



THE GEO PROJECT

ANTARCTICA - A PLACE IN THE WILDERNESS • INTIMATE TRANSACTIONS • HABITUS-HABITAT • REPLANT

ANTARCTICA - A PLACE IN THE WILDERNESS

Antarctica - A Place in the Wilderness is an exhibition of photography by Judy Parrott taken during an Australian Antarctic Division Arts Fellowship in 2005/2006.

In 2005, after a crash course in knot-tying, navigation, radio communication and rescue methods, the artist travelled to the Antarctic on board the *Aurora Australis*. She documented her time in Australia's three research stations, where she was inspired by the work, environment and community life of people employed there. The result of the journey is a series of dramatic photographs of this extreme environment that capture the exhilarating experience of being surrounded by ice.

The exhibition is multi-sensory. In addition to the black and white photographs, there is a large projection of colour imagery, a soundscape of local sounds, and found objects collected from the Antarctic environment with a collection permit issued by Australian Antarctic Division for exhibition purposes.

EDUCATION KIT FOR LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL



EXAMINE AND PREPARE

Before you complete this sheet, view the exhibition online or visit it in person. On The GEO Project website you can find the tour itinerary, search the Image Galleries and find downloads.

It will be helpful to read the artist's diary extracts or download the audio version from the website.



CONSIDER

In the exhibition, find a photograph that is 'narrative' and one that is more 'abstract'. Explain the difference by referring to the specific artworks.



Judy Parrott *Walking on the Antarctic plateau is like floating on a giant, white disc suspended in space...* 2006 silver gelatin photograph



Judy Parrott *Moulting Elephant seals in their wallow beside Davis Station* 2006 silver gelatin photograph



Judy Parrott *Weddell seals come up for air through the sea ice at Mawson...* 2006 silver gelatin photograph



RESPOND

Take some photos of natural areas and use the techniques of Judy Parrott. Try to –

- experiment with cropping so that the environments are not necessarily recognisable
- experiment with placing different textures and images next to each other
- to create a collage of something new
- experiment with cutting sections away of one image and placing it over the top of another to create an abstract image
- compose 'narrative' and 'abstract' photos that focus on the same place

Create a display with your images. As the curator, you will need to consider how you will present them together.



GEO CROSSOVER

Design an artwork for a Great Walk in Antarctica. What would it look like? What materials would you use? Your designs should reflect the same approach as one of the artists presented in the *Habitus – Habitat* exhibition. In your design, explain how and why the artwork reflects the same approach.

Keep a diary or online blog every day for two weeks and make a photo that references the key event of that day (or experience). Incorporate in the blog scanned drawings or photographs of objects, music and/or sounds that would be meaningful with the text.

With your teacher and parent/guardian's permission, find out how to create your own blog at www.blogger.com

Which three pictures in the exhibition do you consider the most effective in capturing the artist's experiences? How do these works capture her experience of this environment?

How might the inclusion of found objects enhance or distract the viewer's experience of this photographic exhibition? Explain your answer.
