

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery presents

7 feb. – 4 apr. 2020

Alex Seton: The Great Escape



Education Kit



Contents

About the Education Kit		Page 3
Themes and Influences		Page 4
Objectives		Page 4
About the Exhibition	Find a word	Page 5
	The Great Escape	Page 6
About the Artist	Fill the gaps	Page 7
	Who's really the artist?	Page 8
	Art as a business	Page 9
	Contemporary practice	Page 9
What is Marble?	Colour	Page 10
	Mining	Page 11
	Uses	Page 11
Marble Sculpting	Its about subtracting, not adding	Page 12
	Calculate	Page 12
	More maths	Page 12
	Why marble?	Page 13
	It has a loooong history	Page 13
Wombeyan Caves	It's old	Page 14
	The science	Page 14
	Gurangatch and Mirrangan	Page 15
	Create	Page 15
Work in Focus– Left turn at Albuquerque	Remember	Page 16
	Create	Page 16
	Play	Page 17

Work in Focus– The Track	Its all about the science Natural resources Think Time	Page 18 Page 18 Page 19 Page 19
Work in Focus– Anything Will Bounce If You Throw It Hard Enough	Respond Think Will it bounce and how high?	Page 20 Page 20 Page 21
Work in Focus– The Tunnel	Tunnel as a concept The videos Looking forward, not back	Page 22 Page 23 Page 23

About the Education Kit

This Children’s Art Trail has been developed for ‘Alex Seton: The Great Escape’ 7 feb.—4 apr. 2020 and prepared by Sally O’Neill, Education Officer. O’Neill has a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Painting and Drawing and Certificate III in Early Childhood, with several years experience in developing and delivering an Education Program for regional and public galleries. O’Neill is also a practising artist whose painting practice explores personal and shared narratives.

The kit includes practical and theory activities designed for stages 2 and up however may be used by audiences of all ages. The kit is suitable for use before and after visiting the Gallery. Use the table below to help you determine the level of learning.

Preschool	3– 5 years old
Early Stage 1	Kindergarten
Stage 1	Year 1 and 2
Stage 2	Years 3 and 4

Stage 3	Years 5 and 6
Stage 4	Years 7 and 8
Stage 5	Years 9 and 10
Stage 6	Years 11 and 12

Themes and Influences

The exhibition highlights the following themes:

- Investigation of contemporary concerns with place, memory and self.
- Innovative and experimental use of traditional media and processes.
- Response to time and place as a way towards connection, understanding and contemplation with the natural environment.
- Escape offered by isolation, childhood and artistic practice.

Objectives

As a part of viewing the exhibition and completing the activities in this Education kit, students will:

- Gain an understanding about how artists use art to express ideas and communicate with their audience.
- Develop the ability to interpret concepts and symbols in art and make conclusions about the artist's intentions.
- Identify that artists use a variety of materials and disciplines to convey a variety of messages.
- Discuss and respond to art in a variety of forms.
- Gain a greater knowledge of how art can be a powerful form of documentation and critique of the social, economic, environmental and political context in which it is made.
- Consider the relationship that exists between the artwork, artist, gallery and audience.
- Form an appreciation for the very deep connections contemporary artists have with place as represented in their practice.

About the exhibition

Find-a-word

Learn a little more about the exhibition by finding the core concepts listed below in the exhibition.

