Big blue ball : pictures, people, place ; connecting the world through creativity. Book 2

Donna Wright
Southern Cross University

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Big Blue Ball – Pictures, people, place

Connecting the world through creativity

Book 2
An international arts-based research project that explores the nature of meaning-making and the role of creativity in providing innovative sites for sharing understanding about intercultural existence.
Big Blue Ball – Pictures, people, place
Connecting the world through creativity

A dissertation submitted
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the higher research degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Donna Wright

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Southern Cross University
Lismore, Australia
Project overview

*Big Blue Ball: Pictures, people, place* is a practice-led research project that investigates the making of meaning in a contemporary intercultural lifeworld, where global cultural flows are increasingly interconnecting and transforming our societies. Through the development of a practice-based research strategy that draws on the visual and creative arts, *Big Blue Ball: Pictures, people, place* has aimed to build on our understandings of both the nature of meaning-making and the significance of creativity and creative practice in setting up sites that can support innovative thinking about contemporary cultural issues of a globally interactive world.

*Big Blue Ball – Pictures, people, place* actively engages dialogue with a diverse range of cultures through individuals responding to pictures. The project has creatively explored how meaning can be reconstructed through cross-cultural exposure and intercultural exchange. Through a process of cooperative engagement with cultural diversity, and assisted by the communication tools of the visual and creative arts, the project has allowed for the emergence of hybridised interpretations, brought about by the collision and/or interaction of different meaning spaces already formed in project participants by embedded cultural memory codes.
Participants in the *Big Blue Ball project* have been drawn from a broad cultural cross-section of the global community; over 100 young adults from more than 65 nationalities have taken part in the research to date and it continues to regularly engage new members. A selection of eight specifically adapted images, referred to as *primary cultural texts* are provided to project participants for interpretation. These selected images have been modified through digital editing and traditional painting techniques, lifting them out of their original semiotic context, thereby increasing uncertainty and ambiguity in meaning generation. Because of the heterogeneous nature of cultural conventions, and with the absence of a common cultural memory code, the project’s aim has been to activate the creative function, triggering negotiations of meaning during the interpretation process. As the creative function is considered a universal quality of human expression, indeed of all life form, the project exploits creative processes so that fresh ideas about how meanings are negotiated in a contemporary lifeworld can emerge.

The selected *primary cultural texts* are supplied to participants as A-4 colour reproductions and in digitised electronic format. Project participants are asked to search out and locate their preferred meanings by drawing on their familiar cultural systems, social practices and language structures. Encouraging the use of the communication technologies developed within the creative and visual arts has given participants the opportunity to expand interpretive possibilities, dynamically activating creative processes, and allowing for a diversity of representation that might more adequately serve to illustrate their ideas. Project members have responded by writing descriptives, poetry, narratives and free word associations; in English and in their first language. Paintings have been produced, digitised images have been created, images have been hybridised and other pictures and photos have replaced them.
The theoretical framework for this research project has positioned images as being central to the representation of the world, therefore the structure of the project’s methodology has aimed to go beyond established modes of interpretation in order to allow meanings to come forward by exploiting the visual as a cultural resource, and by drawing on self-reflexivity to reveal how embedded cultural narratives are imbued with the values of a contemporary lifeworld. Through a multidisciplinary methodological approach to theoretical inquiry, the project ties qualitative research techniques to practice, and to the experiential processes that operate in the field of the visual. In doing so practice-based research strategies take on varied artistic forms with the experience of art making and visual imaging facilitating creative dialogue across cultures, contributing to the creation of new knowledge that might enhance the potential for breaking down cultural barriers, and therefore, provide a situation conducive to setting up sites for shared understanding.

Big Blue Ball: Pictures, people, place has aimed to build on our understanding of the contemporary phenomenon of intercultural existence and how we might perceive global interactivity in everyday life. The thesis put forward in this dissertation asserts that the creative practice of viewing and making art can offer a distinctive communicative language for inquiry and exploration into all that presents itself to us, carrying with it the ability to reach across cultures and generations and connect us in ways that oral and written communication may not.

With this proposition put forward for investigation the research framework was modelled using a number of physical methodological components that fundamentally incorporated visual and creative arts research practices to identify and examine the making of meaning across cultures within the context of a contemporary intercultural landscape.
The project’s research outcomes therefore form a collection of visualized ideas, data, texts and objects that may help us to define ways in which we imagine and relate to contemporary global culture. These findings are documented and presented as a three-part publication series. **Book 1** takes the form of an exegesis which presents the research framework, including the key focus of enquiry, the theoretical foundation, disciplinary and wider contexts and the methodological principles, processes and outcomes. This is **Book 2** of the publication series and is designed to be viewed in conjunction with the exegesis. It showcases the intercultural interpretations collected during the course of the research from over 100 project participants representing more than 65 nationalities around the world. **Book 3** reproduces 170 hand-painted miniatures that emerged as a consequence of a creative interchange between myself as artist/researcher and participants’ interpretations of the project’s primary cultural texts.

**Project members**

The success of *Big Blue Ball: Pictures, people, place* is due to the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants; more than 100 young adults representing over 65 nationalities. Acknowledgement and appreciation is extended to these young people who took time out of their own busy lives to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas, and to contribute to broadening our understanding of our contemporary intercultural world. Project participants represented in this publication are listed below in order of nationality.
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<td>Antony Simbowo</td>
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<td>Kenneth Msiska</td>
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<td>Pauline Hui Ying, Ooi</td>
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<td>Maori-New Zealand</td>
<td>Mariana Whareaitu</td>
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<td>Charlo Seychell</td>
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Philippines  Geri Niemi
Romania  Stafei Florentina
Russia  George Kesselman
Saudi Arabia  Adel Abu Haimed
Slovenia  Ursula Jasovec
South Africa  Cassandra Hunter
Sri Lanka  Asanga Pradeep S.Coorey
Sudan  Elia Michael Mbiko
Sweden  Helene Pihlstrom
Sweden  Katarina Lindstrom
Syria  Rhoda Azizogli
Taiwan  Aska Weng
Taiwan  Szu-Hui Wu
Taiwan  Wang I Sheng
Taiwan  Yu-Ling Lin
Taiwan  Tony Hsu
Thailand  Prahm Janpasa
Thailand  Saran Lumwanna
Tonga  Kane Satui
Tunisia  Marouen Mraihi
Turkiye  Ramazan Cin
Uganda  Paul Ssendagire
Ukraine  Oleksiy Kuzmenko
United Arab Emirates  Lamya Hussain Gargash
USA  Karen Sommers
Uzbekistan  Sevara Turaeva
Vietnam  Nguyen Thi Ngoc Bich
West Sahara  Oruntomigbekele Fasina
Yemin  Mohammed Saleh Ali Al-Rumin
Zambia  Thandiwe Ngoma
Stage 1: Making pictures for intercultural exchange

Big Blue Ball – Pictures, people, place utilises the inherent creative function of picture-making as a practical methodology that encourages discourse and the sharing of ideas amongst a diverse range of cultures. The project creatively explores how meaning is negotiated when participants are exposed to the ambiguity of the project’s primary cultural texts. Stimulated by visual dissonance, interchanges of imagination allow for novel constructions of meaning to emerge and be shared. This is based on the premise that because of the heterogeneous nature of cultural conventions, participants will seek out a resolution to the uncertainly that is activated by viewing the primary cultural texts. The creative function will be activated in each participant, triggering negotiations of meaning during the interpretation process.

A substantial compilation of images were initially collected, gathered from magazines and publications dating from the 1970s. All of the photographs represented human-made environments or objects; cultural artefacts. The photographs were then identified for their richness of visual information and for their potential to undergo a reductive process in order to enhance cultural ambiguity. Eight images were subsequently developed for the Big Blue Ball project. In producing specialised pictures for interpretation the project integrated three art practice-based construction types: photography, painting, and computer-mediated graphics. The photographs, or rather, the photographic reproductions, were digitally scanned, cropped, and then further manipulated through traditional painting techniques and computer-aided graphics tools, with the purpose of enhancing ambiguity in meaning. This process of progressive modification has essentially stripped the pictures of their original contextual anchoring, whilst retaining valuable cultural content that can be renamed and repositioned, effectively creating new meaning spaces in which fresh interpretations can emerge.
Primary cultural text 1
Primary cultural text 2
Primary cultural text 3
Primary cultural text 4
Primary cultural text 5
Primary cultural text 6
Primary cultural text 7
Primary cultural text 8
Stage 2: Project participants express their worlds

Participants in the research are young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 years; most are in their twenties. While participant recruitment has drawn on a range of communication technologies it has fully utilised the potentiality of computer-mediated communication processes in order to reach out to diverse global regions. Face-to-face communication was initially used to activate the networking process with students, family, friends, friends of friends etc spreading the word, which was then supported by a range of communication devices including email correspondence. Internet forums and international websites provided an opportunity to post the project details, enabling people from around the world the opportunity to learn about the research and to make contact with myself and vice versa.

Once initial contact is made with potential contributors, a process of ongoing dialogue begins where detailed information about the research, the project generally and expected outcomes is exchanged. They are made aware of their potential role in the project, the collaborative nature of the research processes and are advised of the ethical considerations put in place for the protection of those involved in the project. If they are interested and willing to be part of the project, they are then sent an information sheet, a consent form and a random selection of the eight primary cultural texts. They are advised that they cannot be registered as participants in the project until they have returned a consent form agreeing to have their name, age and nationality made public in various related publications and viewing sites. This initial communication exchange accesses all nationalities but for practical reasons is carried out in the language of English, although dialogue between some participants may be assisted via an English
translator for the introductory stage. This ensures that participants are fully aware of the ethical considerations put in place for their privacy protection.

Project participants are asked to interpret the *primary cultural texts* provided to them but have been offered little cues as to the direction they are to take; only that each has the opportunity to freely search out and locate their preferred meanings by drawing on their familiar cultural systems, cultural memory codes, social practices and language structures. They are advised that they can make use of the tools of the creative and visual arts in order to express themselves beyond prose. Participants have the opportunity to utilise visualisation strategies to shape their ideas and inform their actions. Seeing and knowing through images and negotiating the visual world is part of everyday experience regardless of nationality. Responding to the *primary cultural texts* using creative practice techniques can encourage the expansion of imaginative possibilities, offering participants a fertile environment for creative reflection and representation of ideas.

Robert Solso believes that the brain, consciousness, cultural developments, and art are co-evolutionary and that both the mind and art coexist within the same system, in a single physical universe. Nonetheless, the way an individual thinks about art or interprets a visual object will be influenced by personal experiences, histories and genetic predispositions (2003). Context therefore is an important factor in the understanding of pictures, so while the formulation of ideas is a creative process that depends on individual imaginative preferences, the practice is also mediated by collective cultural contexts. We search out meaning that coincides with our view of the world.

