everyday materials, such as plywood, in Papps' work is an attempt to strip our collective consideration of illness from sentimental metaphors and association, and engage with the images and information on a visual level. Each of Papps' intricate cutouts display a deliberate sense of ambiguity: what we would initially consider to be a tree, or a bush is



in fact a cross-section of a lung or kidney; some of the cutouts are even based on microscopic representations of diseased cells. What is certain is that all these images directly reference parts of the artists own body that were attacked when he fell ill.

Joel Papps graduated from Winchester School of Art in 2005. He has exhibited widely across the South of the UK, and is currently based in Hampshire.

ArtSway's annual Open exhibition aims to provide exhibition opportunities for artists from across the UK, Europe and from around the world. There is no theme to the exhibition, allowing artists to submit works for selection that reflect their practice to the fullest extent. Over 300 artists apply each year, with about 50 being selected for exhibition. The winner receives a solo exhibition at ArtSway, with full curatorial, mentoring and marketing support.

The following themes and ideas are highlighted green in the **Exhibition Information section of this booklet** – which is based on a gallery handout that accompanies Joel Papps' exhibition at ArtSway, a document that is intended to provide visitors insight into his work and ideas.

Below are suggestions and ideas that are designed to stimulate working with your students in general art & design classes, as well as across other subjects – such as design and technology and science. All of the ideas below are loosely linked to suggestions for areas of work that can be found on the National Curriculum website.

intricate sculptural cut-outs from industrial wood board that reference medical diagrams:

Joel Papps' sculptures are very delicate, yet are made from everyday materials such as plywood and industrial wood board. This would be a good opportunity to 'investigate the possibilities of a range of sculpture/construction' techniques as described in Key Stages 1 and 2 of the National Curriculum.

- **ASK YOUR PUPILS TO BRING AN 'UNUSUAL MATERIAL' OF THEIR CHOICE TO THEIR NEXT ART CLASS. THEN MAKE A SELF-PORTRAIT COLLAGE BY CUTTING, TEARING OR GLUING. THEY CAN USE OTHER MATERIALS AS WELL AS THOSE THEY BRING TO CLASS.**

Since recovering from the disease Papps has explored the medical mapping of the human body, and the aesthetics of illness:

The range of sculptures featured in *goodpasture's* are inspired by a disease that made the artist severely ill in 2000. This disease, named Goodpasture's Syndrome after the doctor who first diagnosed it, affects the kidneys and the lungs. Papps' work focuses on representations of microscopic organisms that attacked his body. He finds images of these in anatomy books, and often bases his work on his own personal medical data readings.

- **THIS AREA OF PAPPS' WORK CAN BE LINKED TO KEY STAGE 2 OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR SCIENCE: 'LIFE PROCESSES AND LIVING THINGS'.**
- **ASK YOUR PUPILS TO THINK OF A TIME WHEN A CLOSE RELATIVE WAS VERY ILL. ASK THEM TO MAKE A DRAWING, PAINTING OR COLLAGE THAT REFLECTS THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THIS TIME.**

theatrical stage-sets/ light and shadows:

Each sculpture exhibited in *goodpasture's* is intended to work in a group (installation) and also to stand-alone. However, the artist intended his exhibition to be a wholly immersive experience for the viewer – and that the viewer should interact with each work on display. Shadows and the play of

light from the cut-outs on the walls of the gallery are intentional and are a reference to malignant shadows that can be found in x-rays.

- **ASK YOUR PUPILS TO BRING A RANGE OF MATERIALS TO CLASS AND HAVE THEM EACH MAKE A DESIGN OF THEIR CHOICE. ONCE EACH PUPIL HAS MADE A WORK – CREATE A SEMI-PERMANENT THEATRICAL INSTALLATION IN A CORNER OF YOUR CLASSROOM, OR PERHAPS IN THE FOYER OF YOUR SCHOOL.**

inner workings and mysteries of the human body:

Again, linking to all Key Stages in the National Curriculum for Science – the ideas inherent in Joel Papps' work can be a great source of inspiration for linking art & design with basic scientific research. In the summer of 2007, the artist will be leading a workshop for 6-11 year olds at ArtSway called 'Inside the Body: Blood, Bones and Guts!', inspired by his exhibition. The workshop will explore the inside of the human body, combining a creative workshop with identifying and thinking about essential organs.

- **HOW MUCH DO YOUR STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT THE MAIN ORGANS IN THEIR BODIES? BASE A LESSON AROUND THE HEART, KIDNEY, LUNGS AND LIVER – AND ASK THEM TO DRAW WHAT THEY THINK THEY LOOK LIKE; COMPARE AND CONTRAST BY SHOWING THEM HOW THE ORGANS ACTUALLY APPEAR, AND EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH ORGAN.**

what we would initially consider to be a tree, or a bush is in fact a cross-section of a lung or kidney:

Many visitors to *goodpature's* believe that the objects they see in the installation are trees and bushes. They are in fact cross sections of kidney and lung tissue.

