

Section II Q8

Many artists use the structural frame, the communication between signs and symbols to create a visual language. ~~Even the~~ Even the physical materials of the artwork could be used in this frame work to emphasise the message that the artist is trying to put across. The artist uses these signs and symbols to create a meaning, which is read by the viewer who may or may not understand the artists background or the period in which ~~he~~ he or she works in. To analyse particular artworks it is often important to know some background knowledge of the artist, or they may not be able to decode the symbols and understand their meaning. Artist express their ideas to art collectors, critics, ~~but~~ historians, and the ~~generalist~~ wide viewing public. Artist that use these techniques include Peter Booth,

Anselm Kiefer and Bodys Isek Kingelez.

Peter Booth uses signs and symbols to communicate a visual language. His artwork is based on his background and memories of personal experiences in soot-black towns Sheffield, England, as well as from his dreams. Booth imagery is very dramatic as it combines the imagined with the observed. He is also obsessed with superstition and transformation. In his artwork he portrays the journey of a man passing through darkness, loneliness and isolation into a world of hope by using signs and symbols that represent nature, human kind, destruction, future and fate.

Booth painting "Painting" (1977) is crowded with symbols. The artwork shows a white-haired man travelling down a deserted

winding road. His piercing red eyes, a symbol of evil. The burning buildings in the background ~~are~~ are symbols of man's ultimate destruction on himself & humanity. The blood-red sun is a symbol of the basic life force. Booth uses strange 'biomorphic' imaginary figures and other symbols to represent nature and its fierce elements, such as snow and fire. He also uses plant shapes and other shaped objects such as simple trees or ~~spear~~^{spear}-shaped objects to suggest the direction which man is traveling. Booth uses the white dog as a contrast to the dark, destructive symbols representing hope, faith and trust. The paint (impasto) is ~~applied~~ applied in a 'ripping' expression across the canvas which expresses and enforces the physical and emotional connection between himself and his images.

Harper Booth also uses signs and symbols in his painting "Painting" 1982 which is a nightmarish scene of a nuclear war or an environment that has totally been broken down. In the foreground there is an 'executioner' type figure, ^{rapped in bandages like mummies,} ready to strike a blind folded victim who is almost begging for mercy; a 2-headed man and a 2-armed man with hooped feet, arms stretched out, and a clown to the right. All these figures represent the process of change and all take place in the hideous event. ^{that is about to take place} The severed foot is a symbol of the horrible events that have already taken place, and the gallery of people watching are symbols of victims who are next. Booth applies the paint very thickly which adds to the hopelessness, and

creates a mood of doom and gloom.

Peter Booth shows the audience through his artwork the destruction brought upon by war and the development on ~~man kind~~ ^{technology} that is destined to destroy humanity.

Booth draws from his personal experiences creating an intense message. Audience who are unfamiliar with Booth's background and the period in which it took place, ~~for example~~ the Vietnam War and the use of Agent Orange to defoliate the forests, may not be able to interpret the artwork fully, but will be able to understand his artwork is about a dark event due to the dark expressive colours Booth uses.

Anselm Kiefer uses signs as well as material properties to create a visual language. Kiefer is influenced by the negative aspects

of the war, in this case the Second World War and the Nazi Occupation of Europe as well as the old testament of the Jewish doctrine. Once again, it would be hard for the audience to interpret or understand his artwork if they did not ~~not~~ have the general knowledge.

Kiefer uses many common symbols such as aeroplanes, wings, ~~the~~ bridges to symbolise the sadness and the Nazi occupation of Europe. Kiefer's artwork explores the effects of concentration camps and the mass murders that were carried out by the Nazi regime. In 'Liliet's Tochter' Kiefer uses ashened dresses and hair, suspended from a tattered canvas. He combines the use of painting with collage to create the ^{dramatic} effect. His use

of wide range of media such as tar, straw, shellac, copper wires, breaks away from the traditional form of painting. The ashened dresses and the hair symbolise the women who had their hair shaved, were stripped and sent off to gas chambers. ~~A lead aeroplane is attached to the~~ This may also symbolise the ancient Jewish ritual of morning. A lead aeroplane is attached to the canvas ~~so~~ symbolising the power and the Nazi regime. The lead also has a different meaning, lead is very poisonous and can be seen through Kiefer's artworks as the poison done by the Nazi regime.

The 'interior' is a artwork of Hitler's ~~cottage~~ chancellery. The fire in the foreground represents the Nationalist ~~British~~ Socialist power. Kiefer also uses

strand to symbolise the Jewish people, and turned into ash when burned, takes the symbolism to another level. The viewer sees the ashened and desecrated room which shows the destruction brought about by the Nazi power. Kiefer's symbols and use of material property convey a meaning that may not be understood by the viewers because they may not know about his background and the period in which it was done.

Bodys Isek Kingelez is another artist who uses signs and symbols to communicate a visual language. Kingelez ~~represents~~ lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where he struggles to survive and ~~live~~ live and

Survive the turbulent political struggles of the Mobutu regime.

Mobutu created a country without freedom, peace and justice. This had a huge impact on Kingelez as well as the chaotic, corrupt atmosphere of Kinshasa (the city). Kingelez was in search for a 'perfect' city where there was 'everlasting peace, justice and world wide freedom.

The cities are built up of discarded cardboard, plastic and paper. The architectural modes show the different cultures and periods of the buildings.

In his "Project for Kinshasa in the Third Millennium", Kingelez create the perfect city for his people. It is an ideal city with

Schools, parliament building, homes, hospitals and a sports stadium. Each building is unique and has its own serial numbers and titles. There are both local and international brand names suggesting it is a world city. There is no poverty in this perfect city. There is no need for police men, soldiers or jails. The audience is able to sympathise with Kingez and his people.

Kingez is trying to change the views of ^{viewers} audiences and their living spaces by showing them a world where urban life can improve. With out the knowledge of the chaotic...

Signs and symbols are used to communicate through visual language and express the ideas of the artists such as Booth's dark paintings, Anselm Kiefer's gloomy collages and Klingele's perfect cities. But it may be hard for audiences to interpret the signs as they may not understand the artists' background.