

Teaching materials

Analysis of the Artwork

DEGRADATION

by

Mina Eddarif

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 used to exploring topics related to the Second World War and the culture of remembrance mainly through historical sources in textbooks or through testimonies from people who lived during that period.

- Do you think there is particular value in complementing this traditional approach by engaging with history through the artistic work of a student your age, such as Mina?
- Does Mina's presentation, for instance, draw our attention to perspectives on history that are usually less considered, but that you find important for understanding the meaning that history can have for our present time? Justify your point of view!
- Can you name other artistic works that have made you reflect on history in a way that differs from history books? Why, in your view, can art allow us to look at history from another angle?

2. The Link Between Mina's Artwork and the History of the Second World War

To what extent does Mina's artwork also tell a story connected to the period of the Second World War?

3. The Dual Reading of the Sculpture: "Clock" and "Monster"

According to Mina, their artwork can be seen both as a clock and as a monster.

- For you, what emotions or ideas do these two interpretations evoke?
- How are these symbols connected to war or to the passage of time?

4. Mina's Creative Process

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

- How does Mina manage to develop a story for their artwork despite initial difficulties?

What practical approach helps them in this process?

- For Mina, what is the chronological order between building the piece and the moments when ideas about the meaning of different elements occur? Give a few examples.
- How did the idea of making the clock hands out of branches come to them?

5. The Magic of Chance

Mina also finds the path towards their artwork thanks to a phenomenon known as “serendipity”.

- Research what this term means!
- Look for examples of famous scientific inventions or discoveries in which serendipity played a decisive role!
- When we are actively looking for solutions to a specific problem, what can this phenomenon make us more aware of?

6. Philosophical Reflections on Time

Mina begins with the historical level of interpretation of their artwork, but this then leads them to broader, philosophical reflections on the theme of “time”. Present these reflections!

7. Connecting “Imprisoned Time” and “Liberated Time” to Personal Experience

In their artwork, Mina evokes ideas of “imprisoned” time and “liberated” time, of “measured” time and “felt” time.

- In which situations in your life have you experienced these “forms” of time?
- Are there, for you, other ways of sensing or perceiving time?

8. Destroying to Create

Why do you think some creative ideas can emerge precisely when we break or transform objects? Have you ever experienced a situation in which you had to destroy something in order to create something new?

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