- **ASK YOUR STUDENTS TO DRAW AN OBJECT – SUCH AS AN OUTLINE OF A CAR, MOTORBIKE OR AEROPLANE, AND ASK THEM TO TRANSFORM IT INTO SOMETHING ORGANIC – SUCH AS A DOG, HORSE, TREE OR FLOWER.**



Page 7: **FREE Guided Tours and Workshops at ArtSway**

ArtSway is keen to welcome school groups visiting the gallery. Please see the **Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway** section of this booklet for more information. **Please note:** we would only be able to accommodate between 20 and 25 children in the galleries per visit.

Free Guided Tours

One of the best ways to experience an artist's work, as opposed to looking at images in books and on the Internet, is to actually visit a gallery to see their work in the flesh. ArtSway has hosted many school group visits in the past, offering Guided Tours around the gallery by the Curator, Exhibitions and Education and Audience Development Officer.

The tours sometimes involve PowerPoint presentations, but usually consist of ArtSway's staff taking the students from work to work, explaining the origins and content of the works on display. A tour will usually end with a question and answer session.

On some occasions it may be possible to have the artists present for a school visit.

Free Workshops

ArtSway employs a wide range of artists to lead workshops. However, they are all professional artists who will charge a fee to lead a workshop. If a school is interested in scheduling an artist to lead a workshop, please contact the gallery. Contact details are in the **Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway** section of this booklet. In some instances we will provide an artist free of charge.

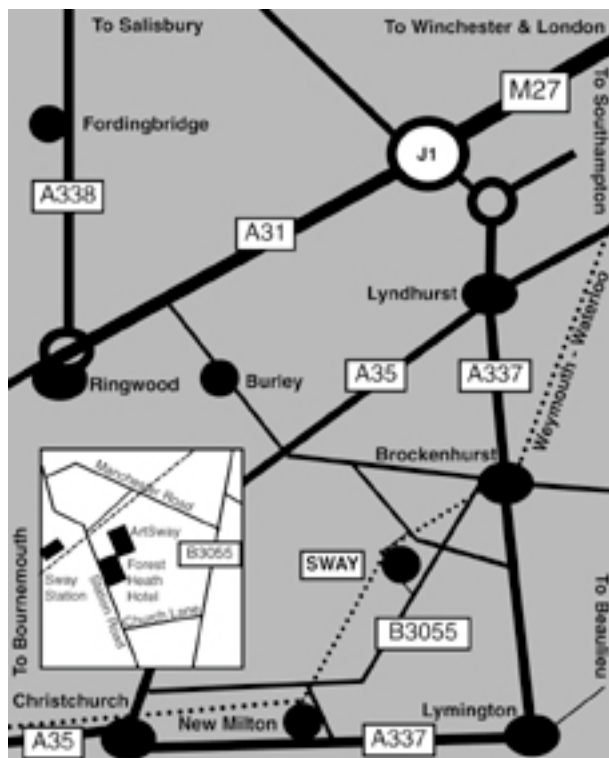
There are a series of **FREE** one-hour workshops available. These workshops take place after the tour of the exhibition, and involve simple drawing and paintings techniques and are based on the themes outlined in the **Themes for Lessons and Workshops** section of this booklet.

A Timetable of a Typical School Visit to ArtSway

- 10.00am – 10.10am: **Introduction and welcome to ArtSway.**
- 10.10am – 10.30am: **Tour of the exhibition.**
- 10.30am – 11.30am: **Workshop activities.**
- 11.30am – 11.45am: **Discussion and round up of activities.**
- 12.00pm: **End of workshops and school visit.**

The following is information for school groups visiting ArtSway for **Guided Tours and Workshops**.

Getting to ArtSway:



By Rail: Sway Station is on the London Waterloo to Weymouth Line.

By Car: Follow signs to Sway from Brockenhurst, Burley or Lymington, then follow signs for Village Centre & Train Station. ArtSway is just behind the Forest Heath Hotel on Station Road.

Access: All parts of the gallery are accessible via level access.

Parking: ArtSway has its own car park that is reached along the access drive between the surgery and chemist on Station Road in the centre of Sway.

Etiquette and Good Behaviour in the Galleries

Works of art, especially those by Joel Papps, are very fragile and cannot be touched. We ask that children visiting the gallery take care both of their own safety and of the artworks on display. Teachers and their assistants are responsible for their groups. At the beginning of the tour the relevant ArtSway staff member will give a brief explanation to the visiting children of what they can and cannot do in the gallery.

Contact Details for ArtSway

If you would like to discuss a visit to ArtSway, or what we could offer in terms of educational resources, please contact:

Exhibitions and Education Officer Peter Bonnell on Telephone: 01590 682260 (extension 14), or Email: peter@artsway.org.uk

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Opening Times: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am – 5pm. **Admission is FREE.**