While participants have been encouraged to attempt an interpretation for each *primary cultural text*, it is stressed that it is more important to the project that
they feel comfortable with their level of involvement. The emphasis is on enjoyment of the process. As responses are returned, they are collated into the larger collection and formatted for a range of viewing sites. All visual representations are photographed and/or electronically scanned so that they can be moved around across a variety of media.

The responses represented in this publication series have been executed without any reference to other participants’ interpretations. Each participant has worked alone in expressing ideas and visualizations that best signify their individual thoughts and feelings in response to the primary cultural texts. This has been an important strategy for the project’s integrity in relation to maintaining the theoretical position from which the methodological structure was built. Confrontation and interaction between different socio-cultural codings activates semiotic dynamism. Because of the deliberate cultural ambiguity of the primary cultural texts participants experience a visual dissonance and resolution to this tension is required either through reduction, reinterpretation or change. Disruptive encounters with the unfamiliar or the untranslatable, rather than shutting down the system, will draw out creativity and new ideas can emerge. This generative process, vital to cultural change and diversity, is what the project exploits, the results of which are reproduced below.
Participants’ creative responses to primary cultural text 1

Primary cultural text 1
Lamya Hussain Gargash, 24  United Arab Emirates
George Kesselman, 23  Russia
Mélanie Ovaert, 26  France
Layla Soroush, 27  Iran
Kate Terton, 37  Germany
Rainadi Damursyah, 20  Borneo
Johnbosco Kenneth Amakeze, 28  Nigeria
Mai Samaha, 23  Egypt
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
Sarah Nasser, 19  Cayman Islands
Norma Elvira Carías Montiel, 32  

Honduras
Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaiján
Nhuyen Thi Ngoc Bich, 27  Việt Nam
Mariana Whareaitu, 19  Māori-New Zealand
Journeys have turns and twists.
Henra Nagraha, 22  Indonesia
Theingi Tun, 36  Burma

It brings me the feeling of home
It brings me the warmth of home
Of the time when I was young
Life a journey not begun
Eager to be on my way
Fight the battles come what may
Knowing I always have a place
Where I am truly loved and safe

Uršula Jašovec, 19  Slovenia

Picture with many meanings
Blago, kvačkanje, babica, dolgotrajno, a truda vredno delo ... toplina, zimski večeri
ob ognju, živo rdeča z umirjenimi barvami- krik v pomirjeni duši, mirnost ...

Študija blaga- TIHOŽITJE
Vidno tudi abstraktno, nenavadno: igla (kvačka), jetra/nekakšno uho, griva, senca
človeškega telesa na levi strani slike
Mešanje kriččih barv z nežnimi
Kraljev plašč, ki ovija neko osebo (kralja) v toplo, debelo blago. V rokah drži žezlo,
jegov plašč pa spenja nekakšna zanimiva sponka.
Rusija- prispodoba bogatega kralja, ki vlada svoji državi kravavo (kri-rdeča) s trdno
roko (špičasto žezlo, ki ga drži) in “nečloveškimi” sredstvi (spomnka, ki spominja na
čuden organ/žival)
SCREAM FOR ATTENTION in a peacefull place of pretendance, where power is all
around us
Elnara Babayeva, 25 Azerbaján

The first image has evoked some interesting feelings... I have imagined the old lady sitting in a dark room, knitting a red carpet for some special occasion. The lady is too old and gets easily tired, so she proceeds with the knitting slowly, making small breaks and staring at the results of her work. She has probably fear not to finish her work in time, but still she is doing her best. For which purposes she is knitting this carpet is unknown.

María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18 Colombia

It means to me like something old and I think I saw hanged something like this in some country house.

Ashneel Khatri, 19 Indian Fiji

Weaving blankets, busy, confused, a farmhouse where someone left their gardening tools and supplies.

Rainadi Damursyah, 20 Borneo

I look at this image and thought this as traditional clothes of a particular culture. The design, colour, and the thing look like a scarf makes it even more look like traditional clothes. This image also reminds me of an old civilization in a snowy area, because of the thick material used. An example of this could be the traditional clothes of the Mongolian called Buryat. The Buryat dress is quite similar.
Shize Liu, 22  China

In a poor family there are lots of children. But there is no money to feed them and no money to buy clothes. An old mum who supports the family has to make sweaters for her children. Too much work for her. One day she stopped. Cannot make anything anymore. Only leave the half of the sweater and lots of children who may follow their mum soon.

Aye Win Myint, 27  Burma

I feel like this picture is representing the Chin tribe’s knitting. Chin state is located at the upper part of Burma. Chin people are living near around India. That state have very steep hill and temperature is very cold. Therefore they wear a very thick hand made cotton. Old lady is carrying a bag of cotton roll on their back and making knitting by their hand just like in this picture. They are knitting cotton while they are walking to other village or visiting. So they design them what they saw on the way through. Their hands were knitting while they are walking, when they reach to another village they finish knitting for scarf or hat. They knitting scarf, hat, sock, and sweater etc.

Antony Felix Simbowo, 25  Kenya

It brings out a sense of relaxation. Possibly in a quite cool park. The nature of the shawl as well brings out nature, i.e. the presence of an animal nearby possibly a sheep nearby. One can also see the harmony and interdependence between man and domestic animals. The red colour curves out a sense of the need for recognition...a scream for recognition (such type of clothing is definitely not good in red colour).
Shen Hui-hua, 30  China

We can see from the picture how human being’s (woman’s) wisdom. Just use one needle and thread. Thread they make kinds of goods which like scarf, sweater and so on. Life is so beautiful and warm in the world.

MD Sharawar Taman Dhali, 25  Bangladesh

The cloths look like Ireland scarf. The picture seems to me that, Irish people gave lot of blood fight with English to get freedom.

Ka-Man Carmen Yim , 20  Hong Kong

A young girl trying her best to knit a scarf as a Christmas present for her boyfriend. She is waiting for that day and hoping her boyfriend will like it.

Francklin Pierre, 28  Haiti

I had a cultural and artistic view on that picture. It brought me very far. As soon as I saw it the first subject which came to my mind was the Indians of the Americas. Through this picture I had the feeling that I am in contact with one or more cultures. A culture which is not that one of the big cities. It makes me think about the peasants of Peru, and those who are in the reserves in United States etc. It did not frighten me, it did not make me cheerful either. But when I’m looking at it, and trying to understand it, I feel good when I only accept it as an artwork.
Adel Abu Haimed, 25 Saudi Arabia

The image of the red hand woven cloths remind me of hand made items that older people would have as they used these colours for women dress called the thobe and it has a significant place in my culture. Although today you don’t see many people wearing them as they do not fit in the fashion category, but some people living in the Bedouin life style still wear them. Also they are used for tourism because they are highly in demand by the tourists.

Tony Hsu, 24 Taiwan

A dead woman. The arrow killed her. The red part are her blood

Anas Alabbadi, 30 Jordan

Traditions and hand crafts, It’s old, for me it gives me feelings about the desert and Bedouins, I can imagine a Camel next to this photo. But when I think about it deeply, I can see pain, very deep pain in this photo.

Pauline Hui Ying Ooi, 25 Malaysia

It looks like a headgear or some clothing ornament worn by people in places such as Mongolia and Nepal to keep them warm. I formed an image of a wide brown open land with tents scattered around the area. I could see llamas and donkeys. I thought about butter tea and I imagine the people to dress up in colorful, elaborated traditional costumes, young, old, men and women alike.
Pascal G Bekono, 27 Cameroon

Cette image représente un tronc d’arbre sur lequel on a entourer un manteau ou un tapis de en fourrure coloré faite de peau d’animaux. Et est accroché à cela une pelle.

Ewe Terton, 40 Germany

This image evokes associations with my mum and it also reminds me about indigenous people from Peru. My mum is a very important person for me, she was always there if I needed her, she gave me comfort and security, love and warmth. The red warm colour, the archaic fabric and the knitting needles creates exactly this kind of feeling. The artefacts in the image look like an island drifting in the black nothingness. The island contains life, warmth and implies the concept of reincarnation. Women in Peru wear very colourful clothing; they are traditional and stem from an old culture. The Indios had to fight and survive the Spaniards a lot of blood was shed during the past. Most of their traditional heritage survived the Spanish oppression. In my opinion the image is an allegory for hope, life and future.

Simon Gargonne, 26 French-Canada

Oruntomigbekele Fasina, 25  **West Sahara**

Stitching the wounds of the heart of the hurt man (wounded world). Knitting the (soul of) the down trodden’s sweater. Preparing for the summer. Sewing up a broken/bleeding heart.

Ramazan Cin, 24  **Turkey**

This image reminds me a cloth of generally nomad people use in Turkiye. Nomad people are normally work in the area stockbreeding. That cloth is made from animal’s wools.

Code Admore Sangala 30  **Malawi**

Skillful hands
Putting the knit to work
As the woven material slowly comes to shape
A price tag will follow
When the task is done

Vinita Agarwal,  **India**

This image reminded me of my time spent in Peru this summer. The texture of the fabric, the way in which it was woven, to how they dyed it. I wanted to replace this image, with one showing the 'roots' so to speak - the beginning of the weaving process before the item is transformed into something wearable, sellable etc.
Geri Niemi, 38 Philippines

Role, Tradition, Obligation.

Aleksandra Skaljak, 34 Bosnia

A little princess - my childhood.

Asanga Pradeep S. Coorey, 24 Sri Lanka

The traditional and ancient techniques now only seen as ruins which as a memory. Now there is a lot of technologies used for knitting, but the hands who made those kind of embroiders have been forgotten. This stitch is not finished and has been stopped for some reason. The reason may be the time or another technology or some accident.
Participants’ creative responses to primary cultural text 2
Maria Renee McRoberts, 26  Mexico
Sarah Nasser, 19  Cayman Islands
这副画面的牛和刀，还有火，使我想起蒙古人在举行活动。我还记得当时什么人和电影《钢之炼金》。
Mélanie Ovaert, 26  France
Kate Terton, 37  Germany
MD Ridauddin Hj Ibrahim, 24 Brunei
Mai Samaha, 23  **Egypt**
Henra Nagraha, 22  Indonesia
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
Norma Elvira Carías Montiel, 32  Honduras
Karen Sommers, 19  USA
Silvia Karlsen, 22  Norway

survival....
Simon Gargonne, 26  French-Canada
Mariana Whareaitu, 19  Māori-New Zealand
Lamya Hussain Gargash, 24  United Arab Emirates
Ka-Man Carmen Yim, 20  Hong Kong
Sevara Turaeva, 18  Uzbekistan
Tamoy Singh, 23  Jamaica

The sound of horses racing against time
The look of fierceness in their eyes
It showed the invasion of their lives
The anger they felt for being displaced
Their lives taken for granted
Their land raped
Their hopes gone

The anticipated clash is nigh
The swords are sharpened
New skins replace old ones...
The fight for freedom
For fairness
For privacy

Will they win?
What do you think?
It may be possible
But who knows

As the ropes tightens
And the journey begins
The only thing left is Hope
But is it strong enough to sustain?

