IADEA Annual Art Educators Conference
A workshop for:
Art Integrated Learning

Culture and Creativity

Art Projects for Primary Schools

Remember yesterday's talk?

According to the IEADE contributors, art and design education should catalyze qualities found in:

- Experience and in Freedom

We concluded with two questions:

- Do you believe it is more important that art offers learners freedom to create their own ideas or should learners learn skills in specific ways from experts (e.g. teachers)?

- Are values in experience and freedom counter to or incompatible with the tradition of experts teaching skills in specific ways to an inexpert students?

This workshop explores how learners can take control of meaning making as adults offer them the skills they need to make those meanings

Introducing creativity

Culture and Creativity
Art Projects for Primary Schools

One description of creativity:

"Seeing what no one else has seen, thinking what no one else has thought and doing what no one else has dared"

NESTA, *National Endowment for Science and Technology and the Arts*

Does that description fly in the face of a skilled person teaching skills to a less skilled person?

Introducing culture

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What do we mean by culture?

Slippery concept with many shades of meaning and uses in language:

Popular culture, the cultural industries, high culture, street culture, other cultures, folk culture, playground culture, multiculturalism, global culture, becoming cultivated

One well known working definition of culture from Clifford Geertze:

“The ensemble of stories we tell ourselves about ourselves”

(1975) The Interpretation of Cultures. London, Hutchinson

How can making art, craft and design help learners tell stories about their lives to share with others?

How can looking at art, craft and design help learners understand more about others’ stories?

Creativity supports creating cultural understanding

Skills are needed to support creativity.

The skills that are taught help define the ‘stories’ that can be told.

This workshop is one example of this idea in action.

Through imaginary places, communities and the resulting ideas spaces.

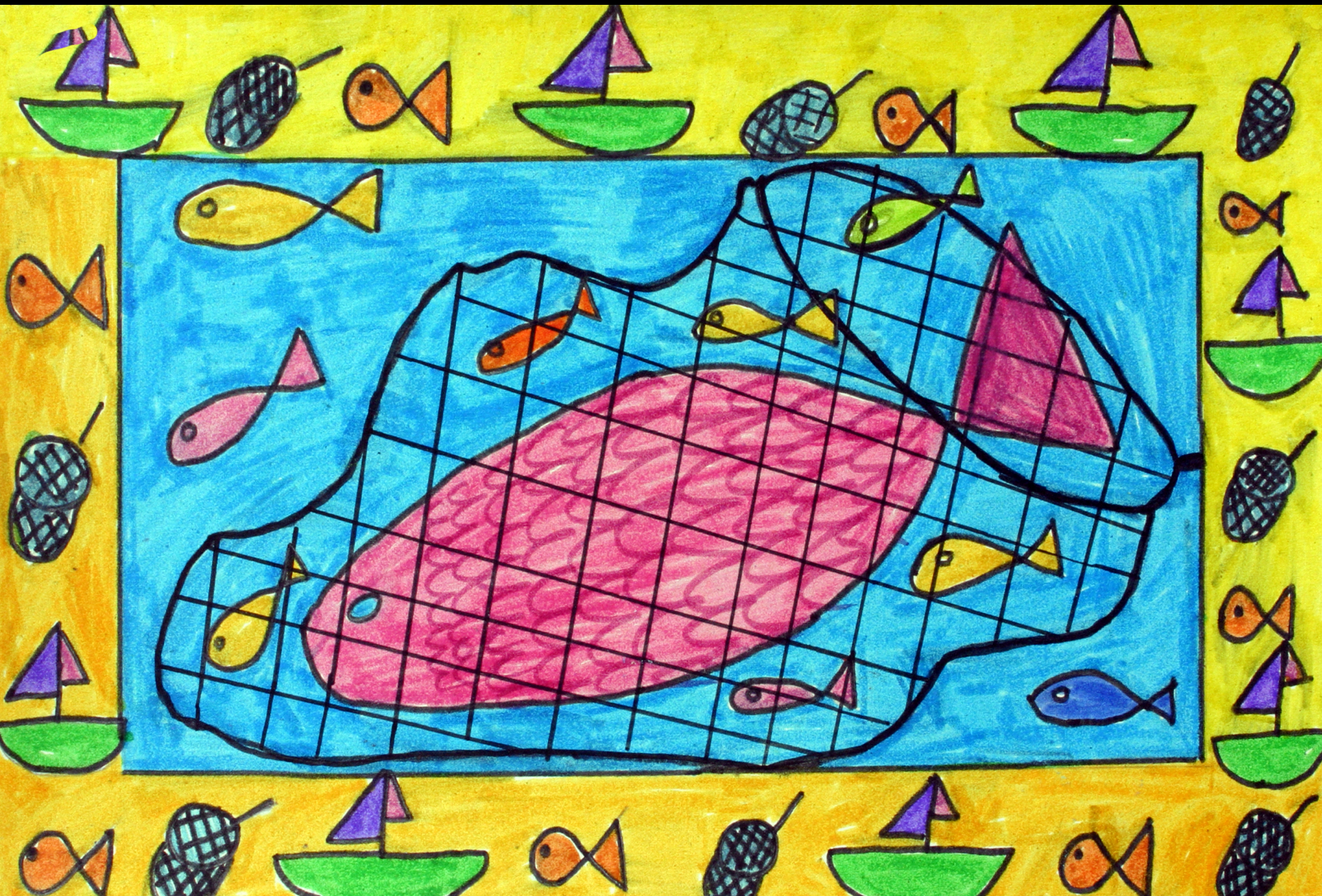
We can educate children about how culture works before showing them what culture is.

Learners invent imaginary cultures to understand more about how cultures work.

Teacher's island

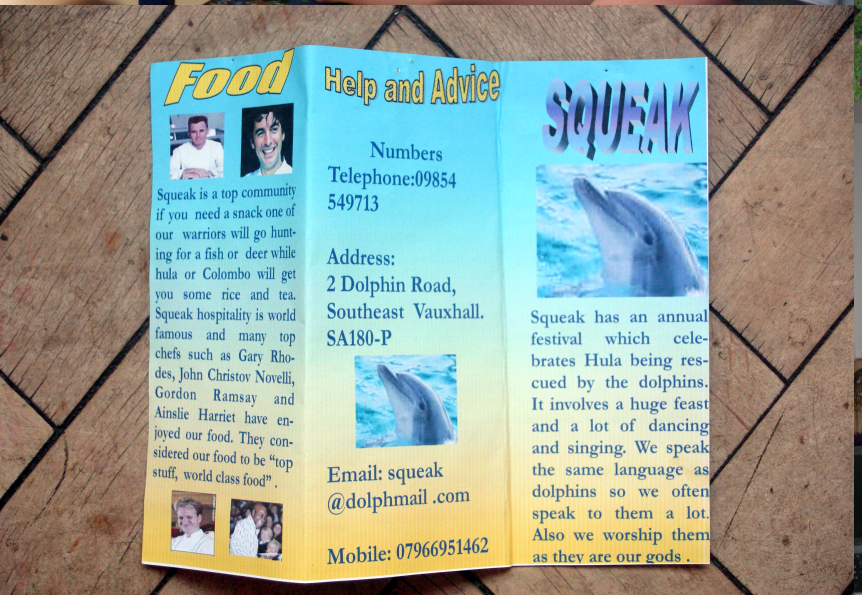
Children's Island

Designing for an imaginary community



Designing for an imaginary community

Ideas spaces – narratives – stories and the media

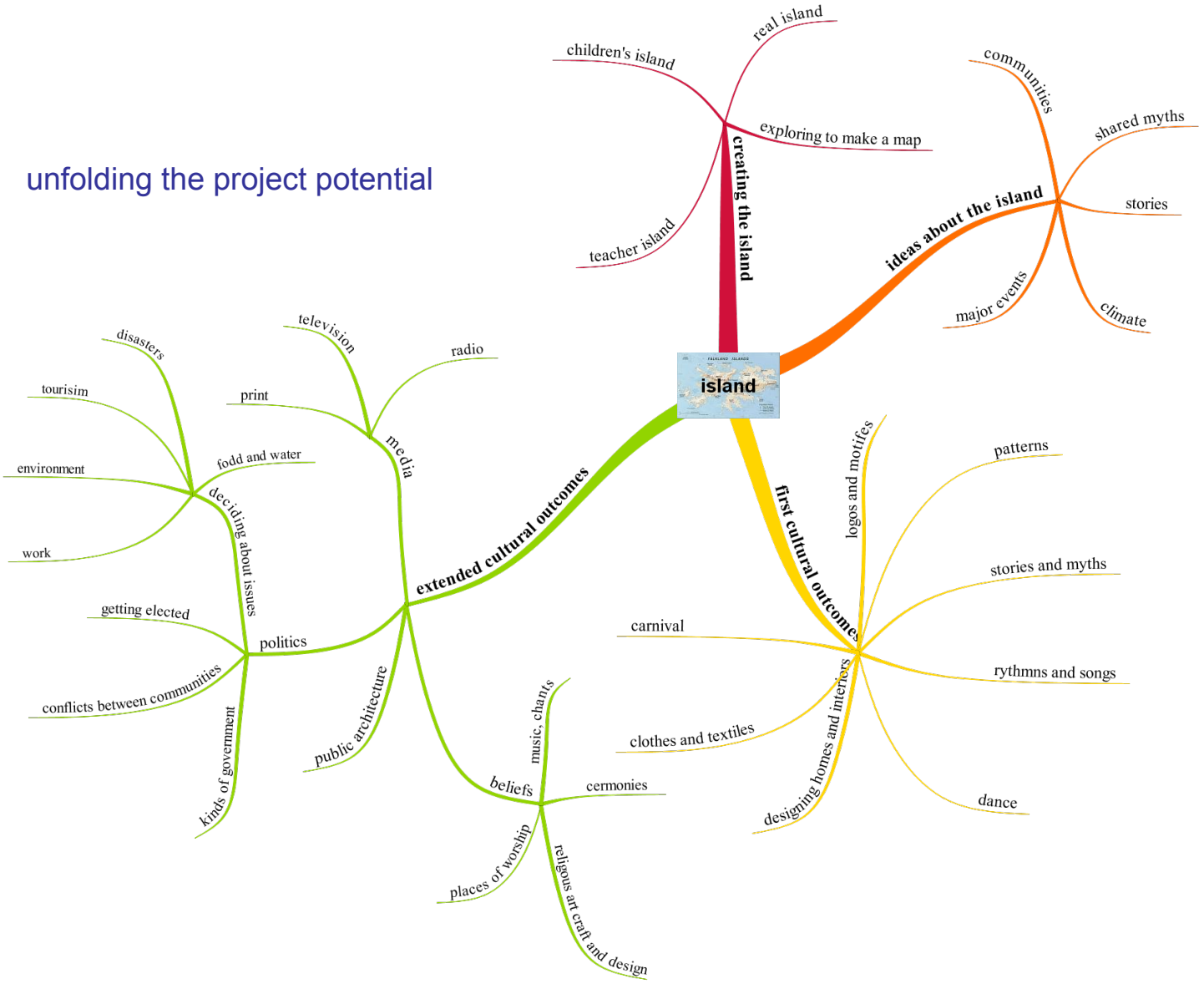


Precincts – ideas Spaces - politics

Ideas spaces – beliefs and the community

Dance, drama, festival and performance

unfolding the project potential



Questions or issues?
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I am also am working as an artist

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