Marble

Home

Material

Escape

Memories

History

Carving

Tradition

Contemporary

Monument

Wombeyan

Process

Sculpture

Installation

Tunnel

Journey

Place

Identity

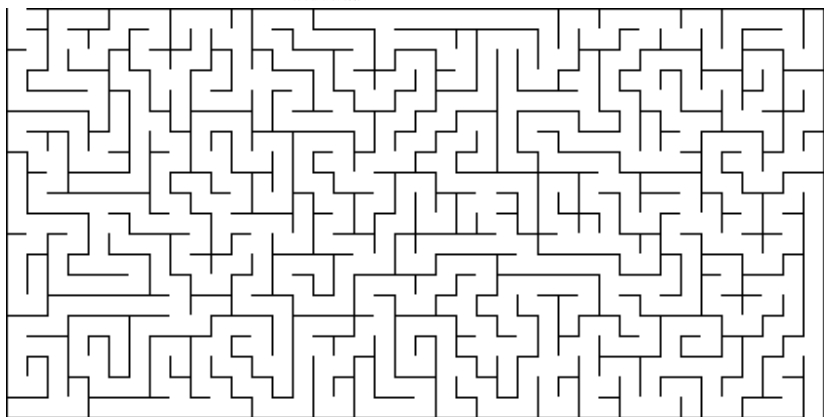
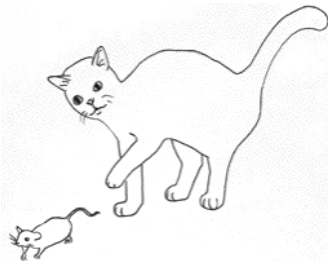
A	E	U	I	R	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	N	U	O	R	A	S	M	I	E
N	O	B	M	A	T	E	R	I	A	L	Y	O	N	T	S	M	E	Y	P	N
M	H	M	C	S	U	T	E	V	I	Y	D	I	E	U	C	R	D	R	Y	U
J	E	S	A	N	R	I	F	B	D	T	S	T	P	M	A	A	S	O	T	B
S	S	U	J	R	M	D	P	E	L	I	U	A	C	N	R	M	U	T	S	O
E	E	P	R	K	B	S	U	D	N	T	T	L	I	X	V	R	I	S		N
M	I	U	M	S	T	L	L	T	S	N	B	L	M	N	I	C	M	I	S	R
R	R	W	E	L	L	S	E	R	T	E	R	A	L	D	N	U	F	H	I	L
N	O	Y	R	D	E	B	N	A	R	D	U	T	L	I	G	T	E	M	P	C
S	M	B	U	S	N	U	N	D	M	I	T	S	I	N	T	M	P	L	D	O
S	E	U	T	L	N	E	H	I	Z	E	J	N	D	B	E	S	A	M	N	S
E	M	F	P	T	U	M	T	T	O	S	E	I	M	C	D	C	D	U	K	E
C	I	R	L	U	T	I	N	I	R	P	U	S	I	W	E	N	A	L	E	M
O	A	L	U	M	O	B	E	O	S	E	P	A	C	S	E	B	F	R	U	O
R	Y	E	C	U	N	M	S	N	U	I	C	M	S	R	P	J	E	I	K	H
P	I	B	S	Y	Y	R	A	R	O	P	M	E	T	N	O	C	D	N	R	A
T	O	U	N	A	S	I	R	D	O	I	S	N	A	Y	E	B	M	O	W	I
M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	N	U	A	I	C	E	J	U	Q	S	E	P	U

The Great Escape

Seton has taken the title 'The Great Escape' from a 1950 novel of the same title by Australian author Paul Brickhall. The story tells of the escape of British and Commonwealth WWII airmen from German prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft III through an underground tunnel.

The exhibition, however tells a different story of escape. The one his parents took when relocating to make a new life in Wombeyan Caves. Of escaping into the bush and caves as a child. Of growing up and escaping the country to move to Sydney. The escape offered through making.

The mouse below is in big trouble! Can you help him escape the big hungry cat? Draw a line through the maze to safety.



About the Artist



Image courtesy of the artist.

Fill the gaps

Master

Marble carving

Multidisciplinary artist

Wombeyan Caves

The everyday

1977

Contemporary

photography and installation

Wealth and status

Time and place

Objects

Sydney

The Great Escape

Complete the text below about Alex Seton by selecting the most appropriate work or phrase from the options above.

Alex Seton, born _____, grew up near _____ in NSW. Now living and practicing in _____, Seton is one of Australia's most prominent contemporary artists. Seton is a _____ working in sculpture, video, _____. He is most well known for his use of _____.

Seton is a _____ of his medium. Using marble, a medium associated with _____, Seton replicates everyday _____. These works memorialise _____ and challenge us to consider our privilege and place in society. In '_____', Seton melds concerns with _____ with his own personal journey into extraordinary _____ forms and installations.

Who's really the artist?

Seton works with teams to design, plan and implement ideas. But he isn't always the only one in the studio creating the art. So is he really the artist?

Take a look at some of the real life scenarios below. Draw a circle around the person you would consider credited with the outcome. You may circle more than one option.

