

Extended analysis and response

Secondary students

Art Gallery of South Australia Education Services Resource

The following research tasks require students to explore the exhibition and the ideas running through it by making comparisons between different artists/designer's practice and work. Some of the tasks require students to focus on a single item and research this thoroughly on site before undertaking further investigation later.

- Liew's design is similar in style to the Mackintosh chair as Meadmore's cord chair design is to Snelling's webbing chairs. Locate and observe each of these items with this statement in mind. The claim is that there is a similarity in style between either Liew/Mackintosh or Meadmore/Snelling. From your observation to what degree is this true? To what degree is it different?
- Study the wooden chairs of Liew, Moritz, Hawkes, and Risley? Focus on the fabrication techniques that have been used to join one component to another. Discuss how these different construction techniques work and how they add to the design aesthetically (visual aspect or identity).
- Liew describes his work as having louder and quieter areas depending on the negative space between the lines formed by the battens. Can you see these qualities in this work? Are there principles or qualities of loudness or quietness at work in other works in the exhibition?
- There are masculine and feminine qualities of *Eleanor E1* and the *Bear chair*. Argue for against this point of view.
- Judd's *Two Chairs* echo Rietveld's *Zig Zag* chairs in style. Locate these works and see for yourself if this is true. Later, research the designs of Rietveld who was involved in the De Stijl movement 70 years ago. How might an audience have viewed these chairs 70 years ago? Do you believe that people see them in the same way today?
- Newson's fluid metallic form is based loosely on the 18th century chaise lounge. Research these chaise lounge designs and discover how they are associated to the social customs of the time. What comments could Newson be making, using such soft organic curved forms with patched riveted aluminium and contemporary social behaviours?
- Mackintosh chairs have strong vertical pieces that continue down to the base rail. Consider the structural support of these pieces and question if they are merely ornamental. Are there other works in the exhibition, which work in a similar way?
- Different techniques have been used to build some items from different parts or components. Conduct your own investigation and list as many different fabrication and construction techniques that you can find. How many of these techniques will still be around in the near future?
- Can you imagine furnishing design and interior design changing very much in say the next ten years? If so how might it change? Did you know that there are a number of websites related to different artists or designers represented in this exhibition? Later check some of these out to see what else these creative talents have done.