



Shin Lin

HDB Life

2014

Interactive installation

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artist

Singapore Art Museum commission

Exhibition Guide: page 8 – 9

Pre-SAM

TASK: Find out about the history of public housing in Singapore.

SUBJECT(S): Art, History

Let students watch a video – *flats* by **scrawl studios** (watch [here](#)). Use the video as a reference and ask students the following questions:

- What scenes / sights are depicted in the video?
- Are the scenes / sights familiar to you?
- When and where do you see / experience these sights / scenes?
- How do you feel when you see these sights / scenes?

Get students to consolidate their discussion and draw an impression of their neighbourhood from memory that includes scenes from everyday life. They can start off with thinking about scenes from different times of the day OR week.

Extending beyond the lesson, have students conduct research on the growth and development of public housing in Singapore, starting from the flats built by Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) to those built by HDB now. Let students create a diagrammatic timeline to illustrate the key milestones of this development. It could also be interesting for them to create an infographic.

In-SAM

TASK: Explore the idea of a common space.

SUBJECT(S): Art

CONNECT

Let students explore and interact with the artwork. Encourage them to pick up a postcard and decorate it with the stickers provided. They can also draw on the postcards. Next, get the students to compare and share the reasons behind the objects / drawings they depict on the postcards.

CHALLENGE

Ask the students to select a place on the installation to place their completed postcard. Have them examine the exhibit and compare the layout to the diagrammatic timeline they have created previously. Have students contemplate the following questions:

- Which type of flats are the ones in the artwork most similar to?
- What are the differences between the flats in the timeline and on display?
- How do you think public housing has evolved?
- Do you think the changes have improved public housing? In what ways?

EXTEND

Get students to design an ideal common space/corridor for the public. Give them the following requirements:

- Proposed space / corridor should promote community activities.
- Proposed space / corridor should promote the understanding and appreciation of different religious and cultural practices.

Post-SAM

TASK: Imagine the future of public housing in Singapore

SUBJECT(S): Art, History

Using the diagrammatic timeline created previously, get students to think about the evolution of public housing in Singapore and predict the next change. In groups, task them to come up with an artist's illustration of public housing in 2050. They are free to decide:

- Amount of space for each home
- Number of floors for the public housing
- Type and amount of common spaces / facilities

Following the above activity, get students to create an interactive artwork similar to **Shin Lin's** *HDB Life*. They are to base their artwork on their proposed public housing of the future.

SOVA supplement

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

ARTWORK(S): **Andy Warhol**, *32 Campbell's Soup Can*, 1962

Have students compare and discuss **Andy Warhol's** *32 Campbell's Soup Can* and **Shin Lin's** *HDB Life*. Get them to think about the following:

- Why do you think the artists selected these subjects (soup cans and HDB flats)?
- Where else do you see similar objects stacked next to one another?
- What are the similarities and differences between how each artwork is produced?
- Both artworks are displayed as a set. Would the artworks be as effective if they were displayed individually? Why?

Further parallels can be drawn with works in the *After Utopia* exhibition:

- **Shannon Lee Castleman**, *Jurong West Street 81*, 2008
- **Chris Chong Chan Fui**, *Block B*, 2012-2014
(<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/exhibit/after-utopia/iAISSItH29uUKA>)

Task students to find an object/product designed in Singapore which they like or can use. Get them to create an artwork using the object/product as the subject matter. They can reference both **Warhol's** and **Lin's** work.

Further Readings:

Shin Lin's website

<http://www.originalstudio.sg>

Information on HDB

Available [here](#).

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