# Mā te kimi ka kite, Mā te kite ka mõhio, Mā te mōhio ka mārama.

Seek and discover. Discover and know. Know and become enlightened.

Here at Northart you are free to create without judgement. Every mark you make has worth, even if you don't think so at the time - so you are invited to wave goodbye to self doubt or misgivings about your own creativity. Everyone is welcome adults, teens, children, experienced artists or those who have never drawn or painted before. Be inspired when you come and share our community art space.

This is a place to learn and grow. Visitors, guest artists and educators are encouraged to blossom and stretch those creative wings after leaving!

To arrange a class visit, contact our Art Educator: educator@northart.co.nz or phone: (09) 480 9633

# **RUTH CLELAND** 'TERAZZO'

Ruth Cleland invites us to slow down and notice our surroundings. Her detailed and photorealistic paintings pay attention to the everyday, mundane items that we usually ignore. Each painting is very precise, taking months to complete, leading us to question what is illusion and what is real?

Have you noticed the flooring in your local supermaket? Or the walls and ceiling of that parking building? Ruth Cleland has.

# Activity

#### Look around you. Look at the floor, the ceiling, the walls.

What do you notice? What colours do you see? Which bits are darker or lighter? Does the texture change? You might see speckles or streaks, dots or lines, random shapes, changes in tone, different colours or shades.

In the box write down or sketch some of your observations. Keep it simple. Feel free to discuss what you see with others.

1) Look the picture with the grid. 2) Take your pencil or coloured pencils and choose one square to start. 3) Draw just what is in that box onto your blank grid, make sure that the box you draw in is the in the same place as the one you are copying. 4) Take your time - there is no rush. Complete every square, if you like. You can try this at home too!

Did they notice anything that you didn't see? What did you spot that was different? What was similar?

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original subject.

**Ruth Cleland's process:** First notice the surroundings - take photographs - make sure to focus on the detail - select and print images to include in art - draw a grid over the print in pencil - select materials - draw grid onto the 'canvas' - carefully copy the original one square at a time.

#### The meticulous recreation of photographs show hints of Ruth's process. Look closely at the paintings. Can you see gridlines that she has used to accurately copy the photographs?

When creating the paintings, Ruth Cleland faithfully reproduces the photograph including any distortions. She is painting the photo, not the



## **GALLERY B OLIVER CAIN** 'LET'S START AGAIN'

Oliver Cain creates art from any material in any form. In Let's Start Again his focus is on subverted linguistic paintings. He cleverly uses a variety of symbols and shapes as thoughtful visual messages that aren't always obvious. The marks appear random, yet are made with meaning.

The art movements that have influenced Oliver Cain's practice include Pop and Post-Pop. He has mentioned artists Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons. Oliver likes to twist and transform stereotypes and famous art historical references. The simplified lines in these paintings convey discreet messages. His process is freeform, spontaneous and heartfelt. Oliver's advice for new artists - from an interview with Damlart.com: "just, just, just keep making work".

## Activities

Look closely at the artwork. What can you see? Can you spot the artist's name (or part of it) anywhere?



In the space below create some symbols of your own. Can you hide your name in there somewhere?

## Make it at home

1) Choose any surface (with permission!) and any drawing or painting medium that you have handy.

2) Create a background in one colour. Ensure the surface is dry then you can add more layers.

3) Choose some symbols such as letters, mathematical signs, hieroglyphics, or create your own! 4) Using another colour (or a range of colours), apply those symbols randomly to your work, building a composition.

5) Maybe you can hide your name or a message in the image somewhere? Take the freedom to make random marks that appeal to you.

### Learn some terms

#### Conceptualism

In Conceptual Art the idea becomes more important than the finished art. Conceptualism emerged in the 1960s and the term usually refers to art made from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s.

### Photorealism

Photorealism is also known as Hyperrealism or Superrealism. Photorealism is a painting style characterised by its painstaking detail and precision. It emerged in Europe and the USA in the late 1960s

### Pop Art

Pop art saw artists celebrate commonplace objects taken from popular culture. The images were easy to identify and the work questioned traditional definitions of 'Art' in America and Britain 1950s and 1960s.

www.northart.co.nz

### Investigate further

Look up the artist Keith Haring as well as 1980s graffitti.

> Which of our artists do you think is influenced by Keith Haring?

### References

Parental guidance suggested.

www.ruthcleland.com www.olivercain.com www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms www.theartstory.org artincontext.org

The Illustrated History of Art David Piper. Published 2004 by Bounty Books, London. ISBN: 9780753709085



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FOUNDATION BA



### **GALLERY A** RUTH CLELAND



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