<p>A house is built on a piece of land already owned by the home owner. It is designed by the architect, built by the builder, financed by the owner and materials by the supplier. Who was responsible for the build?</p>	<p>Builder Architect</p>	<p>Supplier Home owner</p>
<p>A woman orders a new combination of icecream and toppings from the local icecreamery. The children behind her hear her order, think it sounds delicious and order the same thing. The people after them do the same. After the successful day, the worker takes the icecream idea to the next staff brainstorming session. Everyone loves it so the store owner adds the choice to the menu. Who owns the recipe?</p>	<p>The woman The children</p>	<p>The worker Store owner</p>
<p>Hank the Jack Russel Terrier, escaped his yard for the third time that week, due to the latch on the gate being broken. Hank visits a number of people on his outings; the woman across the road who feeds him chocolate, the postman who runs as Hank snaps at him and Jim the friendly man around the corner. When Hank shows up that day with no ID again, Jim decides to keep him. Who is Hanks owner?</p>	<p>The woman Original owner</p>	<p>Jim Postman</p>

Art is a business

As an artist grows and becomes more successful, their name becomes that of a business, their art a product. Just like any successful business, an artist will eventually need to outsource some of their work.

Take a look at the list of roles that may be appointed by an artist. What do you think each of these people are responsible for?

Studio Manager

Studio Assistant

Representing Gallery

Contemporary practice

Traditionally, we have referred to artists with labels; painter, sculptor, animator. This is referred to as the artist's discipline. With this in mind, what do you think a multidisciplinary artist is? What about an interdisciplinary artist?

.....



Image courtesy of the artist.

What is Marble?

It's white but sometimes not and you can make stuff out of it.

Colour

Pure marble is what colour? Answer by circling the colour from the options below.



Marble can be found in lots of different colours all over the world. Marble is coloured by impurities in the stone. Take a look at the list of impurities found in marble below and take a guess at what colours it may create in the marble.

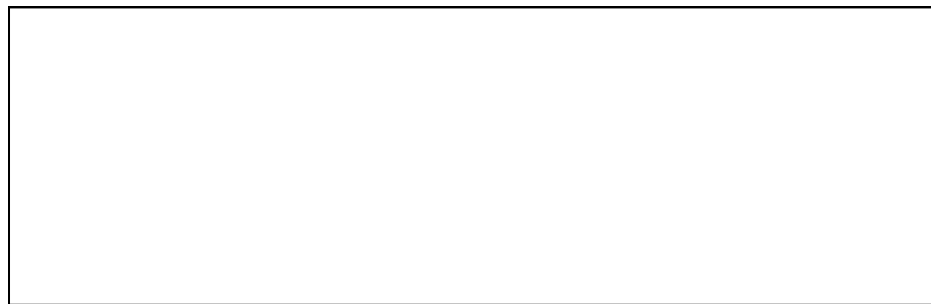
Clay _____ Bitumen _____

Iron _____ Serpentine _____

Marble is formed when limestone is transformed through high pressures and temperatures due to tectonic or volcanic activity.

Limestone is created as a result of pressurised calcium carbonate, found in seawater. The shells and bones of ocean sea creatures such as oysters, mussels and coral contain this chemical compound. After these creatures die, their remains join others on the ocean floor where they are compacted over millions of years to create limestone!

Draw your depiction of what the ancient sea creatures looked like before they became marble in the box below.



Mining

Marble is mined in quarries all of the world. Once upon a time, wooden pegs were hammered into the marble and wet. The expanding wooden pegs would explode the marble apart. Today diamond blades are used to slice the marble into large cubes.

Uses

Marble has A LOT of uses in today's society. Take a look at the list of uses below and tick those that you think apply.

Floor tiles	Animal feed	Agriculture
Sculptures	Pigment in paint	Architecture
Pharmaceuticals	Headstones	Cosmetics
Cleaning products	Indigestion treatment	Paper production

Guess what? Marble is used in the production of each of these things and more! Did you get them all right?



Image courtesy of the artist.

Marble Sculpting

Sometimes artists make sculptures out marble by carving it.

Its about subtracting, not adding

Carving into marble is a subtractive form of sculpting. This means that the sculptor starts with a block of marble and carves into it, taking away from the marble, to reveal the artwork.