What do you think?

Lets wait and see...
Elnara Babayeva, 25 **Azerbaijan**

This image reveals some tribal ceremony. Or maybe the things on that picture belong to some warrior? The fur of animal shows the aggressive manners of his/her owner. The picture below make the second image complete in my view.

Anas Alabbadi, 30 **Jordan**

Riding a fast dare, trying to achieve goals, whatever it will take, I will keep going on, it looks the way is dangerous this is why I need the weapon and some blood might be spent during the way. But I can see victory and success in this photo.

Ramazan Cin, 24 **Turkiye**

This image is recalling to my mind scabbard of sword which normally use in Middle Asia countries. That scabbards are decorated with cloth and wools.

MD Ridauddin Hj Ibrahim, 24 **Brunei**

This image immediately reminded me of a native tribe in Brunei which are the Ibans. I really didn't know why that image took me to the Ibans. But the image I have included may help to explain why. Maybe the suede brown cloth reminds me of his outfit. And the image of a body on your image also reminded me of the Iban because my idea of the Ibans are tribes that do not wear clothes but just enough to cover up their private parts.
Priscilla Hermali, 24  **Indonesia**

When I looked at the image, I could see this animal skin as a bag or coat for people from China or Japan a couple of centuries ago where the war between states is still a very big thing. I can imagine a swordsman sitting on top of this horse with this ‘animal skin’ hanging on his waist.

Wassim Sabah Kanaan, 18  **Lebanon**

This picture shows the significance of how a culture owns its tools. It could represent someone who is going to hunt for food with his tools. The colors of the picture show more of the wild life and latest technology is not there yet.

María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  **Colombia**

It makes me remember a piece of this material that some person who I never saw again, gave me once a time.

Rainadi Damursyah, 20  **Borneo**

When I see this picture, I think of it as Karapan sapi, a well known bull racing in Indonesia, which is originally from Madura. This come across my mind because it looks like an equipment that they use for controlling the bull, such as shown below. My friend, Insan also agrees with my opinion that he thinks that the image looks like Karapan Sapi.
Oruntomigbekele Fasina, 25  **West Sahara**


Shize Liu, 22  **China**

A hunter’s life. The monotonous colours passes audiences, a monotonous tone. Everyday, the activities of the hunter are the same. Everything he meets are the same. Same sword, same tools, same furs – boring.

Prahm Janpasa, 23  **Thailand**

The image that has part of a deer is more like to be a bag to carry weapon. This ... strikes me to the memory of the American Indians.

MD Sharawar Taman Dhali, 25  **Bangladesh**

The picture seems to me that some body hunted a deer, took the skin off and put it on the wall with his sword. Basically he or she wanted to show that he/she was a good hunter. Our people used to do it before.

Antony Felix Sombowo, 25  **Kenya**

Brings out a sense of boredom, due to the shape and the gloss on it. Monotony can also be read through it, i.e., lack of creativity.
Ren Wei, 26 China

This image makes me think of some events held in Mongolia although I haven’t gone there so far. I see a fur (looks like a bull) and a big knife, and also sth. Like fire. It is typical Mongolian activity in my mind. It also makes me think of Indians and the movie Seven Years’ Itch, whose beginning shows the story of Indian life.

Pascal G Bekono, 27 Cameroon

Cette image représente une peau d’animale suspendue à une barre, et accroché à une chaîne.

Mbachu Chichi, 27 Nigeria

Although we came from multicultural and diverse places, whether black or white, we still have one color of blood, red.

Pauline Hui Ying Ooi 25 Malaysia

The deer seems to be the prey for a tribe’s dinner. I thought about the red Indians too. When I looked at the picture again, deer to me is always associated with sleighs – reindeer and the sleigh with Santa sitting on it.
Xiaosu Zhang, 24 China

This picture shows the horse’s nose. It reminds me that I seem to come back to my childhood. That is very pure period. Just enjoy your wonderful life.

Vinita Argawal, 24 India

The moment I saw this image, I began to think of anthropology and the way in which we all began as hunter gatherers at one point in time. Our societies have shaped themselves and reformed as time has gone by, forming communities and new forms of thinking. Such tribes and communities still exist today, but are not as visible and in light as once before. In response to this feeling I wrote the following poem:

It is time to hunt, it is time to gather
One has learnt to feed, and suppress hunger at the same time
Our understanding of a leader,
Has been misunderstood
And now there is only survival.

In the midst of the fight
To mark one’s territories
We should forget not, to come together
And we should never forget,
That we are not alone.

We are one.
Code Admore Sangala, 30  **Malawi**

Ball
Sword
On a saddle
Ready for war
The battle must be won.

George Kesselman, 23  **Russia**

Strength courage and integrity, Samurai's sable.

Uršula Jašovec, 19  **Slovenia**

Haunt
Kožuh, lov, lovec, puščica, sablja, indijanci, sever, Amerika, jelen, srna, gozd,
dokazovanje moči, sebe, plašnost, panika, mirnost, dihanje, umirjena roka, perje,
običaj, tradicija, toplina obleke, ki kasneje nastane, kosilo, nahranjena usta ...
Tradition, warmth, stag, deer, haunt, haunter, spear, dart, composure, steady hand,
strong mind, determination ...
Tople barve bakreno rdečega kožuha, ki se preliva s temno, skoraj že črno modro.
Super barve, ki nam dajo občutek spokojnosti, neke ustaljenosti in domačnosti.
“vizije”: roka bojujočega se z mečem v roki na desni strani slike, galop konja,
katerega rep plapola v vetru, zaradi naglice in hitrosti je viden celo narobe obrnjen-
odsev lovca v vodi, ki divja na lov ...
Strength, power, speed of a horse (right corner) seen in a reflection of a lake ...
Geri Niemi, 38 Philippines

Readiness

Aleksandra Skaljak, 34 Bosnia

Winter in Sarajevo (my home town).

Asanga Pradeep S. Coorey, 24 Sri Lanka

There is a sword which has been used by make animal's parts such as fathers and deer skin. These animals may not be the dangers but finally creation of their parts is the danger which means for danger and fights. These weaponry look very nice but behind that we feel the danger because of those that use it for the danger.
Participants' creative responses to primary cultural text 3

Primary cultural text 3
Chani Ridley, 27  Australia
Lamya Hussain Gargash, 24  United Arab Emirates
Mélanie Ovaert, 26  France
Gold can be seen as white...

...White cannot be seen as gold
Shakeh Avanes Sarookhanian, 40  Iran
Ren Wei, 24    China
Rainadi Damursyah, 20  Borneo
Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

This picture reminds me how the rich people really look like.
Denneston Ewen, Jamaica
Henra Nagraha, 22  Indonesia
Kate Terton, 37 Germany
Heléne Pihlström, 22  Sweden
Maria Renee McRoberts, 26  Mexico
Mai Samaha, 23  Egypt
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
Sarah Nasser, 19  Cayman Islands
Norma Elvira Carías Montiel, 32  Honduras
Katarina Lindström, 24  Sweden
Mariana Wharaitu, 19  Māori, New Zealand
Ewe Terton, 40  Germany

This photo of an angel with a gown made out of valuable fabrics holding a chain made up by golden pearls has a very unhappy face and dead cold eyes. The colours of the image are mainly warm and cosy just like the colours of the room which is lit by candle light. So this could be an angel representing Christmas in the northern countries of Europe. Why is the angel so unhappy? Maybe because many people get drunk on Christmas and beat up their kids. Christmas is in a time where there is not much daylight. The darkness makes people depressive. It is also the time when the year ends and a new year starts soon. So people think about their lives and sometimes they recognize how sad their life is then they drink a lot, commit suicide and I don’t know what...this makes the angel very sad so that she had to cry so much till her eyes disappeared, leaving just two dead eye socket.

Ren Wei, 26  China

This image has a beautiful doll which makes me think of Barbie Doll. The doll’s clothes and beads also make me think of the extravagant life of some rich ladies in Europe in Middle Ages, especially Russians.

Prahm Janpasa, 23  Thailand

This image reminds me of my time in Germany because this doll looks more like western and I have seen them when I was there. It also looks like a queen, princess or angel doll. Probably when I walked pass the antique shops in Europe. They normally have this sort of doll in the shop.
Rainadi Damursyah, 20  **Borneo**

This picture reminds me of the girls in late 70’s to 80’s where most of them might have this doll (looks like an old version of Barbie doll). This picture also reminds me of my sister who once likes to collect these kind of thing. Another thing that come across my mind is that this doll somehow gives me a picture of a Japanese handcraft doll that looks like a Barbie doll, but they put on a very small Kimono (traditional Japanese dress) on the doll.

Kane Satui, 30  **Tonga**

Porcelain doll; a collector’s item or part of a collection, on display in a toy store. Shrine; a part of a memorial/shrine. Nativity set/party theme; a part of the Christmas nativity theme; a part of an event/party theme, like a table centre piece.

Henra Nugraha, 22  **Indonesia**

This image reminds me of a movie called ‘Chucky’, where in this movie a cursed doll becomes to life and start killing people who own it.

Gurinder Singh, 25  **India**

The picture shows a beautiful girl dressed like a barbie and looks bit worried about her future. She may be worried regarding her marriage in order to search for her loving partner.
Fazle Elahi Ibne Nasir, 24 Bangladesh

This is a very colourful and bright image. In the image there is a little doll standing with vivid dress and ornaments. The doll’s shape is a girl kid. In my culture we always say kids are just like angel or they are sort of representative of angel. Angels are innocent, just like them. Kids are also innocent. Kids don’t know which is good or bad or dangerous. They are always charming and beautiful. I believe the smile of earth is flower and the smile of flowers are kids.

