

The learner will create their own sculpture from recycled materials, inspired by the work of Sonia Gomes. They will then think about the journeys that these recycled materials have taken and write a short story about one of the materials/objects they used.

Estimated time = 1 hour

Curriculum Extract:

Pupils should be taught:

- To use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- To use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination
- To develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space
- About the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Key terms:

- **Recycle** - Recycling is the process of taking materials ready to be thrown away and changing them into reusable materials.
- **Sculpture** - A sculpture is an artwork that is 3D (three-dimensional - an object rather than a flat drawing or painting). Sculptures can be made by carving, modelling or placing materials together. They can be made out of stone, wood, fabric or any other material the artist wants to use!
- **Transformation** - To change the form, look, or shape of.
- **Liverpool Cotton Exchange Building** - Liverpool Cotton Exchange Building is an office block in Old Hall Street, in the city centre of Liverpool. The building is used mainly for offices today, but was originally a place for trading cotton and had both telephone and telegraph links to the USA, Germany and India.
- **Personification** - Personification is when you give an animal or object qualities or abilities that only a human can have. Personification is what writers use to bring non-human things to life.

LB2021 Project:

Sonia Gomes presents four fabric sculptures at the Liverpool Cotton Exchange Building. Gomes makes her sculptures using materials that have been given to her by others – taking on leftovers and combining them to create works of art.

Mainly created using second-hand clothing and wires, Gomes's transformation of unwanted, recycled materials gives them a new life. She thinks of her sculptures as holding the memories of all the materials' previous owners.

Think about the following questions to help you explore the themes of Sonia Gomes's work:

- How many owners do you think these materials have had in their lives?
- How many countries have they passed through to reach Liverpool?
- How many years have they existed for?
- What stories do you think they would be able to tell if they could talk?



Sonia Gomes, *Timbre*, from Raíz series (2018)



Sonia Gomes, *Haito* (2019)

Activity Instructions

1. With an adult, search around your home or school for materials that you can reuse and recycle. This could be fabric (old bedsheets, old clothes that no longer fit you) or other materials such as plastic bottles or cardboard.
2. Create your own sculpture using these materials. You can create any shape you want! Do you want to add colour? Use paint or felt tips to make it bright. You could use lots of different methods to attach your materials together. You could tape them together, glue them, tie them with string or sew them together (with adult supervision).
3. When you are happy with the shape and colours of your sculpture, think about all the materials that have come together to create this one object. How many objects have you used? Count them!
4. Think about where all the objects have come from. Where did you or your adult get them from? The supermarket? A clothing shop? A sibling? Were any of them gifted to you or given to you by a relative or a friend?
5. Think about the journeys that these separate objects have travelled before they came to be with you and before they all came together to form one object.
6. Create a story from the perspective of one of the objects. Use personification to give the object life. Think about how you would feel to travel on a journey, passing from person to person and to be eventually reused and given a new life alongside lots of different objects. Use the box on page 4 to plan your story.

Materials:

- Materials that you no longer want (fabric, cardboard etc.)
- String, tape, glue - anything to tie the materials together
- Paint or coloured felt tips - any medium to add colour to your sculpture!
- Pen
- Paper