Can you think of any additive forms of sculpture?

Calculate

Just like a sculptor, use your skills in subtraction to solve the problems below:

$8 - 3 =$

$76 - 42 =$

$436 - 356 =$

$15 - 10 =$

$180 - 150 =$

$143 - 46 - 20 =$

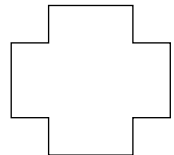
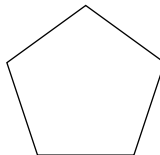
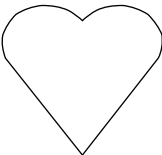
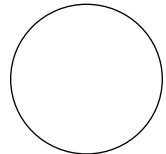
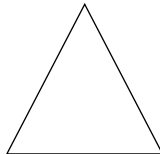
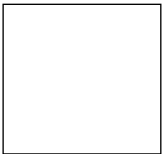
$23 - 11 =$

$100 - 50 =$

$205 - 56 - 104 =$

More maths

A sculpture is more often than not, a 3D form. In the art world we call them 'objects'. Take a look at the 2D forms below. Using line and shadow, give these shapes the appearance of a 3D form.



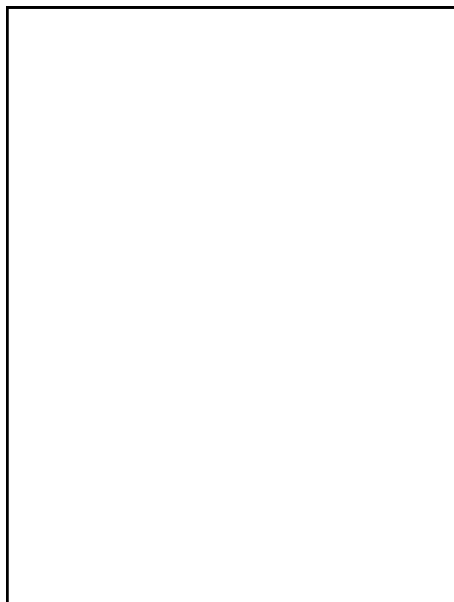
Why marble?

Marble is quite a soft rock which means that its easier to carve than other stone such as granite yet hard enough to retain its form over time.

Marble is also fairly translucent which means light can penetrate a few centimetres into its surface.

This quality gives the carved marble a lifelike glow making it perfect for sculptures of the figure.

In the box opposite, draw a picture of yourself replicated in marble.



It has a loooong history

Answer the following questions on the history of marble sculpture to complete the cross word.

ACROSS

1. In ancient Mesopotamia, artisans used marble to carve figures and _____

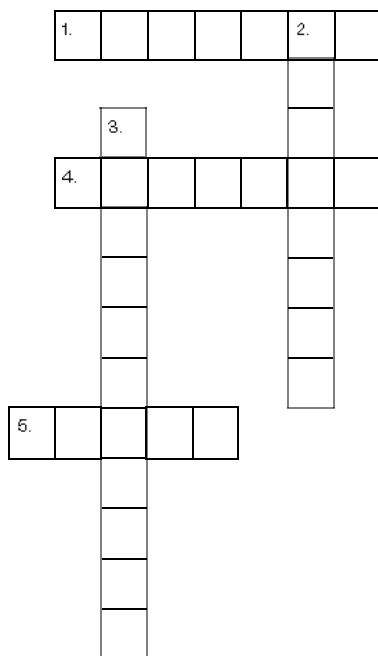
4. In ancient Egypt, marble sculptures of gods were used as guardians of _____

5. In ancient Rome, marble portraits were prominent known as _____

DOWN

2. During Greece's Classical Period, sculptures became more _____

3. Marble sculptures became popular once again during the _____



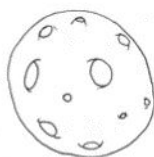
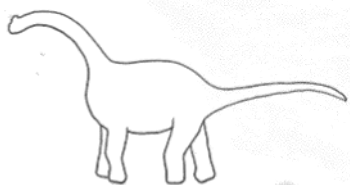
Wombeyan Caves

Wombeyan Caves is where Seton grew up and is also where the marble for this exhibition was sourced from.

It's old

Wombeyan Caves is approximately 450 million years old!

