

# VISUAL ARTS: PAT 1

## THEME: HOME



FIGURE 1: Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World, oil on canvas, 1948.

- This document is a brief on your first Practical Assessment for 2021. Use the information in this document as inspiration to help you to interpret the theme: **HOME**.

A home is usually seen as a place of residence or refuge. It is the place in which an individual or a family can rest and store personal possessions. It also refers to your country of origin and the place where you were raised. In this sense 'home' refers to a physical place, but 'home' may also relate to a mental or emotional state of refuge or comfort, and not to a physical site.

Home can be cosy, peaceful, safe, warm and familiar. It is usually seen as a place of stability and safety. Home can also be a troubling space, with uncomfortable memories and hidden fears. Can you remember when you were a small child, how you were afraid of what was under the bed or of the shadow behind the door?

There are many rituals we undertake in the privacy of our homes. Many cultures, ancient and modern, have household gods/relics they worship. Feng Shui is the ancient Chinese art which aims to ensure spiritual balance and good fortune within a space.

The word 'home' can also be used for various types of residential communities in which people live, such as nursing homes, retirement homes for seniors, prisons for criminals and foster homes.

Humans are generally creatures of habit and the state of a person's home has been known to physiologically influence their behaviour, emotions and overall mental health. People can become 'homesick' when they leave their homes for an extended period of time, such as attending boarding school, being in exile, et cetera.

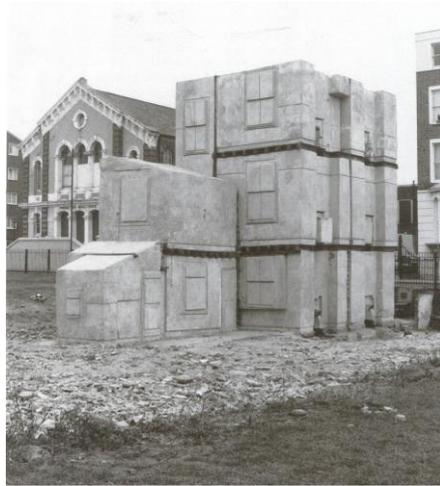


FIGURE 2: Rachel Whiteread, House, concrete, completed October 1993 and destroyed in January 1994.

Rachel Whiteread's House (FIGURE 2) is a recast of the entire three-floor interior of a semi-detached home in East London. Filling up the building with cement, then tearing the structure down around the concrete filling, left a monumental skeleton of a domestic space.

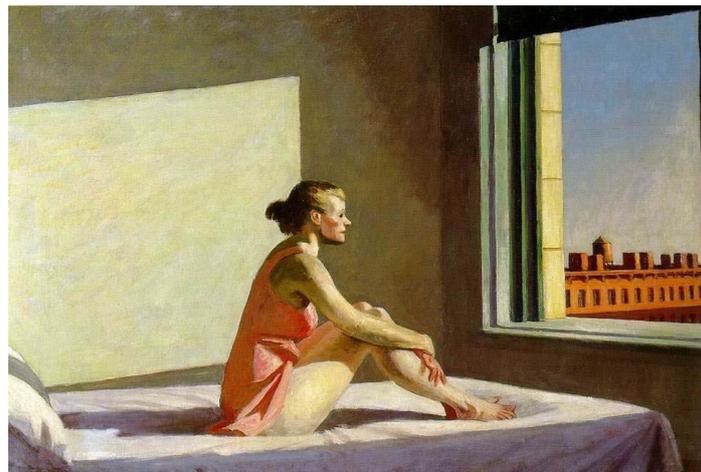


FIGURE 3: Edward Hopper, Morning Sun, oil on canvas, 1952.

The history of 'home' in South Africa is a long and often troubled story from the concentration camps during the Anglo-Boer war, to the forced removals of areas such as Sophiatown during apartheid, to the migrant mine workers staying in hostels, et cetera. One can also think of the increasing urbanisation where rural and traditional homes were left behind for a better life in the cities – resulting in squatter camps and other low-income housing. Although the South African Constitution states that 'everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing (section 26(1))' and that since 1994, more than 2,3 million housing units have been made available for nearly 11 million people, many people still live without basic amenities such as running water and electricity. Homes in South Africa range from the grand mansions of the very rich, to the uniformity of middle-class suburbia, low-cost housing and traditional rural homes to shacks and other informal settlements.

Also relating to 'home' are those without a home – the homeless. This could be a result of choice, or of economic and other social factors. These people, who often include children, are a familiar sight in our cities and towns.

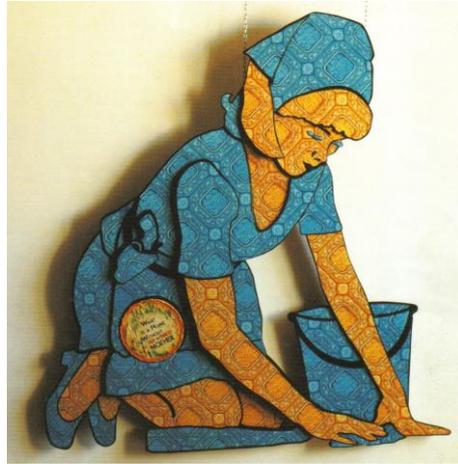


FIGURE 4: Lisa Brice, *What is a Home Without an Armed Mother*, 1995. Linoleum, wood, plaster plaque.

In FIGURE 4, traditionally the mother was the person who ran the household. The house was a place for women's work more than anywhere else.

There are many rituals we undertake in the privacy of our homes. The bedroom is a private space that is not usually shown to visitors. The most important item in the bedroom is the bed. The bed is a cradle that rocks us from birth to death; a stage upon which life's major dramas unfold.



FIGURE 5: Jan van Eyck, *Giovanni Arnolfini and his Wife*, 1435. Oil.

The wedding of Arnolfini, a silk merchant and his wife, in their bedroom.

This theme is open to many interpretations. It can be descriptive, symbolic or metaphorical. Using your research material, find an original and creative solution to create a truly individual interpretation of **HOME**.

You may consider the following in relation to the idea of '**HOME**':

- Personal space
- Physical space
- Emotional space
- Spiritual sense of home
- Memories of home
- Economic factors
- Social issues relating to home/homelessness
- Transience (Refugees: 'I carry my home on my back.')
- Meaning and histories of the domestic (often female) space
- The relationship between public and private spaces – bedrooms, wardrobes, bathrooms, et cetera
- A specific room and its function
- Feelings of security or fear; safety or danger
- The materials and physical structures of a home

You must now create an artwork in which you share your stories, ideas, emotions and thoughts related to the **HOME**.

- Read through this WHOLE document, there are tips and ideas to help inspire you in it.
- Remember your PAT follows a specific structure which I have written up as an Index (found on the next page).
- Paste the Index in your visual diary/source book on your first page for this PAT and leave the next page blank for number 1 from the Index.
- Then complete numbers 2 to 5 from the Index your visual diary/source book for your first lesson when you come to school.
- Remember you must find pictures to use as references for your drawings that will form part of your collage (number 5). I want to see every step that you take SO THAT I CAN HELP YOU!

## INDEX:

1. The PAT Brief
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3. Artists that inspired you
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5. Collage
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