Uršula Jašovec, 19 Slovenia

A moment stopped in a time, flying by
Lutka, barbika, angel, 20ta leta 19. stoletja, jazz, biseri, ustvarjalnost in umetnost izdelovanja nakita, milina
Dekle, ki se mirno naslanja na zid, premišljuje o preteklem dnevu in čaka nekoga. Napravljena je, da gre na ples/gala predstavo, v opero ... je slavna osebnost, premišljuje kaj je dosegla v svojem življenju in česa vse še ni mogla doseči ravno zaradi svoje slave, čeprav je bila že na mnogih krajih in že veliko videla ...
Gracefulness of a young girl, prepared to go to an event, she will never forget, but whilst she’s waiting for somebody to pick her up, she’s thinking of her life—what she had missed and what she used to wish to do, but she cannot do now, because of an ever changing world, which drives madly her life quickly to an end ... she wants to relax, to stop in time and do something unforgettable.
Nekoliko zabrisana slika, kot čas v katerem je in v katerem se hoče ustaviti in ga ne le preživeti, ampak preživotariti!
Oruntomigbekele Fasina, 25  **West Sahara**

Beauty in red
Beauty is gorgeous
Beauty is female
Beauty is bold

Dandan Sun, 20  **China**

This picture shows a toy, looks like a queen. Also she has a pair of wings, so it seems she comes from heaven. It has been decorated very pretty and graceful, so it should belong to a rich person.

Intan Nurcahya, 26  **Indonesia**

This picture shows an angel ornament of a Christmas tree. This might indicate that Christmas is near or it is the time of Christmas itself. Angel symbolises peace and joy, which is what Christmas spirit is all about. Decorating a Christmas tree with family is one of the joyous activities. Everyone gets to hang ornaments together, laughing and joking and admiring what a great job done as a family after the beautiful and shiny tree is fully decorated. Not only that, presents from family and friends occupied the base of the tree waiting to be unwrapped on the morning of Christmas day by eager little family members. Christmas is one of the happiest moments in the year, though Christmas moments may last for a short time, however, the Christmas spirit in each of us should last a life time. That is why the symbol of angel is there to remind each and everyone to share, give to others.
Kamalpreet Singh, 20  India

This picture looks like a new sad barbie doll’s model in the market for the Xmas decoration for Xmas in the shop.

Yu-Ling Lin, 21  Taiwan

This doll may be princess. She is not allowed to do the things what she wants. She has no freedom and not used to communication with people.

Christiane Wildt, 24  Germany

This picture shows a rich woman stand for wealthy, show girl. She’s wearing a very jewellery dress to show that she can finance all the things she’d like to buy and to do. I associate her just a little bit with Marilyn Monroe. But the surrounding isn’t very nice, it looks dark and unfriendly. The same is her face, it looks not very glad. She’s unhappy or sad. Maybe she’s money but she’s missing something. Her face is without love, the eyes are dark and not very glamorous. I think she doesn’t wanna stay in this upper-class dress. While she looks rich – I think she’s a very poor person because she is still missing something (love, fun, happiness) which she could probably have in a normal life. She’s alone in a society in which only money and jewels count.

Dong Ma, 23  China

A young white queen dressed up like a goddess. All the gold chain and the colour represent luxury.
Ramazan Cin, 24  

Turkiye

Girl in very good clothes and with necklace in this image gives me idea of rich girls never stop to buy luxury things for themselves. This makes me feel so sorry about people who works to earn small amount of money to feed their family.

Priscilla Hermali, 24  

Indonesia

This picture reminds me of an angel on top of Christmas tree that my family had when I was probably 6 years old. My family at that time was into foreign things.

Wang I Sheng, 21  

Taiwan

This picture make me think about sad, lonely, kingdom. In this picture, it make me feel someone is rich, but always be alone, so it also make me feel about sad.

Xiao Hou, 21  

China

It’s magnificent and clean. It should belong to the little princess or maid of honour.

George Kesselman, 23  

Russia

Nostalgia; New Years decoration. In Russia instead of Christmas the New Year is celebrated because of the communist legacy that prohibited celebration of one’s faith other if it was faith in "bright future of communism".
Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

Barbie Doll. This picture reminds me how the rich people really look like.

Aska Weng, 20  Taiwan

A terrible looking doll is standing somewhere in the young girl’s room. From my opinion it’s gross and disgusting; it will make me puke if it is in my house. A cute doll is excite to be alive! And I’ll feel very uncomfortable if this little thing like that is walking around then I’ll escape from it.

Yu Hoi, 25  Hong Kong

A valuable and expensive toy but it look like fake, not real, not life, rich but not freedom. It look like a lady live in a palace who has a comfortable and richly living but not happiness.

Pascal G Bekono, 27  Cameroon

Cette image représente une poupée blanche assise sur une trône en pierre, avec une longue chaîne autour du cou, entouré d’un collier de perle.

Geri Niemi, 38  Philippines

Vanity
Code Admore Sangala, 30 **Malawi**

Face like a goddess of love
And like a supermodel on her photoshoot, still, it stands
Dressed in fur coat, by the neck a long necklace hangs
The lifeless hands amazingly holds beautiful beads
Her outfit enslaves the window shoppers
As they walk out a million dollars less

**Theingi Tun, 36** **Burma**

For all your beauty
Do you cry?
For all your grandeur
Do you smile?
For all your richness
Do you live?
For all those moments
What would you give?
For the love of a child
And a kiss?

**Ka-Man Carmen Yim, 20** **Hong Kong**

I love to play Barbie when I was little. I treated her as my daughter, changing her hair style and clothing every day. As time goes by, Barbie has been left behind in my life.
Francklin Pierre, 28  Haiti

When I saw this picture for the first time, I said oh! and a kind of fear pervades me. I had been afraid of the picture. I cannot explain exactly what I felt. Right away I feel like I did not want to participate in project anymore. Many ideas came to my mind. And they were about sorcery, frankly they were things which frighten me and which make me also doubt. It was the first picture of the project that I have seen.

Simon Gargonne, 26  French-Canada

Tes bijoux et tes apparats d’un autre temps,
Poupée de tiroirs poussiéreux,
Tu n’as plus l’âge, de porter tes robes de taffetas,
Tes fourrures inutiles,
Regardes toi, mistinguette des bacs à sable !

Pauline Hui Ying Ooi  25  Malaysia

It’s no doubt to me that this dolly looks like an English / Victorian style dolly judging from her dressing. The doll is probably on display at the mall or placed on a little girl’s play house. Then I thought of little girls (for some reason, I imagined blonde chubby cute little girls probably around the age of 4 – 8 years old dressed up girlishly in fluffy dress playing with their dollies. Dolls might be girls’ best friends because it reminded me of my sisters and her dolls. She named her dolly as Catherine who happened to be her nanny’s name. She talked to her doll and brought her everywhere she went. It became so worn out and torn that mom secretly hide it away from her but I remembered seeing her being sad and cried all day long.
Tamoy Singh, 23  Jamaica

She always wanted a doll
A beautiful one
Porcelain white skin,
Long flowing dress
Lined with golden beads
And when she got one
She named it ‘Princess’

But her friends laughed,
‘The doll is so white... it does not match your skin’
They made her cry
Because she loved her ‘Princess’
‘So what if it does not match my skin...I thought we were all the same’
They still laughed

As she walked away in tears she held her Princess tightly
She didn’t care about what they said
Because she always remembered that...

She always wanted a doll
A beautiful one
Porcelain white skin,
Long flowing dress
Lined with golden beads
And when she got one
She named it ‘Princess’
Vinita Argawal, 24  India

To me this image, had a darkness to it, even though what it is depicting is so 'girly', feminine and childlike. I guess what came into my mind, was the idea of remembering a time in one's childhood that has now past. That house now longer has anyone living there, the doll is slightly deteriorating, and has become almost ghostly. In response to this image I wrote the following poem:

Sparkling and soft,
Like a shimmer of pink,
Young girls gleam with lace and dust,
With the blurriness of maturity,
Embraced with textures of orange and gold,
The colours begin to change.
Waiting impatiently,
Till she can soften her hair,
Like candy floss and dance
With pearls as she once only dreamed
The passing of time, creating an abyss
Dreams forgotten, moments changed
It is now empty, the sparkles fade,
The shimmers subside
And time slowly but eloquently,
Begins to disappear.
Aleksandra Skaljak, 34  Bosnia

Art exhibitions I used to go to in Europe (my grand mother and grand-grand mother were artists/painters)

Szu-Hui Wu, 22  Taiwan

The girl look like is unhappy seat there waiting someone to give her an order. She doesn’t have any freedom because her life has been control by human.

Asanga Pradeep S. Coorey, 24  Sri Lanka

Women’s are naturally smooth and sensitive. Therefore world history shows that most time men stand in the ruling of the world. But rarely women had change to control the world or one country or one society as a ruler or queen. Referring to this picture it seems like ancient queen or an angel who had very proud situation or respectable situation. But the important thing in this picture is that how hardly costumes and other fancy thin prepared to cover this woman's body. The body seems to be small but the covering so big and fancy. The idea is that external things can’t be used to hide the reality. The costume is proud but still there is smooth and sensitivity on women's face. For example this is like a beautiful flower seen hidden and among the rough and black stones.
Participants’ creative responses to primary cultural text 4

Primary cultural text 4
Lamya Hassain Gargash, 24  United Arab Emirates
Mélanie Ovaert, 26  France

Un combat de tous les jours

Ours
Bears
Éternité
Eternity
Retour chaque année
Return each year
Agilité
Agility
Pêche
Fishing
Saumon
Salmon
Fatalité
Fatality
Oeufs
Eggs
Modérément
Modernity
Abus
Abuse
Poissonnerie
Fish shop
Filet
Net
Sur production
Over production
Élevage à la viande
Meat fed

Groenland
Greenland
Canada
Alaska
Inuit
Iceberg
Sushi
Cassandra Hunter, 21  South Africa
Layla Soroush, 27  Iran
Rainadi Damursyah, 20  **Borneo**

Seeing this picture reminds me of my home town. There we are using the ‘big fishing net’ or the ‘Habang the fishing net’. This also reminds me of the ‘big fishing net’ which is a normal size to catch the fish in the sea. I also have friends who were fishermen. Seeing this picture makes me want to go and visit them. This picture also reminds me of the picture below. The reason is that I used to run away by myself to the fishing place. Then, they would straight away the the fishing net and with a fishing boat.
副画使我想到了
在人自然的破坏。
我年青害多物，
网上的泥巴
我想到在染很重。
多河流和湖泊都不再清澈。
然后，我想到社会与家庭
个人的束。
Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

No matter what you do. You Can't Change destiny. Just let it be!!!
Mai Samaha, 23  Egypt
Maria Renee McRoberts, 26  Mexico
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
Norma Elvira Carías Montiel, 32  Honduras

Respeto y conservación de nuestros recursos naturales
† 1982-00:00  CHOKED TOO MUCH WATER. MORFAR DRUNKNADE? HELMIGHETER.
PEOPLE DIE FOR VARIOUS REASONS; IN VARIOUS WAYS; SOME GET TOO MUCH WATER. WHY DO SOME DROWN? MUSTN'T TALK ABOUT IT. IT WILL DISAPPEAR.
DOES IT HAVE TO? EITHER WAY I'M STILL ALIVE.
Sarah Nasser, 19  Cayman Islands
Mariana Whareaitu, 19  Māori-New Zealand
Paul Ssendagire, 28  Uganda
Henra Nugraha, 22   Indonesia
Hassan Lagilli, 30 **Libya**

المقاومة هي أجل البقاء والإستمرار
Paul Ssendagire, 28  Uganda

Man deliberately sits on the freedom of other beings.

