

ACCA Education Activity

#4

Lights Off Drawing

Focus Artist:
Martin Creed

Focus Artwork:
The lights off 2005

Years/Levels:
3-6 with parent or
teacher supervision

Materials:

1. yourself - at home
at night
2. paper
3. pencils

Share your artworks with
ACCA by tagging us
#accaartivity and emailing
education@acca.melbourne

Overview

This resource is adapted from ACCA Education's TALKTHINK MAKE in-gallery program. It outlines an art making activity, suitable for delivery at school or home, that links meaningfully to the work of an ACCA-exhibited contemporary artist.

Key idea

This activity focuses on contemporary artist Martin Creed's choice of light and darkness as his art materials. Not all artists make objects or images. Instead, some create artworks using only ideas. This activity expands student understandings of what an artwork can be to include immaterial effects (light).

Process

1. First, explore every room of your home! Look high and low for light sources, including all technology and appliances.
 - How many lights are in each room? In total?
 - List the different colours of the lights you found.
 - Did you find any lights you didn't know about?
2. Pick a room in your home and imagine all of the lights you counted were placed in that one room. Draw yourself in this room with all of the lights turned on.
 - Which room did you choose?
 - How did you draw the lights to show they are turned 'on'?
 - Why did you draw yourself in this way?
3. Extension: Choose the best place in your home to display your drawing?
 - What kind of light will you use to illuminate your drawing – natural or artificial? Why?

Reflection Questions

- How does light make you feel? Think about the different types and colours of light.
- What does light symbolise in your drawings?
- Does your drawing tell a story? What kind of story does it tell?

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Martin Creed: The Lights Off, installation view, ACCA 2005. Courtesy ACCA Archive

Australian Curriculum Links

Visual Arts / Levels 3-6

Explore ideas and practices used by artists to represent different views, beliefs and opinions (ACAVAM110) (ACAVAM114)

Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks (ACAVAM111) (ACAVAM115)

Present artworks and describe how they have used visual conventions to represent their ideas (ACAVAM112) (ACAVAM116)

Victorian Curriculum Links

Visual Arts / Levels 3-6

Explore and Express Ideas (VCACAE025)(VCAVAE029)

Visual Arts Practices (VCAVAV026)(VCAVAV030)

Respond and Interpret (VCAVAR028)(VCAVAR032)