

COMIC TRAGICS

The exploding language of contemporary comic art

Gallery Education Sheet – Middle school

Use this worksheet to explore the exhibition and to look more closely at some of the works.

Look through the exhibition and find an example of each of the following; noting the title, artist and year the work was made:

- a. A work that is funny. What is funny about it?

- b. A work with a strong message. What is the message and how does the artist convey the message?

- c. A work that is sad or depressing. How has the artist evoked this mood?

- d. A work with a main character that you really like. What do you like about this character?

Find the comic *Not my small diary* by John Porcellino:

- a. What do you think it is about? What does the title mean?

- b. If you were to tell a story about something that happened in your life through a comic, what story would you tell and how would you draw it?

Find a work in the exhibition that tells a story in images only, without text:

- a. Note the title, artist and year the work was made.

- b. What visual strategies has the artist used to tell the story (think about angles, layout of the panels and how they flow, symbols used and space in the panels)?

Watch the video *Blind date* by Dash Shaw:

1. Is it serious, funny, sad?

2. How do you think the artist made the video?

3. Why do you think the artist decided to turn a reality TV show into an animated video?

Choose your favourite artist in the exhibition and look carefully at a panel of one of their works.

Make a sketch of the panel here:

Write about the following:

a. Artist's technique (drawing materials, way of working):

b. Artist's style (describe the way the comics look):

c. Compositional elements:

Layout: _____

Use of angles: _____

Use of symbols: _____

Use of text: _____