

Teo Treloar

A Void A Maze

Worksheet for Junior High School Students

Student Name: _____

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Teo Treloar: A Void A Maze

Curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham

5 April - 29 June

A Void A Maze brings together drawings created over the last two decades by Wollongong-based artist Teo Treloar. In his finely rendered graphite drawings, a floating solitary male figure frequently appears as the artist's ongoing existential emblem of alienation and paranoia. A captain of bureaucracy, this anonymous everyman is held captive by the labyrinthine system he governs and controls.

A Void A Maze includes as its centrepiece, *Journal archive*, a collection of sketchbooks that have been stitched together as each one is completed. The ultimate artist's book, this capsule of drawings and its accompanying print edition was recently acquired by Wollongong Art Gallery, offering us a rare glimpse into the artist's process and private world.

Question 1

Subjective Viewpoint

Find this artwork

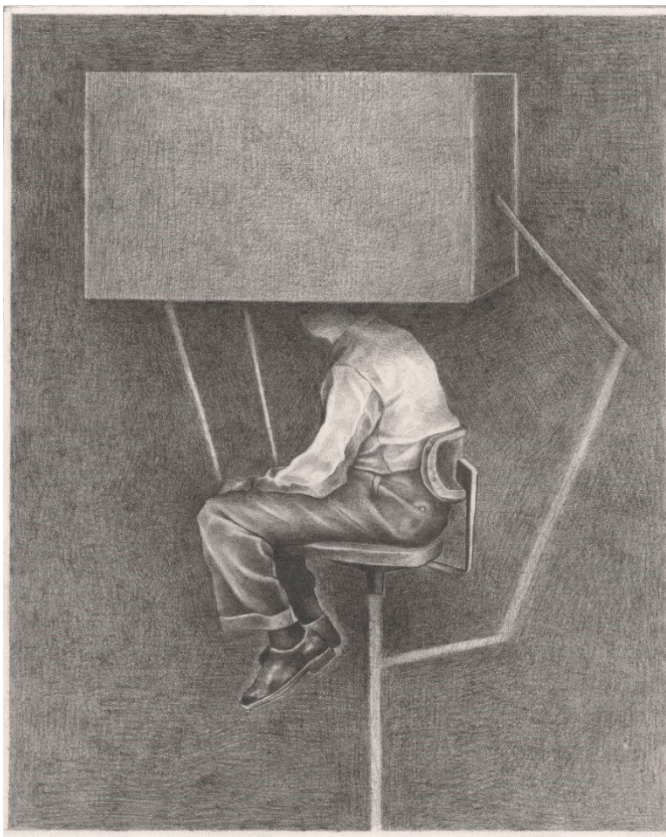


Image: *The wilful embrace of ignorance #3*, 2022, graphite pencil on 640gsm, Fabriana Artistico, 10 x 13 cm. Collection of Wollongong Art Gallery. Donated by the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts program 2025.

Curator, Daniel Mudie Cunningham writes:

Treloar's protagonist is a symbol of containment, a "middle-man of history," as he describes—a figure of privilege, yet ultimately forgettable. This faceless man is paradoxically both in control and controlled; he governs his environment while being rendered immobile within it. The constraints placed upon him mirror the perceived immovability of bureaucracy, a metaphor that Treloar employs to articulate his own struggles with mental health.

With this statement in mind, answer the following question.

How could the artist have felt during the process of making this artwork?

Question 3

Drawing Activity - Shading Tone

Teo Treolar has used tone to create depth in his drawings.

In art, tone refers to how light or dark something is. Tones could refer to black, white and the grey tones between. In real life tone is created by the way light falls on an object.

In the rectangle below, practice shading tone using your lead pencil. Depending on whether you are right or left-handed, shade from very dark to very light in the rectangle below.

Question 2

Structual Viewpoint

Find the following artwork:

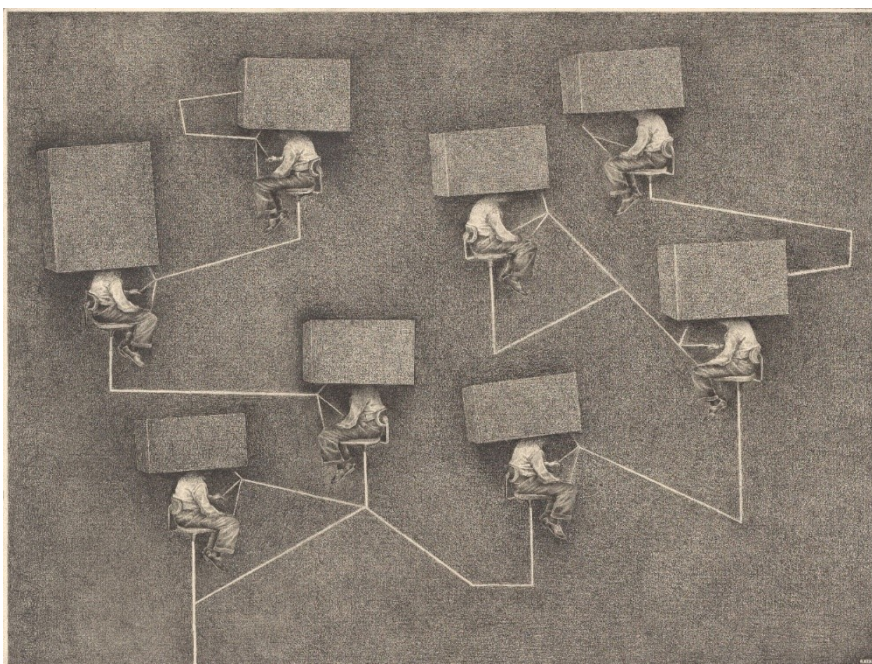


Image: *Still*, 2023, graphite pencil on Fabriano hot pressed paper, 63 x 81 cm. Kedumba collection.
Photography: Silversalt

Curator, Daniel Mudie Cunningham writes:

Each of Treolar's drawings is a study in (and product of) intense durational labour; a single work can take hundreds of hours to complete. Like an iterative set of puzzles, Treolar's practice is an exercise in problem solving, where the

chaos of life is configured as a looping and suspended situation. This is a world where the maze of the mind creates shapes and makes marks of the void.

How has artist used **tone** and **line** in this artwork?

Question 4

Haiku Poetry

In the box (word bank) below write as many words as you can that describe the themes present in this exhibition.

Now it's your turn to write a haiku poem, using theme of 'paranoia' as inspiration.

The haiku is a Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.

Use your word bank from above to help construct your haiku poem.