Ren Wei, 26  China

After looking at this image, I have rich feelings. First, it makes me think of the ecological situation at present world. We destroy the ecology and kill so many animals every year. The mud on net also indicates nowadays the river is not clean any more. Take my hometown as an example. There are several rivers and a big lake here. However, most of them are polluted now and stink. We have to do something for that. Secondly, the fish in the net reminds me of some limitations of individuals caused by family and society. You know, China is famous for its family-centered culture and hierarchy in society. In China, especially countryside, a young man will seriously consider his family before make his decisions of his life and future. And in China, the complex social relationships definitely affect an individual’s career.

Shen Hui Hua, 30  China

This picture shows the fish is caught by the net. It also explored that life is not so safe. It exists dangers everywhere all the time.

Wassim Sabah Kanaan, 18  Lebanon

This picture tells me how a fish lost its hope after a big struggle to escape. It may also represent fishermen; perhaps their shortage since it is just one fish.
Priscilla Hermali, 24  Indonesia

This picture reminds me of the time when my family went on holiday to a resort, where there is a big pool (mind you, the water is not clear and very muddy), then my sister told me that there are big octopus that will grab my leg when I jump inside the pool.

Gurinder Singh, 25  India

The picture shows a fish being caught in a net. It gives the feeling that fish wants freedom. The fish is really shocked and is trying her best to get out of the net and live a free life.

Yu-Ling Lin, 21  Taiwan

This fish is trying to get off this net, even it has no way to do. This fish has no freedom. It may not work even people is trying hard to do something that they really want to carry out.

Intan Nurcahya, 26  Indonesia

This picture shows a fish caught in the fishing net. The background is of a waterfall or just a fierce flow up river bed. Therefore it is most likely that it indicates the fish is of fresh water. The type of fish might be salmon, trout or fresh water bass.
Rainadi Damursyah, 20  **Borneo**

Seeing this picture reminds me of my home town. Whenever I go fishing with my dad, we put the fish in the fishing net. This also reminds me of the big fishing net which the fishermen use to catch the fish in the sea. I also have friends who live near the beach; seeing this picture makes me want to go and visit them. This makes me want to go fishing near my friends' place, then cook straight away the fish we catch from fishing.

Tony Hsu, 24  **Taiwan**

No matter what you do. You can’t change destiny. Just let it be!!!

Christiane Wildt, 24  **Germany**

A fish in open water normally is standing for freedom and the power to swim everywhere he wants to be. But he’s caught now. He is in prison, taking all his power to get out of this situation, but he can’t. He’s like a person under pressure (war, politics, dictator). He wanted to be free, but unfortunately, it depends on the decision of a foreign being (mankind) if he could get back or not. I can see a little hole, he could get out. For me it shows me that when I’m in a situation like the fish, I should turn around and have a look at my surrounding to find a way out of this situation and find a way to solve the problem or to get away to get out of this situation.
George Kesselman, 23  Russia

Fish caught in the net on ice: Creature caught, restrained, and taken out of its environment that didn’t find the escape and died as the result. Reminds me of people that are faced with the changed environment and sometimes are restrained by their new conditions. If they don’t fight hard enough or slip through the net they have no other choice than give up.

Kamalpreet Singh, 20  India

This picture shows the positive thinking and struggling power. In this picture you can see that there is a fish and she is stuck in the net but she is still trying to get out from the net. She is doing fight against the net for her freedom.

Pascal G Bekono, 27  Cameroon

Cette image représente un poisson capturé dans un filet de pêche, pendant une saison d’hiver.

Yu Hoi, 25  Hong Kong

It is the end of the life; using web to catch fish; want to make sushi and make people feel hungry.
Mbachu Chichi, 27 **Nigeria**

A fish in a net. This means that we youth are in an enclosed world and need liberation in the digital world.

Oruntomigbekele Fasina, 25 **West Sahara**

ENTRAPPED. SOS- save our soul. SM-save me. Thus man wipes out a lot of nature’s sea-water beauty. Considering global structure, the top part of the net is the North (Western World) while the bottom part is the South (Africa America Asia) entrapped in the NEOGLOBALIST’S MESH.

Fazle Elahi Ibne Nasir, 24 **Bangladesh**

If I think very normally then I think it can shows a fisherman’s life. How hard it is to catch fish from the ocean in a rough weather. The fisherman lives on this...or maybe something like this. Now if I think critically, then maybe the fish in the picture is a very dangerous shark fish. The fish is dangerous for humans. So God has captured the fish so the people can breathe easily. We can represent the fish as a terrorist. As we know a lot of terrorist activities going on nowadays.

Ramazan Cin, 24 **Turkiye**

Two things came out in my mind when i saw this image. First one is fishermans in the north side of Turkiye, Black Sea. The second one is, fish in this image symbolize the weak people and fishermans are strong people.
Shize Liu, 22  China

The fish seems to be dying. While it does not give up, although it is hopeless. The ugly web stands for evil. Through the web I can see the cruel murderer behind. Life is the most valuable thing for the fish, therefore it tries its best to save that. Compare with the web, fish is so weak and less powerful. However it still fights against evil. It is the last chance to save the most valuable things for itself.

Anas Alabbadi, 30  Jordan

It’s sad, because I am trying to resist, but it seems there will be no success. I might achieve something, but it will not be enough, and I will give up at a certain point. I don’t like this photo, because even the fish managed partly to go out of the net, but I can see that the resistance is hopeless in this photo, even if those who give the net they might be trying to save the fish not to hunt it, but no, I can see sadness, frustration and no hope in this photo.

Code Admore Sangala, 30  Malawi

Fish caught up in the net.
Its a struggle for survivor
Life and death battle
If it struggles on it may just free itself from the net and live.
If it gives in it will die and make a good meal on someone’s table.
A good catch is a Fisherman's pride!
Ewe Terton, 40  Germany

The feeling I have while watching this image is an uncomfortable feeling. Sometimes I feel like this fish, caught in a situation where I like to get out, the more I try to untangle the more exhausted I become, but giving up means the end and death. In this image there is hope for the fish, there is an opening on the left side of the net and for me it seems that the fish could make it out of the net by going backwards. So maybe this is a metaphor that to go backwards might sometimes be the solution; going back to rethink future actions. The feeling of hope is emphasized by the warm colours of pink, yellow and white. The image is very dynamic; it depicts lots of motion which enhances the scenario of the fight for life.

Pauline Hui Ying Ooi, 25  Malaysia

The immediate image I formed in mind was a place filled with snow like the Antarctica, and I saw an Eskimo man out there trying to fish nearby the igloo which he lived in. The man was in his big and thick winter clothing with big boots. He had a few snow dogs running around and a toboggan stationed in front of his igloo. On the abstract side of the fish being trapped in a net, it’s like the end of a person’s freedom. The fish is like a human who has all the freedom in life to do whatever he/she wants just like the fish swimming freely in the water. But life at times throws us some dangers/threats just like the net to the fish. The size of the holes on the net symbolizes how big the dangers/threats are. The bigger the hole means the smaller the obstacle, as such, as we are able to slip off the net easily and get over with it. Likewise, if the holes are smaller, it means more struggles to break free but if we are strong enough to persevere, the fish can bite off the net and set themselves free.
Asanga Pradeep S. Coorey, 24  Sri Lanka

There may be a hidden story about the fisherman because he has caught the fish and the net is in the ice and protected, but where is the fisherman? Or it has happened that maybe an environmental disaster. The other meaning as seen this picture is like this fish is trying to escape from the net. We don't know whether it'll succeed or not.

Ka-Man Carmen Yim, 20  Hong Kong

Hong Kong was a fishing village in the past, it was undeveloped. It has now developed as a cosmopolitan city where east meets west. Although tall buildings are built everywhere, it seems that people still remember we are developed from a fishing village and the fishing boat has become an icon of Hong Kong.

Simon Gargonne, 26  French-Canada

Prise inéluctable, liberté captive,
Pris dans tes rets, je deviens objet
Inutile de résister, tel est mon destin
Quittant mon monde, mon habitat, ma vie
Dans un dernier sursaut de résistance,
Tu me surconsommes,
Tu m’épies,
Je revois le monde duquel tu m’arraches peu à peu s’éloigner,
Bientôt sans force, je m’abandonne,
Victime de tes plaisirs insatiables
Uršula Jašovec, 19 Slovenia

Every flower has its thorns
Riba, mreža, lov, preživetje, hrana, belo meso, srebrna reka, moment...
Fish from a silver river, trapped in a net.
Symbolism: Fish-humankind, who used to live in a great, lively, healthy, non-polluted environment, but now not so bright as it was before- trapped in hands of those, who manipulate them. Many people let themselves to be trapped by others. We should fight over it, and help people in need by every mean we can!
North, eskimo, raw fish, mean for a survival, ice, cold...
Hladne barve, a vseeno močne, ki spominjajo na bisere-barva neokrnjene reke.
Natančno narisana mreža in hitrost ribinega repa, ki se bojuje za preživetje in rešitev iz ujetništva.

Vinita Argawal, 24 India

In this image, of the fish caught frozen in time it disturbed me that the fish was motionless, yet you could almost feel what it is that it is going through - the pain of being caught, trapped. In response to this image I wrote the following poem:

The swift movements are rendering me silent,
I feel caught yet yearn to be free,
My mind jitters and shakes as the fear begins to encapsulate my body.
Water moves, but slowly, it cannot stop to aid.
Heart racing, memories fading, I begin to forget
All that was mine, and all that will never be.
Caught in the moment
Caught in our lives
Do we truly try?
Do we truly fight?
With the possibilities of the deep blue sea
Are we really all that we can be?

Caught!
Cry for help
No response
No release
No help!
Suffocating, my life disappearing

I try to get out but
The strain is too much
The rope is too tight
I can’t get out
Help!