To get this into perspective, write the age of each of these things below. You may need to use your friend, Google.



Humans

Dinosaurs

Your house

The moon

The science

Wombeyan Caves is a dolomite marble karst system.

That's a mouthful!

The marble that exists in Wombeyan is soluble, meaning that water can pass through it. As it does, a chemical reaction occurs turning the water into an acid. The acid wears away the marble over time, creating the fissures and caves.

Inside the caves you can find special formations called speleothems created from the marble deposits.

Write the definition for the cave terms below:

Stalagmite _____

Stalactite _____

Speleology _____

Gurangatch and Mirrangan

The Gundungurra, the traditional owners of the land we know as Wombeyan, tell a creation story of the formation of the caves.

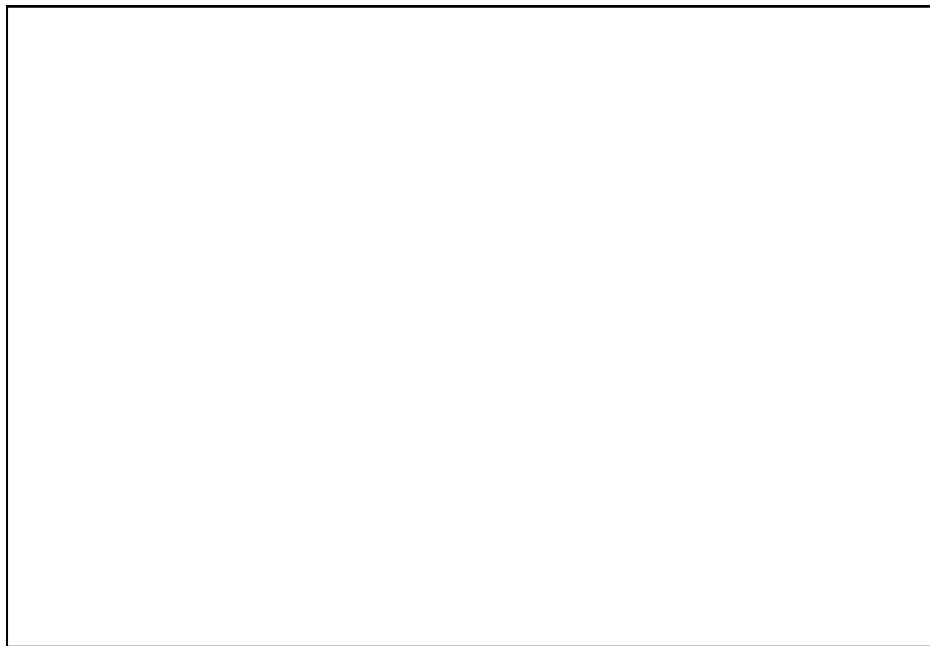
The story tells of a struggle between Gurangatch, a huge eel-like creature and Mirrangan, a quoll. Their battle leads all over the countryside as Gurangatch flees the spear of Mirrangan.

Read the story on the Jenolan Caves website <https://www.jenolancaves.org.au/about/aboriginal-culture/dreamtime-story-of-gurangatch-mirrigan/>

Create

Seton lived in Wombeyan, growing up on his parents property at Guineacor Creek. He spent much of his childhood escaping into the bush, into the caves or by the river. The marble in the region inspired the artist to try his hand at marble carving. This exhibition is about this journey.

Think of a place that was important to you growing up and draw a picture of it from memory in the box below.



Work in Focus– Left turn at Albuquerque

Stop motion video of Seton carving a tunnel through a marble wall.

Remember

It was Bugs Bunny who first said ‘I should have taken that left turn at Albuquerque’. The line is now a saying to describe how one wrong turn in a journey that can result in not reaching the desired destination.

Think about your journey from your house to your school. Where would you end up if you took the wrong turn at the start? What about if the wrong turn was at the end?



Left Turn At Albuquerque, 2017, Stop motion video, 4 minutes duration.

