

Souvenirs – collage and postcard-based activities with artist Kate Genever

Using found postcards, text and collage Kate invites you to consider how using our imaginations along with found words can create outcomes that offer us starting points for new work. Or you could post your newly created artwork to someone you choose. Below is a quick activity that will get you started

Included in this pack is:

- Background on the activity
- Some images from Kate's work
- The activity
- Further inspiration
- About Kate Genever
- Some sample quotes to be used in the activity
- Some images created in an online workshop (as examples / inspiration)

Background

Many artists use text in combination with image. Kate collects phrases and words through conversation with others - these conversations are also part of her work. How she then uses these words is decided through the creative process and in considering the intended or imagined destination of work. To date neon, posters, sewn capes, drawings, adapted postcards, LED signs, instructional prompts, letters, titles have all been utilised.

Kate often uses old postcards, working into or on top; creating imagined past or future worlds. Recently she has been sending collaged postcards to her friend Kevin. He responds by sending an adapted one back – each new card responds to the previous. Like postcards sent from holidays or in thanks, the messages they write talk of memories, observations and ideas. The gifting of an image via the post and not one sent via Instagram is an important part of the work. Kate likes the beauty of the analogue/real object, the chance offered by the post and the intention of sending a real thing.



Example of Kate's cards: L to R:

In everything that's revealed just as much is hidden. 2020

Becalmed. 2018

Never-Land 2019

Sample of Kate's card to Kevin



Activity

Materials: Gather together

- Old postcards or images cut from a magazine, newspaper etc that can create a postcard. This can be any image. It doesn't have to be of a place.
- One sentence statement cut at random from a newspaper / magazine – or statements you hear just written on a page (there are some at the end of this document if it helps)
- found materials, magazines
- pens, tape, glue, hole punch.

→ Look at the images / postcards and words you have gathered or the ones downloaded from the Metal website

→ Working quickly - look through them and pick out ones that spark your interest, which ones resonate?

→ Select one postcard / image

→ Select one sentence

→ What does the combination of word and image make you think of or remember?

→ How does the image extend the meaning of the words or visa-versa?

→ What might you add to the image to help with your message?

→ Using the materials you have gathered (found materials, magazines, pens, tape, glue, hole punch) adapt or collage onto the selected image.

→ Write the quote somewhere on the card – front or back

→ What other thoughts, if any, might you add to the sentence offered?

→ Try again using different combinations of image and words from the selection offered

Further development

Choose someone to receive your card – who is that and why?

Either hand deliver your card or affix a stamp and post

Use the adapted postcard and its text as a starting point to create a response.

Use it to help you start – see it as a beginning for new work.

What does it make you feel, think, notice?

Is your response a drawing, a photograph, a poem, a performance, a collage, a zine, a walk, your own adapted set of cards?

Artists to reference

- Artists using Postcards
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2019/jan/26/postcards-by-artists-from-rachel-whiteread-to-jeremy-deller-in-pictures>
- Fluxus Postcard projects
<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/the-world-exists-to-be-put-on-a-postcard/>
- Spike Island Postcard Exhibition
<https://www.spikeisland.org.uk/programme/exhibitions/the-artists-postcard-show/>

Artists using collage:

Hannah Hock

John Stezekar

Eileen Agar

Kara Walker

Jesse Treece

Annegret Soltau

Nancy Spero

Jean McEwan

About Kate Genever: Drawing from, with and together is at the core of and catalyst for my practice. Over extended periods I embed myself in sites, working alongside communities to consider how our “imagination demonstrates a freedom over the determinations of nature and society.” This sees me revealing and/or supporting unique, locally relevant, practical, radical, improvised responses to times of stress.

Distinct and varied outcomes are decided through the process of working and have included drawings, prints, curated exhibitions, participatory programs, websites, activity packs, flags, strategic organisational and community development. Much work is co-produced with residents, other artists, curators and academics and builds on 25 years of working to explore how meaningful opportunities to get involved with great art and culture can meet people halfway.

I have worked in places such as Farms, Fenland, The Lakes, coastal plotlands, parks, housing associations, villages, asylum seeker holding centres, prisons, museums, libraries, housing associations, Rotterdam, Venice and West Hull. Recent funders and commissioners include ACE, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Manchester Met Uni, Uni of Reading, 14/18 Now, Leeds Art Gallery, TATE, Integrated Communities Fund, Invest SK, Hull City of Culture, Lakeland Arts, The Wellcome Collection & British Council

www.kategenever.com, T @kategenever,

Blog: <https://drawnfromthefield.blogspot.com/>

Optional quotes for use in Souvenir activity

Book that sentences come from: Journeys Anthology collated by Robyn Davidson and published by Picador. Kate has been using this book to travel with during Covid times.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/78896.The_Picador_Book_of_Journeys

Days and months are travellers of eternity

Time passed slowly, so very s-l-o-w-l-y, it crept and crawled and I knew I was in child time

Have I mentioned that we saw five columns of vapour ascending from this strange abyss.

In the daytime you felt that you had got high up, near to the sun,

But it was alone, and with a diligence and persistence that were un-parralled, it uttered its one sounds, uttered it hour after hour

Chance brought them here

I therefore determined that the plague should not alter my habits and amusements in any one respect.

For 3 weeks I had lived under the peril of death: the peril ceased and not till then did I know how much alarm and anxiety I had really been suffering

In another place it's not men who call on you, but birds

In my absorption in all those things, you never ceased to be present

You shall accumulate riches that they give you and shall live off their bounty

There at last it lay, bourn of my long and weary pilgrimage

Some feel deeply the influence of the native people and try to adjust themselves to its atmosphere and spirit

It is about your grandfather's land, the land that produced the rice he gave you

We had no food, but made a fire

Multiply that moment of self-conviction.

I had asked my driver to stop for a moment in front of the towers

Sometimes far off, they seemed no more than painted flowers upon the background of the sky

I could think of nothing better than to go and inform everybody of what had just happened

For more than an hour I had been indulging in bright dreams of what the future might have had in store for me.

Do you remember, friends, how lovely was that winder day?

I could see the muscles of his cheeks twitching

The vegetable woman is as deaf as a post

At the time I was hardly conscious of the changes that were occurring in my own mind

I wish I could convey the atmosphere of that time

I see these stark-naked people moving slowly past among the trees

Why did you do that? Why shouldn't I?

We took the road to the left, in the direction away from the front

Some examples created in the online Souvenirs workshop with Kate Genever:



