

# Lesson Plan | Contemporary Art Study– From Research and Archive to Art Making

School: Munsang College

Teacher in charge: Ms Lam Mau, Head of Visual Arts Department

Participating students: S.4 students

## I. Introduction

[From Wong Wai Yin's Collection to the Hong Kong Art Archive](#) is a project created by the Hong Kong artist Doris Wong Wai Yin when she carried out a residency at Asia Art Archive (AAA) in 2011. She compiled her own personal collection, including documents from her childhood, business cards of people she encountered, unrealised proposals, etc. She also created oral history of local practitioners and contributed this "Hong Kong Art Archive" to AAA.

This lesson plan explores how research and archive can be means to inspire art making and self-discovery. By making use of Doris Wong Wai Yin's project as a point of departure, students build personal archives, and create self-reflection art. Students then curate exhibitions of artworks at their own homes.



Image: Materials from Wong Wai Yin's Collection. Photo: Stephen Lam.



Image: Wong Wai Yin's residency at AAA in 2011.

## II. Lesson Plan

### i. Objectives

- Students will gain hands-on experience with creating artworks inspired by research and personal archives.
- Students will examine the dynamics among artist, artwork and audience in the context of contemporary art, through putting together an exhibition at their homes.
- The lesson emphasises the relevance of contemporary art to the individual by encouraging students to carry out a journey of self-discovery and re-examine one's identity, roles, and relationship with one's family.

### ii. Lesson Overview

#### Part 1: Preparation—Before Visiting AAA

##### Activity:

Teacher introduces examples of artists making use of research as a way to start art making.

##### Examples of Artworks and Exhibitions:

- Kwan Sheung Chi, *100 Things, A Little Retrospective*, 2012.  
<http://www.galleryexit.com/201206.html>
- Kwan Sheung Chi, *Mum after Duchamp: A Brief Chronicle of Tsang Yin Hung's Artistic Career*, 2005.  
<http://kwansheungchi.com/mum-after-duchamp-a-brief-chronicle-of-tsang-yin-hungs-artistic-career/>
- Artworks by Ho Sin Tung.  
<https://www.hoosintung.com/works.html>
- *First, Then and After*, Gallery Exit, 2015.  
<http://www.galleryexit.com/201505.html>

## Part 2: Visit to AAA (2 hours)

### Activities:

- A staff member of AAA introduces the work and collections of AAA.
- In groups of two to three, students examine the project file generated from Hong Kong artist Doris Wong Wai Yin's residency at AAA: [\*From Wong Wai Yin's Collection to the Hong Kong Art Archive\*](#).

### Take Home Assignment:

Each student research on his/her own personal history. Students build their own personal archives by collecting artifacts and materials that they think are able to represent them, e.g. photos, diaries, official documents, letters, etc.



Image: Visit to AAA.

## Part 3: Presentation of Personal Archives

### Activity:

Students share their own personal archives and collections. Students give feedback to each other.

### Take Home Assignment:

Students create artworks based on their research and archives. The artworks will be about oneself or one's relationship with his/her family.

# ASIA ART ARCHIVE



Image: Students' presentation of personal archives.

## Part 4: Presentation of Artworks

### Activity:

Students present their artworks inspired by their personal archives. Students give feedback to each other.

## Part 5: Exhibition at Home

### Activities:

- Students set up an exhibition of their artworks in their own homes. Students take photo documentations of the exhibition and take notes of how their family members interact with or give feedback to the exhibition.
- Students come back to school with the documentation and share their experience.



Image: Documentation of a student's artwork and the exhibition at home.



### iii. Guiding Questions for Discussion with Students

- How will you start with researching on yourself?
- From your personal archive, pick five images/visual materials that you think are able to represent you the most, and explain why.
- What do you think about the relationship among artist, artwork, and audience?
- If you can set up an exhibition at your home, what will the exhibition be about? What do you want to share with your family?
- What does "home" mean to you?

### III. Students' Reflections

Some students shared their reflections on how the AAA visit and Doris Wong Wai Yin's project inspired them in their HKDSE school based assessment portfolios:

Tjia Man Yan, class of 2019, admitted to The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Fine Arts)

**Reframing Relationship**

**Introduction**  
In Form 4, we had joined a program launched by the Asia Art Archive (AAA). As I was walking in their archive library, I found the first-hand information of some artists and their biography very interesting to look at because they were telling me different things about the artists, their upholding and their personalities, roles and identities. The host then introduced us the artist, Doris Wong, who has made her own archive. I think she had done a project that I have never thought of doing - self-reflection. Her archive made me ask myself, "How actually my life is formed?" "What are the things represent me?" The curiosity in my mind told me that it is time to find out the answer.

