



This is Not a Solo Show

Michelle Cawthorn and Peter Sharp

Worksheet for Primary School Students

Student Name: _____

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Michelle Cawthorn and Peter Sharp
7 March - 31 May 2026

Marking the tenth anniversary of their ongoing artistic collaboration, Michelle Cawthorn and Peter Sharp revisit *This Is Not a Solo Show*, a project exploring how their distinct practices intersect and diverge. While Sharp's paintings capture the external rhythms of the natural world, Cawthorn's works chart the internal terrain of thought and emotion.

Presented together, their works become a meditation on dialogue – between partners, materials and perspectives. This third iteration includes reconfigured works from earlier exhibitions at Verge Gallery, Sydney, 2016 and ANCA, Canberra, 2024, alongside new pieces conceived during their 2025 residency at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in Connecticut, USA.

Question 1
Art & Teamwork

Find this series of photographs



Image: Michelle Cawthorn and Peter Sharp , *Hospital Corners I, II & III*, 2016, pigment print on Premium photo paper, 80 x 53.4 cm

The title of these photographs refers to bed-making. *Hospital corners* is a special way of making a bed so the sheets stay neat, tight, and tidy, just like in a hospital!

In this series of photos artist couple Michelle & Peter are folding sheets.

What do you think the couple might be feeling while they fold the sheet?

How do you think they work together? What clues do you see?

What might they say to each other while doing this job?

Question 2

What is Collage?

Find this collage by Michelle Cawthorn



Image: Michelle Cawthorn, *Peter Portrait*, 2025, hand-cut collage on premium print paper, 30.5 x 22 cm

A collage is an artmaking practice made by sticking different materials together.

You can use things like paper, photos, fabric, leaves, magazine cut-outs, or your own drawings. When you glue all these pieces onto a page to make a picture, you've made a collage!

It's creating art by mixing lots of different pieces to make one interesting, creative artwork.

Michelle Cawthorn has created a portrait of her husband Peter Sharp using the art of collage.

In your own words, explain how the artist has done this by talking about the kinds of pictures she used and how she arranged all the parts of the artwork on the page.

Question 3

Find the Original

Find this print by Michelle Cawthorn

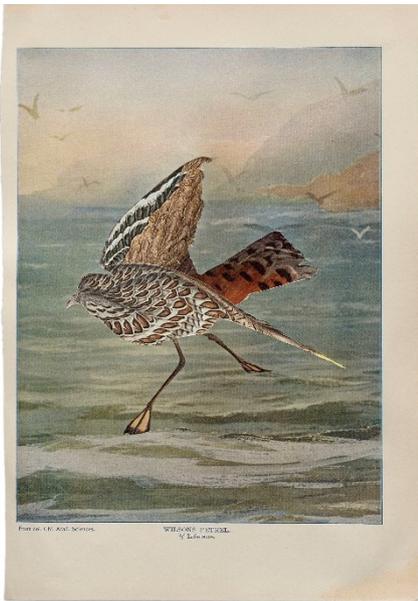


Image: Michelle Cawthorn, *Anni's Birds #11*, 2025, pigment print on archival cotton rag, 138.5 x 100 cm

This artwork is a print of a collage made by Michelle Cawthorn. The print is a bigger copy of her small collage of a hybrid bird.

Can you find the original collage?

A hybrid is something that is made by mixing two different things together. It has parts of both things. The artist used this idea to make a hybrid bird by combining different kinds of birds to create a make-believe one.

In your tour group, look closely at this artwork and see if you can work out which bird parts have been mixed together to make this hybrid bird.

Question 4

Interaction with Albers - Group Poem



Image: Peter Sharp, *Interaction with Albers* (installation), 2025, mixed media and collage on 90 sheets of paper, plus the original cover of the 'Interaction of Colour' book dimensions variable

During his 2025 residency at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, artist Peter Sharp did a special art activity every day. Each morning he tore a page from Josef Albers' famous book *Interaction of Colour* and used it to make a new mixed-media artwork. He called this daily

artwork his "interaction with Albers."

Today, we will continue this idea by making a group poem inspired by colour!

How the activity will work:

As a group, we will choose one colour.

Your Tour Leader will give each student a small piece of paper.

Think of one word that reminds you of the chosen colour, and write it on your paper.

Five students will come up to the front and place their words in a row–this will be the first line of our poem.

The next five students will create the second line.

We will keep going in groups of five until our colourful poem is complete!

Question 5

Artwork Treasure Hunt

Follow these steps to complete the activity:

- Explore the exhibition and look for the artworks shown below.
- When you find an artwork, put a tick in the box under the artwork image.
- When you've found all the artworks, go back to your tour guide so they know you've finished the treasure hunt.

