



CREATIVE LEARNING

NERAM

TEACHERS/EDUCATORS NOTES

MICHAEL TAYLOR, TREE, 1974, OIL ON CANVAS

Michael Taylor was born in Sydney in 1933. Like many Sydney artists of his generation, Taylor studied at East Sydney Technical College. Awarded the travelling scholarship in 1960, he then travelled abroad, to stay on in Europe for three years. He looked at Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock in London and Diego Velázquez, Francisco Goya and Antoni Tàpies in Madrid. On his return to Australia, Taylor experienced a period of spectacular prominence in the 1960s, when forms of Abstract Expressionism were in vogue in the Sydney art scene.

Abstract Expressionism is a movement developed in the 1940s and 1950s from American painters such as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning. It is often identified by gestural brush-strokes or mark-making and the impression of spontaneity. In Michael Taylor's 'Tree', the adventurous interpretation of the Australian landscape is created with vibrant colours, and bold spontaneous brushstrokes. Using layers of paint for movement and texture Taylor's paintings often evoke the idea of a landscape whilst nearly completely melting into total abstraction.

JOE BRAINARD, RED POPPIES AND BUTTERFLIES, 1969, COLLAGE OF CUT PAPER AND WATERCOLOUR

Joe Brainard was an American artist and writer associated with the New York School. His prodigious and innovative body of work included assemblages, collages, drawing and paintings as well as designs for book and album covers, theatrical sets and costumes. His early paintings and assemblages showed the influence of Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol and Joseph Cornell.

Reflecting elements in the pop art movement, Brainard uses bright colours, and repetition to portray 'Red Poppies and Butterflies', both seen as beautiful and loved by popular culture. Pop art is a style of art based on simple, bold images of everyday life. It was a movement which aimed to connect fine art with the masses using imagery that people could relate to and recognise.

LAWRENCE DAWS, BATHURST LANDSCAPE I, 1988, GOUACHE, INK AND OIL STICK ON CANVAS

Australian painter, Lawrence Daws was born in 1927. Both a painter and printmaker, Daws worked in the media of oil, watercolour, drawing, screen prints, etchings and monotypes. Known for his depiction of the Australian landscape, Daws consistently relates his subject to that of the unconscious mind.

In Bathurst Landscape 1, 1988 there is a sense of unease and mystery of the terrain through the mood, colour and method Laws has used. Laws is said to create places of overwhelming beauty which is seen through a thin blue veil – a state half-way between waking and nightmare – that withhold tension in which the viewer senses something terrible is about to happen but cannot explain why...