No more family
No more friends
Is this the way my life was supposed to end?

Pull!
Sealed my fate
Please beware or else you too will get
Caught!
Aleksandra Skaljak, 34  Bosnia

Winter cold.

Geri Niemi, 38  Philippines

Adversity

Elia Michael Mbiko, 26  Sudan

This image reminds me of my culture activities that males are entitled to. I am a Sudanese by nationality. Sudan is one of the countries in Africa with about 152-5 different tribes with different cultures. Among these tribes, my tribe is called ZANDE and ZANDE is the second largest tribe in Sudan. In my culture males go for hunting and fishing while females look after children at home. Fishing and hunting are one of the popular activities that we can not live without. It is very important for a male at the age of 12 to know their role as a male from Zande community. I miss fishing and hunting so much because of being here in Australia. I know I can still go fishing here but it is just that the clothes, spears, hooks, and other traditional things that we do/ use can’t be found here. This image also tells me that although some western countries do not have strong cultures, they still acknowledge that culture exist in other parts of the World.
Participants’ creative responses to primary cultural text 5
Mélanie Ovaert, 26  France
Denniston Ewen, Jamaica

COURSE RULES

At age eleven I witnessed a girl that was damn near like my sister get killed. I came to the reality of a lot of people getting killed. And then at the age of twelve they gave my brother three life sentences.” - Trae
MD Riduaddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei
The thing lock inside is "Monkey", because the picture on the lock looks like monkey.
So this is a Monkey prison.
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
Mai Samaha, 23  Egypt
Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaijan
María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  Colombia

LIBERTAD PARA MIS COMPAÑEROS RETENIDOS ILEGALMENTE, YA!
Norma Elvira Carías Montiel, 32  Honduras
Lamya Gargash, 24  United Arab Emirates
Katarina Lindström, 24 Sweden

NO TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER!
Heléne Pihlström, 22  Sweden
Mariana Whareaitu, 19  Māori, New Zealand
Hassan Lagilli, 30  Libya
Riduaddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei

The next image that I would like to talk about is the lock with the brown background. This picture as a Muslim boy who dreams of going to a pilgrimage in Mecca (Saudi Arabia) automatically took me there. The lock reminds me of the lock they use to lock the Kaaba. I have included a picture of the lock of the Kaaba as you can see the brown part in the image you have provided reminded me of the sands in Arab. The lock reminded me of the Kaaba lock.

Ren Wei, 26  China

This image reminds me of some poor areas in China, especially around Shanxi province where we know as Huang Tu Gao Po (mountain areas of yellow earth). In those areas, people are living a miserable life. They are very poor. They do not have apartments to live as we do. Their houses are made of clay instead of bricks and cement. However, in those poor areas, the public security is quite good and the people are very friendly and warm-hearted. But in cities, the people become colder and colder.

Code Admore Sangala, 30  Malawi

It gets a beating from the strong wind
Constantly eating away the once beautiful mud that made it be
The lock on the wooden door is powerful and the chain seals it all
And the eye will see, that nobody is supposed to be here
Elnara Babayeva, 25 **Azerbaijan**

The Fifth image with locked door makes me down :( I’m afraid to imagine that there is someone locked behind that door or even worse: it’s an abandoned, neglected old house. And it seems that there is no one around to come and open that locked door. I wish I could open it!!!

Henra Nugraha, 22 **Indonesia**

This image reminds me of a prison, where people get locked up in bad place or bad situation. Because this image shows something that look rough and a place where people will get uncomfortable/discomfort to stay/live in.

Prahm Janpasa, 23 **Thailand**

May be someone is kidnapped and left behind this door. This image gives me some Mexican tastes. It looks like a small house in a country side of Mexico. It also looks scary to me when I first looked at it.

Shen Hui Hua, 30 **China**

This is a lock which chain hinge on the door. It gives people a lot of imagination in the mind. When we study or work --- we must find the --- way to do it. When we find the key and open the lock, maybe we find out a lot of good things which we need, so we have to work hard to realise our dream.
Adel Abu Haimed, 25  Saudi Arabia

This image reminds me when I visit my grand parent’s home where they used to live 100 years ago because they used to live in houses made by mud and door made by wood similarly to the image. It’s a great feeling when I see how they used to live in the past and my father used to explain the way they live and the different rooms in their house. The lock in the door reminds me when older people use it to have their things save.

Rainadi Damursyah, 20  Borneo

Seeing this image gives me feelings of being locked in an abandoned place. It gives me an imagination of being locked up in an old house, where I do not know what was happened to the house and the owner, and this gives me creeps. Another thing that comes in to my mind is that this image shows a situation or a place for prisoners, being looked up in place with bad ventilation.

Gurinder Singh, 25  India

The picture shows a locked door. It looks like a pretty old and frightening place and gives me the feeling that somebody might be locked behind the door.

Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

The thing lock inside is “monkey”, because the picture on the lock looks like monkey. So this is a monkey prison.
Kamalpreet Singh, 20  **India**

This picture shows the sadness like some leave his/her house and go somewhere else due to any kind of war, problem of natural disaster like earthquake. He/she locked their house because they have little hope in their mind in that they will come back. After some time when everything become alright.

Yu-Ling Lin, 21  **Taiwan**

The door is locked. It means the heart is unopen. People may be shy or have hurt before. These people would not issue their opinion in the public areas. They are shy to talk with people. They are used to be alone.

Intan Nurcahya, 26  **Indonesia**

It is a picture of a metal chain with a padlock. The wooden door that is security locked behind it signifies that entrance is not permitted. The old wooden door tells that the place is of old or abandoned building. The worn wall on the left looks as if it is made of sand or clay. From this description, the building looks as if it is from the old age between, 1900 to 1930.

Mbachu Chichi, 27  **Nigeria**

A door locked with a padlock. That means some people are still in dark ages.
Xiao Hou, 21  China

In this picture I am feeling here is very desolate, so long time is no body coming here to open lock and also the picture give me the feeling is very poor and I am feeling the desert. In the desolate desert, here a very old and poor little village, here is long time no body coming, the house is simple and crude.

Aska Weng, 20  Taiwan

This is a lock that seems like locked a lot of people in the self-made prison. Looks like rich guys they use it to protect their assets. A guy who made this lock to lock some kids are stolen then fed till they grow up and sell them.

Anas Alabbadi, 30  Jordan

Strange, but I feel hope in this photo, I wonder why?, I guess because it looks like this Lock is closing the past, it’s not the future or the door to freedom, not at all, it’s behind us, we just closed all our problems and we locked them and now we are taking the last look at the door and then we will turn and go forward, yes, this photo is nice, it makes me feel optimistic.

Dandan Sun, 20  China

This picture gives me the feeling of a person has been locked inside the room, and lost his/her freedom; this lock seems very old, so maybe he/she been locked for a very long time.
Ewe Terton, 40  Germany

On the left hand side of this image you can see the rest of a termite hive. The termite hive is covering most of the wooden house which is in Queensland. By the way it is my house. I went on holidays to Germany and when I came back the termites had occupied the house; they had eaten nearly all parts of the house, especially the structural important bits such as beams and posts. I had to put a padlock with a chain at the door to keep people out. It is just too dangerous to be inside. I am a migrant and a migrant’s dream is to have a house. Now it is gone to the termites. I learned that it is better to dream about immaterial things, such as love, friendship and happiness. The house was a brown colour, I do not like brown anyway so it is not too sad. Maybe the termites like brown. I am pretty sure they do, cause their hives are of brown colour.

Simon Gargonne, 26  French-Canada

Dans ce village fantôme de l’Arizona,
Balayé au gré des vents,
Des maisons il ne reste
Que ce mystère, cette porte bloquée qui recèle la clé,
D’un passé lointain et proche, d’une longue histoire,
Oubliée,
Fouettée, par les sables, élimée par l’oubli,
La fuite, la modernité.
Je renferme cette solitude, ce secret que plus personne ne veut connaître.
Tamoy Singh, 23  Jamaica

He shut me out of his world
With no warning
With no promise of return
No forgiveness

I am sorry for not seeing his worth
He tried to show me, I know
But I was too busy to see
So now I am shut out
Never to ‘see’ him again

Even when there is rusts and cracks..
He will never let me back in

Anger engulfs me now
I hope he rots back there
Behind that locked door

Thank God for the many other men to see
I hope that when he is ready for me
He never finds the key

Yu Hoi, 25  Hong Kong

There are some secrets inside the door; lock some people in a room; it appears old of age; it make me feel if I broken the lock, something will come out.
Antony Felix Simbowo, 25  **Kenya**

It brought out a sense of adventure...a walk into or a search for the unknown beyond the common borders. Some sense of thrill and curiosity can also be perceived due the dark outlines and the intricately placed padlock. It is the epitome of creativity.

Asanga Pradeep S. Coorey, 24  **Sri Lanka**

There is a lock which seems like very strong but times ago. And there may be some secrets or miracles / wonders hidden inside the locked door and wall. but after long or some times later the door is still locked as well may be strong but wall is damaged. Or maybe door is not strong enough. There is nothing any eternal things in this world and we can’t hide any for a long time. There may be some secrets or wonders or some hidden stories but some time it will be opened and the lock and covers will vanish. Here we can see two locks, may be first one is dead therefore the second one is being used. On the other hand there is inside very important thing which has to be protected from the outside. As a result of the thing inside the two locks may be used.

Pauline Hui Ying Ooi, 25  **Malaysia**

This image looks like one of those really ancient buildings on the street in less developed countries where I’ve seen on television. I pictured someone behind the cell in a lockup or freedom being confined to a boundary and I the image of keys to unlock the padlock came into mind. It’s not a very inspiring picture nor is it a picture that I like to see because it gives me a little feeling of fear. The padlock shown was locked, where I would also interpret as a strong NO ENTRY message, No Trespassing on private properties.
Uršula Jašovec, 19 Slovenia

Locked mystery
Ključavnica, vrata, stena, prepoved, zaprtost
Ključavnica nam ne dopušča odpreti vrat, ki nam zapirajo pogled pred tem, kar se dogaja na drugi strani stene. Vrata, stena in ključavnica delujejo nekoliko obrabljeno, staro. Skrivnost, ki se skriva na drugi strani, je lahko tam zaprta že dolgo časa. Lahko, da je nekdo pozabil nanjo, lahko, da noče, da vidimo kaj je skrito na drugi strani in skriva nekaj, česar ne bi smel. V dandanašnjem času se na svetu dogaja veliko korupcije, ne samo s strani “psihopatov”, ampak tudi s strani medijev, politike, oblasti, ki nas vodi, ki pa se jo na žalost, ne bo dalo tako hitro popraviti. Za vsako spremembo je potreben čas, tudi za takšno, čeprav žalostno, da sploh obstaja. Corruption, a mystery hidden behind the door, which is not meant to be seen ...

Barve in predmeti na sliki so dokaj realistično upodobljeni

Pascal G Bekono, 27 Cameroon

Cette image représente une vieille d’une porte d’une maison faite en agile et fermée à l’aide d’un cadenas.

Oruntomigbekele Fasina, 25 West Sahara

LOCK OUT POVERTY! Poverty has overridden the world’s larger proportion (about three-quarters of it’s estimated 6.1 billion population). LET’S PUT A STOP TO POVERTY SO IT AFFLICTS MAN NOT ANYMORE.
María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  Colombia

It is just my deepest wish.

Ramazan Cin, 24  Turkey

Letters of TL are acronym of the Turkish money currency which is expanded as Turkish Lirasi. Because of image shows the door on background of clevis, it gives a idea that if you put the coin of Turkish lirasi in clevis door would open.

Aleksandra Skaljak, 34  Bosnia

Old part of Sarajevo, built by Austro-Hungarian empire.

Geri Niemi, 38  Philippines

Authorized entrants only. Keep out!
Participants’ creative responses to primary cultural text 6
Lamya Hussain Gargash, 24  United Arab Emirates
Mariana Whareaitu, 19  Māori-New Zealand
Kate Terton, 37  Germany
Layla Soroush, 27  Iran

STRESS
Ashneel Khatri 19, Indian Fiji
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
Mai Samaha, 23  Egypt
Katarina Lindström, 24  Sweden
Denniston Ewen, Jamaica
Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaijan
Simon Gargonne, 26  French-Canada
Henra Nugraha, 22  Indonesia
Hassan Lagilli, 30  
Libya
Simon Gargonne, 26  **French-Canada**

Réseaux entremêlés  
Liaisons anarchiques en quête de sens,  
Déracinés,  
Nos différences nous rapprochent,  
Le choc de l’instantanéité nous excite,  
La perte de l’identité nous effraie mais,  
La Joie la joie nous submerge dans cette communion

Aye Win Myint, 27  **Burma**

Most of the Myanmar people are Buddhist. They believed in Buddha. In every year have lighting festival for Buddha, we called it Thidingyut festival. This festival was held in every where of our country in the October before and after of full moon day. During this festival we lighting on trees, front of the houses, on the road in every town just like Christmas. But in the villages, villagers are making hand made toys for lighting with candle. At the pagodas, lighting with candles and electric bulbs are every where. Some people are doing floating candle in the river. Monks and Myanmar peoples are not going travel for four months, that means to hibernate in the rainy season. After this season gone they held this festival. During this festival, elderly people are going to the monastery for take meditation and worship to Buddha. Young people are playing with fire cracker in everywhere. In the Shan state, during the lighting festival people are making different shape of flying balloons and doing competition for distance and longer.
Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

The nightclub. Light ball. Mix colour! Feel hot and cold at same time.

Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaijan

The Image Six. Hmmm... Colourful bulbs... inspite of vivid colors, i don’t like the way these bulbs are inter-curled. Maybe they are installed in some torture-room, where poor people are forced to stare at them all the time?! It gives me a feeling of dizziness.

Ewe Terton, 40  Germany

This image of party lights represents an ongoing party for me, the lamps look like the guests of the party, they are full of energy, they interfere with each other, have a chat, dance together, kiss and flirt. The light expresses an erotic feeling. It reminds me of the parties where I used to go when I was 16 years old. We were sort of a clique, 15 youngsters going through the tough times of puberty and becoming adults. We were very close. The cables connecting the light bulbs represent the connections that we had as a peer of young people. I always look back to these times and have to smile.

Ren Wei, 26  China

This image makes me think of some celebrations as the bonds and the colored bulbs. Or maybe it is an art work.
Rainadi Damursyah, 20  Borneo

When I see this picture it reminds me of my home stay mother, when I was in Adelaide. She likes to put these lights on the Christmas tree, me and all the boys help her to decorate the Christmas tree. It also reminds me of the time in New Year’s Eve, where some people might put these lights in front of their house. Seeing this picture makes me feel that I want to be at home with my family, when all the members in the family get together to celebrate New Year’s Eve.

MD Ridauddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei

This picture did not ring any bells once looked at. I looked at it twice and still nothing. But after staring at it for like two minutes I decided it reminded me of ABBA Dancing Queen. I think the connection there is that it had something to do with the disco swingers era. Maybe (I was too young to know).

María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  Colombia

It brings me an idea of family and popular party because in Colombian’s celebrations are used lights like those. I remember nice moments full of happiness and the live celebration.

Mbachu Chichi, 27  Nigeria

Lights in a ring
Antony Felix Simbowo, 25  Kenya

The initial one you sent had an aura of sensuality. It brought about a theme of sex due to the red colour as well as the light. One can also read an indication of partying, drinking and recreational sex.

Adel Abu Haimed, 25  Saudi Arabia

It reminds me about night life because I used to see these lights in nightclubs and some restaurants. In my country always been used to get attention. Business owners use these multicolour lights to design their new shop so it can attract the customers. During my stay in Australia I have seen people design their charismas tree with these lights. It’s very attractive and it present happiness.

Henra Nugraha, 22  Indonesia

This image represents Christmas in my head, because all the lights that being displayed reminds me of Christmas tree decoration. The Western/American culture that were brought in mass media through television, cinema, magazine, etc brings Christmas things in my mind.

Theingi Tun, 36  Burma

The true light was within our hearts
For I felt complete
With the warmth of love
Prahm Janpasa, 23  Thailand

This image remind me of my past in Germany when I was young. It looks like a light decoration on the Christmas tree. I remember that me and my mom had a Christmas tree with lots of presents placing around the tree in our apartment. It was one of my best memories in my life. The red lights sort of making me see as a lipstick. It would be something to do with the nightclubs because of this image appears to me as some sort of flashing lights in the club. I would probably say that Fullmoon Party (Thailand) the one that this image has reminded me of. Because, the party was on the beach and there was also one small stage that has all the lights flashing during the party. The stage is sort of important to me at that moment because, I really felt like I had to be up there and dance with people from all around the world with my favourite type of music that was playing.

Code Admore Sangala, 30  Malawi

Lights up the spirit of the World
Rekindles the dying flame of love
Families are reunited, senses are ignited
Emotional contentment, Spiritual upliftment
Memories are made of this
Calendars are marked for this
Its a celebration of a new life, a new beginning,
The Genesis of all things beautiful.
Xiao Huo, 21  China

In this picture I am feeling an atmosphere is bustling with noise and excitement and also feeling enthusiasm. The little flash in the light bulb to give this picture vigorous. The electric wire at the center make the picture two piece, left red and another half in white, so they have a contrast.

Tamoy Singh, 23  Jamaica

The lights are so bright
They hurt my eyes
But still they bring joy to my life
The promise of hope for tomorrow
I wish it could last forever
But unfortunately its only once a year
I get such joy
From seeing those lights
So bright that they hurt my eyes

Anas Alabbadi, 30  Jordan

This photo is confusing for me, I feel it doesn’t fit with the other photos, I didn’t like it, it’s distracting me, if I have the choice I would hide the green lights, and also the red one in the middle right, I might keep the blue, but this is the first image I felt that I have to change. After a second look, I might leave the green light in the middle right, am not trying to make it looks nice, no, but it’s really distracting me.
Geri Niemi, 38  Philippines

Industry. Commercialism

Pauline Hui Ying Ooi, 25  Malaysia

The image reminds me of Christmas season, Christmas trees and the entire glittery decorative lights hang all over the house. Christmas carols are ringing in my head and I could picture the choir going around the neighborhood singing Christmas carols. Festive celebration aside, the colorful light bulbs to me represents happiness and the light itself gives me a sense of hope. The image on the whole if viewed in an abstract way seems to represent life. I see entangled wires in the picture which could represent hardship, challenges and obstacles in life. However, life is still filled with hope and the challenges are just parts and parcels in life.

Pascal G Bekono, 27  Cameroon

Cette photo représente un lustre fait de plusieurs ampoules de couleurs éclatantes, reliées entre elles par des tubes en aluminium formant des zigzags.

Oruntomigbekele Fasina, 25  West Sahara

Happy Christmas to the whole world. “Let there be light” and the earth shone with such radiance of colour cocktail splendor.
Ka-Man Carmen Yim, 20  **Hong Kong**

My Home, My City, Hong Kong. Neon lights everywhere at night time, after a whole day of work, it’s time to chill out!

Uršula Jašovec, 19  **Slovenia**

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Lučke, praznovanja, osvetlitev, radost, novo leto, božič, prazniki, veselje, toplina, barvitost, poživitev
A feeling of something coming, a feeling of warmth, holliday time, celebration, snow, decorated and colourfull houses, yards, stores, places, happyness, joy ...
Electricity, power
Strojništvo, elektro-tehništvo, fizika-physics, watt, James Watt, Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, inventions, inventors ...

Thandiwe Ngoma, 24  **Zambia**

Life is like a bouquet of coloured lights.
This reminds me of the beauty of celebration.
The spirit of joy that all people share universally.
A puzzle of lights when put together, make this life I know today.
It reminds me of where I've been to where Am today.
Life indeed is like a bouquet of lights, so bright and beautiful.
Asanga Pradeep S. Coorey, 24  Sri Lanka

There is number of bulbs in various colours. Seems like these bulbs are very new. But the thing is that power, wires and light is not well enough. Only the fancy and good looking. But the outcome is low. The idea is that colourfulness and number of items are not only support for the outcome and to the vision.

Aleksandra Skaljak, 34  Bosnia

New Year Party.
Participants' creative responses to primary cultural text 7

Primary cultural text 7
Layla Soroush, 27  Iran
MD Riduaddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei
Mélanie Ovaert, 26  France
Heléne Pihlström, 22  Sweden
Daniela Flynn, 31   Germany

Cemeteries are omnipresent reminders of the past.

A child’s innocence offers no protection against the atrocities of war.
Johnbosco Kenneth Amakeze, 28  Nigeria
Mai Samaha, 23  Egypt

EVERY LITTLE BASTARD GETS A GUN.
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
9/11: A nation still remembers
Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaijan
Maria Renee McRoberts, 26  Mexico
Shakeh Avanes Sarookhanian, 40 Iran
LIFE IS TRICKY
DEATH WILL HAVE TO WAIT
Hassan Lagilli, 30  Libya
MD Ridauddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei

In my opinion it reminded me of a Mosque. Being a muslim boy that is where it took me. Although I’m sure others might not see the connection since it is a picture of a Christian cemetery. And people may find it like some sort of ‘taboo’ if one was to think that a Christian cemetery reminds someone of a Mosque.

