



Ken Unsworth
Suspended stone circle II 1974–1977
 103 river stones, wire, 400 cm diameter
 The Art Gallery of New South Wales

Ken Unsworth (b. 1931) is a contemporary Australian artist who works in a variety of forms. Through sculpture, painting, drawing and installation he communicates a range of issues, emotions and interpretations in a highly conceptual manner. Unsworth invites the viewers to participate in a somewhat complex process, provoking them to respond physically, emotionally and mentally to his ideas.

Indicators for stage 3 outcomes

- appreciates the relationship between sculpture and the environment
- manipulates materials to create an abstract composition
- experiments with positive and negative spaces to create a 2-dimensional artwork .

A P P R E C I A T I N G

Write a list of questions that you would ask Ken Unsworth about *Suspended stone circle II*. In pairs students predict possible responses from the artist (*Shaping Ideas*: p 60).

Describe *Suspended stone circle II*, using metaphors and similes. For example:

As heavy as...

As light as...

It is...

(*Shaping Ideas*: p. 61)

Look at the caption referring to details of the scale and media.

Imagine yourself suspended or trapped in the work.

Create a word bank of verbs for the ways to interact with *Suspended stone circle II* (e.g. glide, float, bounce).

MAKING

Create a work made from natural materials (e.g. twigs, string, bark, pebbles) which explores the notion of suspension.

Experiment with ways to attach, hang, glue, tie, twist and secure the materials, defying gravity.

Select the most successful ideas from above to construct a class installation in an area of the classroom which accommodates scale, weight, tension and height. Appropriate materials could include fishing line, wire, rope, newspaper, masking tape etc.

Look at the lines created in *Suspended stone circle II* (vertical, crosshatched, curved, diagonal).

Produce a 2-dimensional abstract work based on these lines. Using ink and a range of implements (brushes, rollers, skewers, string etc.), create a variety of lines.

Observe the positive and negative spaces created through the intersection of lines.

Embellish the spaces, using dyes of harmonious or complementary colours, collage, newspaper etc. (*Shaping Ideas*: p. 26).

Suggestions for further study

Compare *Suspended stone circle II* with Godfrey Miller's *Still life with lute*.

Discuss the similar shapes and forms employed in each of the artworks.

Compare *Suspended stone circle II* with Christo's *Wrapped coast*. Question the notion of what constitutes an artwork. Who are the works created for and how does the artist employ everyday objects to create works of art?

Research the earth works made from stone by contemporary American artist, Andy Goldsworthy.

Language

everyday	abstract	line	installation
contemporary	crosshatching		harmonious
complementary			