



School Resource : Holding Memories

Introduction

In Galleries 2 & 3 is the artwork of artist Dala Nasser.

The artist has built a space to remember and recognise people who fought for independence and freedom.

Notice the colours and patterns on the fabrics. Dala has stained and marked the fabric using rocks, shells, seeds and ash.

Walk around the gallery. What do you notice? Discover?

Listen to the sounds in the gallery – what can you hear?

Try looking at the artwork from different places in the gallery. Does it look new or different when you stand somewhere else?



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Materials: x 2 sets. Recommend small groups of 3-8

-Fabric pieces - Wooden Frames - Labels

Activity

Explore the pieces of fabric in the bag. What colours, patterns and textures can you see on the fabric?

Can you find similar fabrics around the gallery?

Read the labels. Can you match the fabric to the description?

Use the pencils to create a rubbing from the gallery on the plain fabric. You could take a rubbing of the floor at a favourite spot.

Cyanotype: A special fabric that turns blue when it's left in the sunshine. Objects can be put on top of it, and when the fabric is washed in water, white shapes appear where the objects were.

Rubbings: . Paper or fabric is placed on top of something bumpy or textured. When you rub a crayon or charcoal over it a copy of the shapes underneath appears.

Dyed fabric: Dyeing is when you change the colour of the fabric by putting it in a special mixture of coloured water.

Black mourning fabric: In Lebanon this symbolises loss and is a sign of respect and grief.

Clay marked fabric: Fabric marked using natural clay from the ground. This kind of clay is often used to make pots and sculptures.



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Activity

- Use the materials to create a special space for remembering and for memories. This could be a memory from today, recently or sometime ago.
- Make a structure using the wooden frames. You could balance them or use your body to hold them up. Can you create a freestanding structure?
- Pick fabric to use with your frames. You could think about:
 - Balancing
 - Wrapping
 - Tying
 - Covering
- Think about how your structure looks from different angles– close up, far away, crouching, or lying down.
- Listen to the sounds in the gallery and think about your movements as you build.



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Discussion prompts

- Think of a special memory. What are the sounds, smells and textures that spring to mind? Are there actions or objects that are part of your memory?
- Dala thinks that a place can hold memories too. How do you feel about this idea?
- What could we do to remember or feel connected to a place?
- What are the special things we do to remember people or moments?