

WHAT IS THE Small Talk PROJECT?

As part of your Art Gallery experience, we invite you to participate in a very special Small Talk opportunity. Students are invited to submit writings on the works of art they have just seen. These writings may be displayed as a wall text label. Keep your eyes open for previous entries which are shown as 'blue' labels around the Art Gallery of South Australia.

The Small Talk label initiative seeks to encourage connections with, and enjoyment of the Art Gallery by young people of primary school age. It aims to stimulate visual thinking, and to improve literacy skills, through discussion and description of a selection of key artworks in the Permanent Collection.

How does 'Small Talk' work?

- Students from each school involved, visit the Gallery
- Students are encouraged to discuss and describe works of art through the use of descriptive language, and to 'unpack' the meaning/s contained within the works.
- Students make notes of ideas, feelings and descriptive language associated with a particular work. Teachers may use support materials provided online in the 'Unpacking Art' and 'Unpacking AGSA' resources via the Education link on the Art Gallery website <http://www.artgallery.sa.gov.au>
- These notes are then taken back to school whereby students write a proposed label for display in the Gallery. Suitable genres such as: poetry, an 'Art critic's' view, personal opinion, imaginary dialogue or other forms may be used. Teachers assist students with the process of refining and editing their writing.

Entries must be no more than 50 words in length.

The student's written work is then submitted to us by fax or email for the selection process by Gallery staff. Student labels will be rotated each Term. Deadlines for entries are: 20 June, 19 September and 28 November. We encourage early entries. All entries must include the name and age of the student, the school, and teacher contact details.

Selected student writing will hang alongside Art Gallery of South Australia's curators' wall labels. The student's name and age will be displayed with their Art Gallery of South Australia label. Teachers of students selected to exhibit their work on a label will be informed. Certificates will be issued to all participating students.

We hope that the promotion of a student 'voice' in the Art Gallery will provide new insights and contexts for Gallery visitors, both adult and student alike.

We look forward to your participation in this Small Talk label initiative.

Please contact Mark Fischer or Karina Morgan if have any further enquiries.



Daniel von STURMER, Australia, born 1972, *Horizontal hold*, 2004, Melbourne, Synchronised dual channel video in DVD format each 5 min 43 secs, Gift of Maureen Ritchie through the Art Gallery of South Australia Contemporary Collectors 2006, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Courtesy of the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery

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