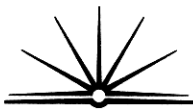


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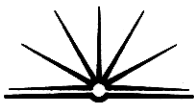
Artists are influenced by the world and society from which they come. The social values of a particular time and place can be captured in an artwork. Popular culture images ~~and~~ for communication purposes and designs help to demonstrate this reflection of society. Three artists who have shown such reflections in their works are Keith Haring, Chris O'Dherly and Howard Arkley.

Keith Haring believed he could change the global opinions on aids, drugs, racism and nuclear power through his works. He uses signs and symbols recognised throughout the world such as the cross, heart and dollar sign. This shows the influence his society has had upon him and how he wishes to interact with that society through his works. The world becomes a major



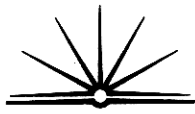
component in Harings works as his early works were drawn on walls in the subway, which had an element of danger ~~in~~ in it. His graffiti style and creation of icons which appear in many works add to ~~the~~ the impact ~~on~~ the world has had upon him.

One of Harings works intended to teach people about the dangers of drugs is "crack is wack". This work contains ~~his~~ his well known human figures which are dancing around with crosses on their chests, possibly symbolising death. There is a dominance of light blue contrast by an orange strip through the middle with the words 'crack is wack'. This ~~is~~ billboard like work reminds us of common signs and advertisements again representing the world from which



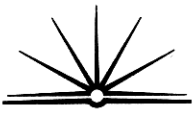
he is from. Haring's simplistic style and cartoon figures make his work light hearted and easy to understand. These images also appear on shirts.

Chris O'Dherby (aka Reg mombasa) uses ~~a cartoon~~ a simplistic cartoon style much the same as Haring. O'Dherby designs works to be mass produced and put on t-shirts. His works have immediate appeal and catch the attention of those who come from his world. One of his works 'the ghost of Dylan Thomas' shows the influence of the Australian suburban environment. This work has strong bold lines and shadows and bright colours and text, making it fall into the cartoon category. There is a dominance of pink and purple contrasted by ~~the~~ mellow yellows. O'Dherby expresses



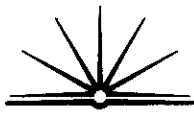
his interests and opinions through the text in his work, which reflects the society around him. The picture contain various well known objects such as fibro house, truck and power lines as well as some imaginary things the dog trumpets. O'Dherthy explores the Australian suburban environment and popular surf culture through an elaborate array of real and surreal images.

Howard Arkley is another Australian artist who has been influenced by the suburban environment. Arkley uses large canvases bright colours and air brushes to illuminate common suburban images. He wishes to show the audience the beauty in the surroundings of created environment. His work titled "triple fronted" is an example of



how common suburban environments can seem to be much more. This work shows an average suburban house which is boldly outlined in black with each enclosed section coloured with bright paint. This gives a colouring book effect and a mass produced feel which takes it away from being an Artists creation. Artley believes the suburban environment to be a beautiful part of our culture.

Through imaginative signs and symbols as well as bold cartoon like figures it can be seen that all three of these artists are influenced by the commercial world they live in. Popular culture and social values are reflected and questioned in these works. They will always reflect the view and values ~~of~~ of the society from



which they came.