

Teaching materials

Analysis of the Artwork

The paths

by

Ysaline André

Click on the title of the artwork above
to be directed straight to the online video
(hyperlink)

Questions

1. The Artistic Approach to History

At school, you are probably more accustomed to exploring themes related to the Second World War and the culture of remembrance mainly through historical sources in textbooks or through testimonies of people who lived during that time.

- Do you think there is particular value in complementing this traditional approach by engaging with history through the artistic work of a student your own age, such as Ysaline?
- Does Ysaline's presentation, for example, raise awareness of perspectives on history that are usually overlooked but which you consider important for understanding the meaning that history can have for our own time? Explain your point of view.
- Can you think of other artistic works that have encouraged you to reflect on history in a different way from history books? Why, in your opinion, can art allow us to see history from another perspective?

2. Ysaline's Creative Process

At the beginning of a creative project, it can sometimes be difficult to know where to start.

- How does Ysaline manage to develop a story for her artwork despite her initial difficulties? What specific challenges does she face at the very beginning, and how does she manage to overcome them at first?
- What is the chronological relationship, in her case, between the manual construction of the artwork on the one hand, and the moments when ideas about the meaning of its different elements arise, on the other? Give a few examples.

3. Destroying to Create

Why, in your opinion, do some creative ideas emerge precisely when we break or transform objects? Have you ever had an experience where you needed to destroy something in order to create something new?

4. Going with the Flow?

What influence did it have on Ysaline's work that almost all of her classmates used hot glue guns? Can you understand her attitude?

5. Celebrating Frustration

During the development of her work, there are several moments when Ysaline becomes frustrated because the realisation of a creative idea does not work as she had originally planned. For instance, she cannot manage to glue the pieces of tile onto the clay.

- How does she react in the moment of frustration, and what eventually happens to the elements she initially considered “failed attempts”?
- Have you ever experienced a situation in which something that first seemed like a “failure” ultimately opened your eyes to a surprising new direction?
- Try to formulate a general hypothesis about the most productive way to deal with frustration.

6. Does Sleep Bring Insight?

Ysaline provides an example of a situation in which a short nap helped her a great deal by allowing her to come up with decisive ideas at a time when she previously felt trapped in a dead end.

- Why do you think that intelligent and consciously planned sleep can have such a “cleansing” effect, leading to greater clarity – especially in creative work processes?
- Have you ever had the experience that, after sleeping, you suddenly felt a striking lucidity that helped you solve complex challenges?
- The way a productive rhythm develops between phases of rest and phases of work is very personal and varies greatly from one person to another. Do you already know what balance works best for you? Does the school rhythm correspond to your natural pace?

7. The Perfection of Imperfection

Ysaline is surprised when, after her nap, she discovers a “dirty” and “damaged” board among the pile of materials – which, nevertheless, becomes for her the perfect base for her artwork. Why, in your opinion, was it easier for her to continue developing her work using this imperfect support rather than a clean, flawless one?

8. The Link between Ysaline's Artwork and the History of the Second World War

Ysaline's artistic work consists of three elements that could be read like the panels of a comic strip. Through which element does she establish a link with the Second World War?

9. The Metaphor of the “Red Beads”

Describe the winding process through which Ysaline finally discovers the metaphorical meaning of the red beads in her artwork.

10. The Magic of Chance

Ysaline also finds her way towards her work thanks to a phenomenon known as “serendipity”.

- Research what this term means.
- Find examples of famous scientific discoveries or inventions in which serendipity played a decisive role.
- What can this phenomenon make us aware of when we are actively seeking solutions to a specific problem?

11. Affection or Detachment?

What is your impression: does Ysaline have an emotional connection with her artwork? Does it matter to her, or is she rather indifferent towards it? Justify your opinion with reference to specific moments from her presentation.

IMPORTANT

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