

Learning Resources for Schools *Space YZ* - Savanhdy Vongpoothorn

Video interview: <https://vimeo.com/524643484>

This learning resource accompanies video interview created as part of exhibition Space YZ at Campbelltown Arts Centre. Resources are for primary and high school students and teachers and focus on visual and creative arts.

Artist bio:

Savanhdy Vangpoothorn's work integrates elements of Laotian textiles, texts and concepts inspired by Buddhism, the Australian landscape as well as Aboriginal art, Scottish Tartans, Indian miniatures, and Japanese Buddhism.¹ She has used natural materials, textiles, and acrylic paint and is known for her textured and perforated three dimensional paintings on canvas.

Savanhdy was born in Laos in 1971 and immigrated to Australia in 1979. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Western Sydney and now lives and works in Canberra. She has shown her work nationally and internally, in India, Japan, Scotland and South East Asia.

Themes:

- Nature
- Identity
- Heritage
- Belonging
- Spirituality
- Religion

Artist quote:

"(Legs on Seeds) was inspired by a valuable lesson learnt at art school: anything can be art! My teachers emphasised learning how to look at objects with care, and thus coming to a deeper appreciation of them. With this sensibility, and the encouragement they had given us to play around."²

Practical activity: Anything can be art!

See video interview for artist's explanation: 4.11 - 5.33min

Recommended for ages 5+ years

Materials: Natural object (found) & art, craft or recycled materials

Part 1

- Go for a walk outside with a friend or family member. If you can, visit the bush, a wetland or a park near your house.

Part 2

- Find an object. Feel the softness, feel the hardness, and then start asking:
 - What is this object?
 - How did it come here?
 - Is it fragile? Is it strong?
 - Is it colourful?
 - Is it natural? Is it human made?

Part 3

- Take your object home

¹ Space YZ, 2020, <https://www.spaceyz.com.au/yearbook-savanhdy-vongpoothorn>

² Ibid.

Remember: Some natural objects should be left in their environment. Have a think whether this feels okay to take home and check with a grown up.

- Look closely at your object and ask yourself:
 - What can I do with this object?
 - Can I change it by adding other material to it, like paint or glue?
- Find some art or craft materials, and have a play!
- Add anything to your object that says something about you and who you feel you are

Whatever you do, it is never a mistake!

References:

<https://www.spaceyz.com.au/yearbook-savanhdary-vongpoothorn>

https://www.martinbrownecontemporary.com/cv_savanhdary_vongpoothorn.html

<https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/know-my-name-tokenism-or-a-genuine-sign-of-change-for-female-artists-20201105-p56bzk.html>

<https://www.artistprofile.com.au/savanhdary-vongpoothorn/>