Create

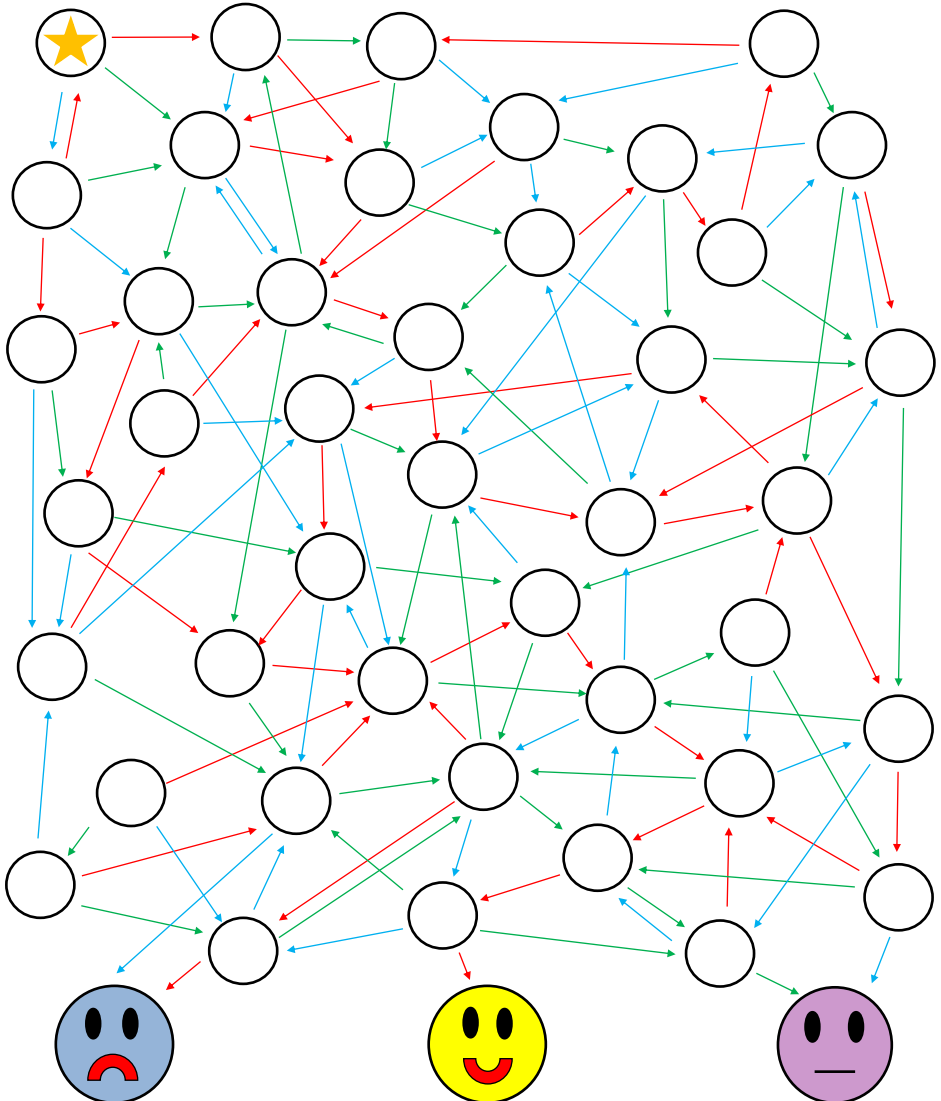
This video has been created using stop motion technology. Photos have been taken throughout the process and formatted to create a video. 4 minutes in length, of a process that would have taken hours!

The same technology is used to create animation! Download a stop motion app like ‘Stop motion studio’ and get creating. You could animate paper cut outs, modelling clay or ordinary objects.

Play

Starting at the circle with the star, make a choice between the three coloured arrows to proceed. Your goal is the smiley face.

Just like travelling in a tunnel underground like bugs bunny or the soldiers in 'The Great Escape' you will know your destination but the journey is impossible to map! One wrong turn could mean disaster!



Work in Focus– The Track

Reverse engineered marble blocks.

Its all about the science

The blocks that form 'The Track' have been created from marble dust, reverse engineered back to its original state...almost! As the marble reacts with carbon dioxide, the blocks slowly fall apart back into dust. Can you think of any other natural material that reacts with the air?

Natural Resources

Humans access a lot of natural resources for a lot of different uses. Take a look at the list of natural resources in the column below on the right. Draw a line to connect the resource with its main use from the column on the left. Shade those resources that are considered 'renewable'.

