



Greetings from Wollongong

Curated by Kaylene Milner with Louise Brand,
Aneshka Mora and Daniel Mudie Cunningham

Worksheet for High School Students

Student Name: _____

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wollongong
city of innovation

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14 June - 31 August

Wollongong has long been a nucleus of social consciousness, where the power of grassroots activism meets the force of visual culture. The working-class roots of the Illawarra region, deeply intertwined with steel-city labour politics and diverse communities, have nurtured a vibrant political and creative scene.

Greetings from Wollongong celebrates this rich history, highlighting the intersection of protest and politics with the vital energies of party and play. Wollongong-born designer, musician and WAG-WAH fashion label founder, Kaylene Milner, leads a curatorium to unpack this through the WAG collection rounded out with a selection of invited artists from beyond the Illawarra.

Iconic collection works from Redback Graphix (1979-1994) and a survey of the films of local director Mary Callaghan (1955-2016) form the central focus from which a larger group show emerges, examining the aesthetic language of social change here and elsewhere, past and present.

Through music, film, fashion, and art, this WAG-WAH collaboration explores the enduring spirit of resistance and expression that defines Wollongong's identity as part of a broader national conversation about social and political change.

Question 1

Cloze Passage - Who is Mary Callaghan?

Read the following information about filmmaker, Mary Callaghan and fill in the missing words.

Mary Callaghan was a pioneering Australian _____ whose work vividly portrayed the lives of marginalised _____, particularly in her hometown of _____. Her film *Greetings from Wollongong* (1982) offers a raw, social realist portrayal of four _____ navigating unemployment, social isolation, and _____ prospects in a city overshadowed by industrial _____.

decline	Wollongong	limited	filmmaker	communities	teenagers
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She collaborated closely with her _____, Michael Callaghan, the renowned printmaker and co-founder of _____. Michael's bold, _____ charged screenprints, including promotional materials for Greetings from Wollongong, complemented Mary's _____ vision, creating a powerful synergy between _____ and graphic art.

film politically Redback Graphix cinematic brother

Question 2

Cloze Passage - What is Redback Graphix?

Read the following information about Redback Graphix and fill in the missing words.

Redback Graphix was one of Australia's most _____ and influential _____ poster collectives of the late 20th century. It emerged in response to the social and political _____ of the time, particularly the impact of deindustrialisation, union struggles, and Aboriginal land rights movements. Founded in Brisbane in 1979 by Wollongong-born artist and designer Michael _____, Redback Graphix relocated to a studio in _____ in 1981 with co-founder Gregor Cullen and later moved to Sydney in 1985.

Wollongong upheavals Callaghan political iconic

Redback Graphix became renowned for its _____, screen-printed posters that combined the visual _____ of advertising with sharp political commentary. The group's distinct graphic style was shaped by a mix of pop art, _____ book aesthetics, and Australian vernacular culture. Their posters were accessible and eye-catching, designed to be seen on the _____ rather than in galleries, and often produced in _____ with unions, activist organisations, and community groups.

collaboration bold comic street language

Question 3

Structural Viewpoint

Screen printing is a technique for transferring a stenciled design onto a flat surface using a mesh screen, ink, and a squeegee. It's commonly used on fabric and paper, but with special inks, it can also be applied to wood, metal, plastic, and glass.

Also known as silk screening, the process involves creating a stencil on a mesh screen and pressing ink through it to imprint the design. Stencils can be made using:

- Masking tape or vinyl
- Painted screen blockers like glue or lacquer
- Light-sensitive emulsion, developed like a photo

Designs may use one or multiple ink colors, with each color applied in separate layers using different stencils.

Walk around the *Greetings from Wollongong* exhibition and find a print that you like best and answer the following questions.

List the name of the artist/s involved in making this print (use the exhibition roomsheet).

What is the title of the screenprint?

What year was it made?

How many colours used in this print?

What themes are visually represented in the print?

Walk around this exhibition and find a contemporary artwork that is **not** a Redback Graphix print.

List the name of the artist who created this artwork

What materials has the artwork used to make this artwork?

List the differences between this artwork and the Redback Graphix print you chose earlier.

Question 4

Artworld Concepts: World

As you walk through the *Greetings from Wollongong* exhibition, take note of the posters created by Redback Graphix.

List at least three protest themes you observe in the artworks. Think about the messages, imagery, and slogans used.

Reflect on the issues that matter to you today. If you were to create your own protest screenprint, what would you protest about?

What message would you want to communicate?

What imagery or symbols would you include?

Question 5

Design Your Own Political Slogan


Think about a **current issue** you feel strongly about—this could be related to the environment, education, equality, mental health, or any other topic that matters to you.

Create a **political slogan** that expresses your viewpoint clearly and powerfully.

In the box on the following page, use a **lead pencil** to design your slogan using **creative lettering**. Consider how the style, size, and shape of your letters can help communicate your message.

 (Draw your slogan here using lead pencil. Use bold, expressive lettering to make your message stand out!)



 If there's enough time, add colour to this slogan design. What colours will you use to make your slogan have impact?

Cover image: Redback Graphix, Michael Callaghan, Mary Callaghan, designer, *Greetings From Wollongong Postcard - Version 1* (detail), 1979, colour screenprint on paper, 16.7 x 21 cm. Collection Wollongong Art Gallery. Gift of Micky Allan 2020.