

INSTALLATIONS AND PERFORMANCES

<http://www.tate.org.uk/context-comment/video/tateshots-roman-ondak-measuring-universe>

Go to the website at the top of the page; here you will find a video on an installation at the Tate in St Ives.

Task 1: Listen and watch the video; then answer the following questions.

1. Is the man talking the artist? Who is he?

My name is Martin Park, I am the artistic director at Tate, St Ives

2. What is the title of the installation?

Measuring the Universe

3. What was the starting point?

The work started as a completely empty white room

4. How long did it last?

3 months

5. What was the inspiration for the project?

When Roman Ondak talks about the work, he has talked about the fact that, you know, he has young children and like many other parents, he measures his children against the doorframe and it was that action and that very simple, very universal thing of measuring your children as they grow up and he decided to expand into this amazing, much more kind of universal and in a way, profound installation.

6. Who was the first person to be measured?

The speaker - I have the honour of being the very first person to be measured on the first day of the show when it opened,

7. What ideas does the installation inspire in the viewers?

I think it really does begin to make you think about ideas of space in the universal and the infinite in a really interesting way but it is also very, very personal and this sense of this kind of white void when the exhibition opened being slowly built by all of these points, these names and it is almost like a kind of constellation of stars.

8. How many names are there?

I think we are probably around 90,000 at the moment

9. What will happen at the end of the installation?

But at the end of the show everything will be painted over and everything will be gone but it will have had this life for this period and before that period will have been a very dynamic growing, living artwork.

Task 2: Now listen again and complete the gaps.

(...) The work started as a completely empty white room and over the course of the last three months it slowly developed and developed and we now have this extraordinary kind of dense, black band with names running all the way around the gallery space. .

(...) he measures his children against the doorframe and it was that action and that very simple, very universal thing of measuring your children as they grow up and he decided to expand into this amazing, much more kind of universal and in a way, profound installation.

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(...) When you see the peoples reaction to the work both physically and visually but also when they get measured, often they are very delighted and there is a very nice sense of a kind of closure to the exhibition.

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WRITING FOLDER : Visit this website (<http://poppies.hrp.org.uk/about-the-installation>) where you will find information about an installation placed outside the Tower of London¹. Think about the significance of the installation, about the meaning and origin, about the impact it has on the viewer, about the impact it has on you, about the length of the piece, etc. Write a small text in which you outline these ideas; use appropriate tenses and contrasting linking words.

1 Poppies are the flowers that grew in the trenches during the I World War; they soon became a symbol of innocence lost and of the blood of the soldiers. The I World War was the first modern war, fought with new weapons and gases that killed big numbers of soldiers. In Britain, the government encouraged young men to enlist, promising them they would have great adventures and become heroes. In reality, great numbers of young men lied about their age, went to the trenches, and they either died horribly or were deformed by bombs. Many others could never forget the horrors they had seen in the battlefield and returned home traumatised: they had nightmares and many became addicted to drugs and alcohol.