Water

Wood

Petroluem

Iron

Fuel for vehicles

Furniture

Steel for building

Irrigation

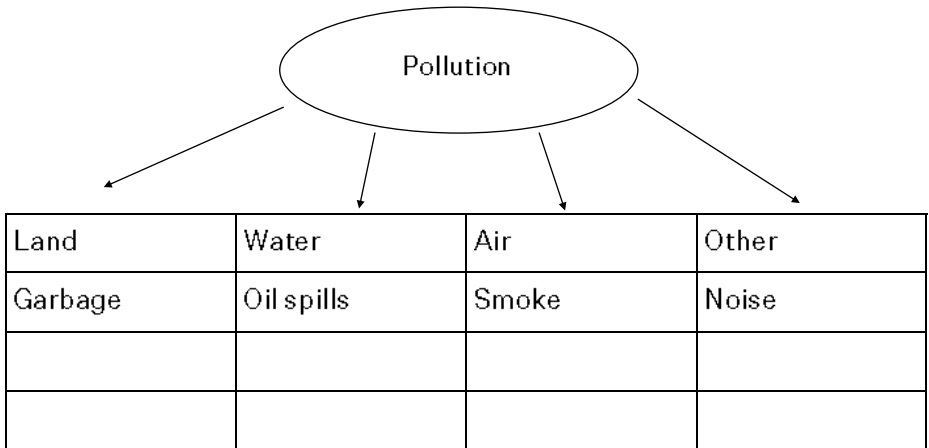
The Track, 2020, Calciium Oxide (Quicklime) tiles, stainless steel, 10 x 720 x 120cm .



Think

The work demonstrates the human process of using and reusing natural materials. This cycle can generate pollution, harmful to us and the environment.

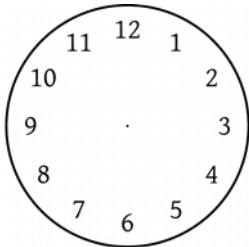
Take a look at the three types of pollution below. Identify three types under each category. The first has been done for you.



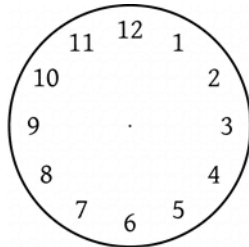
Time

This work is a poetic examination of time; the ancient, unperceivable age of the stone contrasted by the tiny blip that is human existence. Our understanding of time is minuscule!

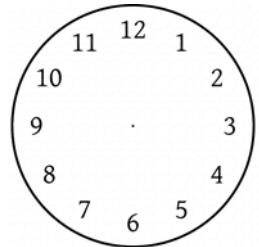
Take a look at the everyday events below and indicate what time they happen most days on the clock face.



Get out of bed



Eat lunch



Have a shower

Work in Focus– Anything Will Bounce If You Throw It Hard Enough

Two large ‘skipping’ stones carved from Wombeyan marble.

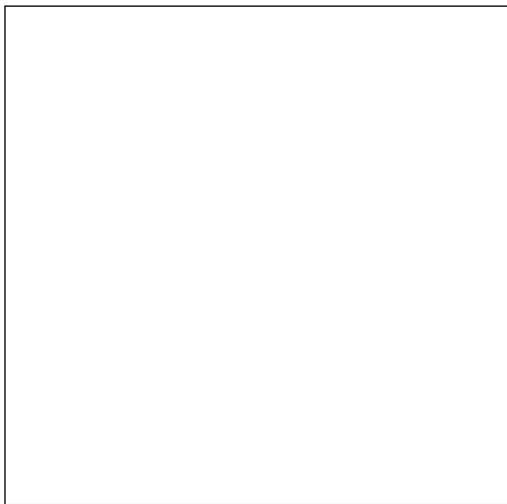
Respond

Draw a picture of the works in the box opposite.

What was your immediate reaction to this piece? Did you like it?

Consider that these works were carved from a solid cube of marble. Does this change your response and how?

.....



Think

These works are giant replicas of perfect skipping stones found by Seton down by the river at his parent’s home.

What do you think makes the ‘perfect’ skipping stone? Does it exist?

.....

Why do you think Seton has chosen to create these stones in the expensive and luxurious stone, marble? Refer to page 7.