When I was reflecting on my daily life, I realized that I have not much time spent on interacting with my family and people around me. It's hard for me to achieve 'work-life balance'.

"Like an I, and I want to?"  
"Time has become a pleasure eating and sleeping only."  
"Then what is 'home'?"

As I am being busy with school projects and different activities, in my reflection, I found that the bonding between my family and I was weakened. Every day, we communicate with each other only when we are having dinner, but that's only about 15-30 minutes. That is abnormal. I have already been in my family for 17 years and I still have full understanding on each of them, how come? I thought I know all their characteristics but in fact I don't, I am ashamed of myself.

**What is the definition of relationship?**  
Relationship, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, "The way in which two things (individuals) are connected".  
In my point of view, relationship can be found not only between two individuals, but also within one self. We are composed of not only one perspective. Through they are intertwined to one another, they are derived from the same person. Therefore they are interrelated.

**Reframing Artist's using Archive Data**

In Form 4, our teacher brought us to Asia Art Archive. This is my first time to go deep into many different, the characteristics which represent who artists are.

**Discovering the Asia Art Archive**  
I visited the 28-month period, they built an accessible collection of materials on Hong Kong art that was widely featured. Archive's collection through an on-site project of research and interaction, going to formal a formal a working back within the library.

I am glad that AAA gave us a glance of the archive collection. It has a lot of things, including as well as school report cards and drawings donated by her father, were also integrated into the collection.

**Telling Artists' story**  
I discovered that AAA is not only a collection of art, but also a platform for artists to share their stories. It is a place where people can find out the history of art and the story of the artists. It is a place where people can find out the history of art and the story of the artists.

**Important day**  
In an artwork, I found my own story. It was a very important day in my life. I found my own story. It was a very important day in my life.

"I found the first-hand information of some artists and their biography, they are very interesting to look at because they were telling me different visions that artists were upholding and their personalities, roles and identities".

"I am glad that AAA gave us a glance at the archive collection of Doris. It is made up of correspondence and interviews with fellow artists in the community, catalogues as well as school report cards and drawings donated by her father, were also integrated into the collection".



(Artwork)

Theme: Reframing Relationship  
Title: *Retrieve Our Memories*  
Medium: Pencil on paper and post-its

Kam Long Yin Brian, class of 2019, admitted to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Design)

# METROPOLIS

**INSPIRATION:**  
 METRO: THE CITY BEHIND THE CITY  
 The city is a living organism. It is a complex system of people, buildings, and infrastructure. It is a place where people live, work, and play. It is a place where the past meets the present, and the future is being shaped. The city is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.

**CONCEPT:**  
 The concept of the city is a complex one. It is a place where people live, work, and play. It is a place where the past meets the present, and the future is being shaped. The city is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.

**DESIGN:**  
 The design of the city is a complex one. It is a place where people live, work, and play. It is a place where the past meets the present, and the future is being shaped. The city is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.

**CONCLUSION:**  
 The city is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.

**REFERENCES:**  
 The references of this work are the city itself, the people who live in it, and the buildings that surround it. The city is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.

**APPENDIX:**  
 The appendix of this work contains a collection of images and drawings that illustrate the concept of the city. It is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.

**CONCLUSION:**  
 The city is a place of constant change and growth. It is a place where the imagination is free to roam and create. The city is a place where the art of design is a way of life.



"During Form 4, my teacher brought us to Asia Art Archive, a non-profit organization based in Hong Kong which focuses on documenting the recent history of contemporary art in Asia. We were asked to bring all work, photos and documents representing our lives which allowed me to recall all the imaginations towards cities during my childhood. I surprisingly found the imaginative power during small was tragically greater than now. Because of the enormous studying pressure in secondary school life, I have put all my creativity aside, which in turn just finished the tasks, homework and examinations set by the sluggish education system. Art is a self-discovering and exploring process of oneself. In the coming artwork I want to redevelop my creativity base on different practical knowledge and previous imagination towards 'metropolis'".



(Artwork)

Theme: Metropolis

Title: *Cos Mo Port*

Medium: Ink on wooden board