



Francis Ng

Constructing Construction #1

2009

Photo print, edition 4/5

179.3 x 178.8 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

Exhibition Guide: page 22 – 23

Pre-SAM

TASK: Explore poetic ways to describe the things around us.

SUBJECT(S): Art, Literature

Inform students that the title of an artwork is *Constructing Construction #1*.

The title uses the same word to describe the process and the product. Challenge the students to come up with phrases to describe both a process and a product. Examples include:

- Building buildings
- Designing design
- Paving pavements
- Lighting lights
- Creating creations

Ask students to imagine how **Francis Ng's** *Constructing Construction #1* looks like. Get them to sketch out their ideas and share it with one another.

In-SAM

TASK: Critically evaluate the use of scale in artworks in relation to the viewer and his/her perspective.

SUBJECT(S): Art

Split the students into 3 different groups. Get them to go into the gallery in their respective groups and observe the artwork in one of the positions stated below:

- Standing right in front of the artwork
- Squatting / sitting down and looking up at the artwork
- Standing as far away as possible to look at the artwork

If possible, get the students to take a photograph from the angle at which they are looking at the artwork.

Students can be gathered back for a sharing of their photographs and to discuss whether the artwork appears different to them at the various positions.

Get the students to sit down in front of the artwork. Engage them in further discussion:

- Why do you think the artist has chosen to print the photograph at this size?
- How does its size relate to construction in real life?
- What are the different sounds you can hear from the photograph?

Post-SAM

TASK: Observe and capture transitional spaces in their surroundings for documentation and archival purposes.

SUBJECT(S): Art, History

Get students to take a photograph of on-going construction work around their neighbourhoods. Ask them to try taking it from different perspectives. Remind students to write the date and location on the photograph so that it becomes a documentation of that space and time.

Task students to find out the history of the space/place before the construction. They can interview people living around the neighbourhood and conduct research in the library or at the national archives or on the internet. Get them to create a timeline/infographic to depict the changes. Encourage them to submit their work to the Singapore Memory Project or the National Archives.

SOVA supplement

TASK: Draw links between the Study Of Visual Arts (SOVA) and contemporary artwork in the museum.

ARTWORK(S): *Frida Kahlo, My Dress Hangs There, 1933*

Frida Kahlo's My Dress Hangs There represents her view of America's industrial society. Task the students to sketch out the various symbols and write down what they mean.

Having learnt about visual symbols from *Frida Kahlo's My Dress Hangs There*, ask the students to spot similar visual symbols in *Francis Ng's Constructing Construction #1*. Get students to discuss in groups the meaning behind these symbols.

Task the students to create an artwork with visual symbols that represent their relationship and memories of a space/place.

Further Readings:

Article about Francis Ng and work

Available [here](#).

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