.....

.....

In expertly recreating the skipping stones, has Seton created figurative or abstract sculpture and why?

.....

.....

In what ways do these skipping stones symbolise time and place?

.....

.....

.....

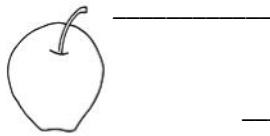
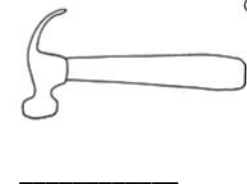
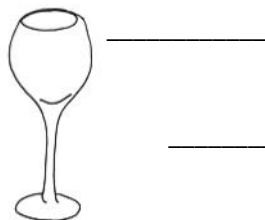
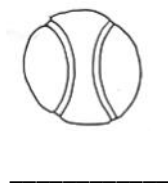


Anything Will Bounce If You Throw It Hard Enough., 2020, Wombeyan Marble, Marulan Onyx, 45 x 176 x 32cm and 45 x 96 x 76cm.

Will it bounce and how high?

It was one of Seton's brothers who exclaimed 'Anything will bounce if you throw it hard enough', when they were sussing out skipping stones. Do you think this is true?

Take a look at the objects below and guess whether or not they would bounce on a concrete floor and how high.



Work in Focus– The Tunnel

A dark space, curtains on the outside and videos inside.

Tunnel as a concept

The 'tunnel' is a recurring theme throughout the exhibition. The prisoners of war use a tunnel to escape in the original novel 'The Great Escape' and 'Left Turn At Albuquerque' is a stop motion video of Seton carving his way out of a tunnel. There are even tunnels in Wombeyan left behind in the abandoned marble quarry, contrasted by the naturally existing caves.

Make a list below of all the adjectives that could be used to describe a tunnel. Think about what it would be like to journey through one.

Consider those adjectives you listed above. What do you think the tunnel symbolises in this exhibition and for the artist?

The videos

Inside the tunnel are handheld devices presenting video works. These works feature intimate family moments from the family home and of the artist's practice. Moments carefully selected by the artist to share with you.

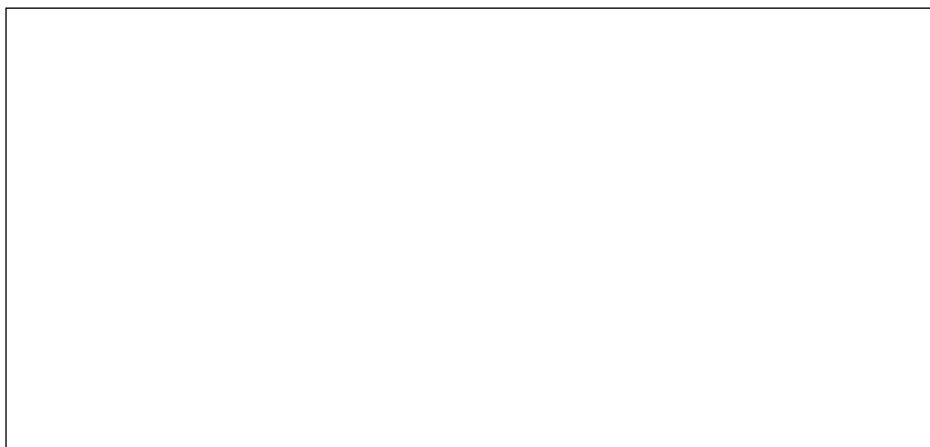
Think about an important place in your home that is important to you. It could be a room or a part of a room like your favourite lounge to watch tv. Write a couple of sentences below about your favourite place and why it is so important to you.

Looking forward, not back

In a tunnel, light is often limited. There may be dangers that you cant see and your journey forward into the darkness may be in a direction unknown. Much like the journey we all take through life...

In this exhibition Seton looks back on his own journey, sharing some special moments with us.

Lets now look forward, ten years into the future. Who do you want to be, where would you like to be and what will you be doing? Draw your ideal future in the box below.



Still from Under the Willow 11 from The Tunnel, 2007-2020, 14 iPads, iPhones, iPod touches and iPad minis looped videos, dimensions variable.



Image courtesy of the artist.



Goulburn Regional Art Gallery is supported by the NSW government through Create NSW.