Aye Win Myint, 27  Burma

This picture show to remind me our past. This was happened not too far. That was in second world war. Our country and India was under colony of British empire before the world war II. When Japan declared the war and they become a war hero. All east Asia were slowly down to their hand, but alliance were accompanied and against them, Japan were run out. During the war, many soldiers of alliance were died and have special grave yard in two big place in Thaunkyank and Thanbieyzayat when they got victory. It represent the upper part of this picture. But most Japanese soldiers died in the forest, so their helmet were grounded in the forest or on the ground. No place for them to make grave yard in our country because they have unsuccessful war. It represent the lower part of this picture.

Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaijan

Ohh no... So much sadness comes out of that image. I think automatically on destroyed city of Shusha in my homecountry Azerbaijan, during the occupational war of Armenia. Yes, this image looks exactly the same way as dozens of cities of Azerbaijan destroyed by war. Abandoned graveyards, hidden landmines, the stolen childhood of children, who became victims of that unfaired war...
Pascal G Bekono, 27  Cameroon

Elle montre une petite haie faite de fils entrelacés entre eux, une boule rouge avec des balafres est insérée à l'intérieur de cette haie. De l'autre côté, c'est une petite savane, qui s'achève sur une petite colline où surplombe un long mur sur lequel est érigé des symboles de croix religieuses.

MD Sharawan Taman Dhali, 25  Bangladesh

The picture seems to me that a ball which is on the grass may be kids were playing soccer and they can't get the ball because the ball is in a difficult place.

Bernadette Caniogo, 24  Fiji

The scene or image of the graveyard despite the image of those that have gone before us, all lying peacefully in their sleep. The darkness that surrounds the graveyard, gives me an eerie feeling that some of those lying in their graves are in another world, a dark world; a place where they are being trapped or imprisoned and cannot escape. The same feeling applies to the ball lying beneath the entwined wires. Looking very fragile and helpless; it seems like it is imprisoned and entrapped beneath the wires and is unable to extract itself from where it lies. The whole scene reminds me of a part of my life where I sometimes feel that I am trapped and imprisoned in a world of tradition and culture that stops me from being myself; or expressing my own true feelings or ideas due to culture beliefs and traditions. Although it is part of my life, it seems like a ‘netting’ or ‘sieve’ that blocks out and limits the part in me that wants to express more of myself, my ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

This is a royal graveyard. The red thing is the alarm. But someone broke into the graveyard and stole the treasure.

Priscilla Hermali, 24  Indonesia

This picture somehow reminds me of soccer and England (English Premiere League). I used to be a football/soccer fan and always interested going to England to watch soccer. It also reminds me of an old friend of mine from Manchester that always told me that England’s weather is really bad. The image shows me the ‘real’ England.

Ziao Shu Zhang, 23  China

This picture shows that the big grave. It is so desolate. It reminds me the bad things. People lost their family and lovers lost their wives or husbands.

Vinita Argawal, 24  India

For this image I have chosen to replace it with an image of leaves that I took myself. With the graveyard in the background, and the egg caught in the wires, it shows death as well as the suppression of birth. I am including this image of leaves, because leaves for me represent life, they represent growth and nurture. I would like to convert the negativity from this image into something more positive, something that conveys the opposite of what is shown to me (see image).
George Kesselman, 23  **Russia**

Heart tangled in search of the values and faith. The image invokes the thoughts of when I have immigrated to Canada from Russia and was trying to understand how the values here are different from the ones I was raised with. I was tangled and confused in trying to find of weather to retain the values that I already had or to adopt the values of the new society.

Kane Satui, 30  **Tonga**

A beginning and the end. Search for the meaning of life. Future – the end is set in stone, but the journey or direction is dark unknown) as it isn’t charted yet. A place of memories.

Geri Niemi, 38  **Philippines**

The next album cover of Slayer! A lonely and dark translation of this life’s end.

Theingi Tun, 36  **Burma**

How fragile is life
How precious and brief
Just like the mornings
And dewdrops on leaves
Ewe Terton, 40 Germany

This photo brings up old memories about going on a trip to Bretony, France with my parents in October (Autumn) 1982. The reason why we went there, was that my dad was there when he was a soldier during WWII. The war for me is like this image, or better the times after war. People died and being buried at a cemetery. The red buoy made out of glass could stand for new life and hope which is right now covered by a net of grief. Between the dead people (cemetery) and life(red buoy) there seems to be a barrier (the dark area). There are two grass palms which point towards the grave stones. This could connect the world of the dead with the world of the living.

Uršula Jašovec, 19 Slovenia

Gloomy side of life
Grobovi, žale, smrt, žalost, jok, nebesa, pekel, vice, Dante Alighieri-9 krokov pekla-Božanska komedija=La Divina Commedia, 1.11.-dan mrtvih/dan spomina, duše, mediator ...
V ospredju je vidna pikapolonica-rdeča ponazarja krik, nekaj drugačnega, nekaj kar predstavlja dogajanje v ljudih, kateri bližnji so pokojni. V ozadju grobove spremlja spokojna vijolično-modra barva neba, v ospredju pa vidimo zanemarjeno travo in posušeno trnje, ki predstavlja smrt-bolečino! Barva neba in pikapolonice je prijetno kontrastna vsebin slike.Graveyard, mourning, sadness, scream for freedom and despair which stays forever in people whose closest have died. Even the grass in front of the graves is all neglected and covered in thorns as it is this life and death itself.

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María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  Colombia

It is a far place from me, I feel that I have been there before. The grass, is the same which my feet have walked all of this years, with a dark side, that have been there always, but I do not assume it yet.
Participants’ creative responses to primary cultural text 8

Primary cultural text 8
Kate Terton, 37    Germany

CHILLY WINDS ON VERY HIGH MOUNTAINS
WARMLY THOUGHTS AND WISHES
MD Riduaddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei
Layla Soroush, 27 Iran
Shakeh Avanes Sarookhanian, 40  Iran
Elnara Babayeva, 25  Azerbaijan

The unknown future. An Azerbaijani woman, who fled the militry attack of Armenians.
Maria Renee McRoberts, 26  Mexico
Happiness - Destroyed

The path to happiness
Suppressed by tin soldiers
Waving their red flags,
Destroying the colours in the wind

Peacefulness | Unrest
Expanse      | Deadly Boundaries
Invincibility| Invasion
Nukhbat Malik, 28  Pakistan
María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  Colombia
Sarah Nasser, 19  Cayman Islands
Karen Sommers, 23  USA
South Island, New Zealand

Mount Cook
Aye Myint, 22  Burma
Henra Nugraha, 22   Indonesia
MD Ridauddin Hj Ibrahim, 24  Brunei

The first picture that caught my eye was the really blue picture of the clothes being blown around a mountain side. Ironically the mental picture in my head took me to a painting my uncle drew of a water village from back home in Brunei. The picture my uncle drew (Pg Haji Muhammad Pg Duraman) drew a lot of these water village image pictures because he grew up in a water village. Also the water village is an important landmark of my country.

María Alejandra Gaviria Reyes, 18  Colombia

It is a picture of a very nice moment I had with my best friends, where although we had not money for eating or luxury, everybody said “Good Morning!” with a smile in their faces.

Priscilla Hermali, 24  Indonesia

This image reminds me of a picture/film that I saw about Himalaya where the people in the village hangs those colorful piece of fabric everywhere on the line, especially on celebration.

Tony Hsu, 24  Taiwan

Tibet. This picture remind me two movies: 7 year in Tibet and BATMAN Begins. How the main characters living in that place. And Tibet really changes their mind.
Prahm Janpasa, 23  **Thailand**

A small market festival of the small village town in Europe. It evokes me to the movie called ‘The sound of music’ as the background set is the blue mountain, which relates to this movie. I think this image was taken in Europe during summer. The dark blue and yellow colours remind me of my high school in Thailand where we use purple and yellow as our colour symbol. A tree reminds me of the Christmas tree. It looks very familiar but I don’t know what it is.

Aye Win Myint, 27  **Burma**

In this picture the background mountains were cover with snow and some piece of colorful fabric are attached with string and also some wooden stick are supporting that string. This picture make me memories about our Kachin Tribe Manaw Festival. The upper part of Myanmar is very cold and snowing in the winter. In the Kachin state, you can see the same image like that because most of the time Kachin state is very cold and in the winter all mountains are covering with snow. In Manaw festival, young people are hanging their hands and dancing around fire woods. The bamboo sticks are placing in the middle of the ground and the colorful small flags are attached with the string and swing in the air. In our people there are eight tribes, which are Kachin, Kayin, Kaya, Chin, Shan, Mon, Myanmar and Yakine. Each tribe has special kinds of dancing and traditional festivals. Kachin Manaw festival is hold in every year. Before this festival they prepare to hunt animals for eating together during in that festival. This festival made them faith therefore they held in every year just like new year.
Elnara Babayeva, 25  **Azerbaijan**

Image 8 made me to think about great human catastrophe of country again. It looks so similar to the refugee and IDPs settlements in Azerbaijan. People who were obliged to flee from danger, were placed to the refugee camps, which became their homes for more than ten years. People live their, being denied from the most basic things, but the great hope to return to their native lands is still in their hearts...

Anas Alabbadi, 30  **Jordan**

Windy and cold, but temporary, for sure we are not staying there for a long time, even the weather might change, there is a person in the right down corner, we can see only his hand, is just putting this structure or cloth in front of them camera, and he will remove them soon, it seems it will only takes him one move to pull them back, I guess he will also leave some parts to fly away, but this is just because he don’t care.

Theingi Tun, 36  **Burma**

Let me soar
Let me fly
Before my chance passes by
Let me catch the wind of fate
Let me see the path to take
Adel Abu Haimed, 25  Saudi Arabia

A picture that depicts a snowy mountain range in the background and in the mist of all the white there are different patch of colour. Like a community of colours close to each other and make such an already beautiful look out even more special. This image reminds me about some movies that show snow. I had no chance to see snow because where I come from it doesn’t snow not even once.

Uršula Jašovec, 19  Slovenia

Pleasant view from my window
Alpe, gorovje, domača dežela, domačnost, pogled iz moje sobe, trakovi, ki spominjajo na slavje, državne barve, pripadnost kulturi, jodlanje, harmonika, veselice, smeh, vriskanje, petje, ples, zabava ... pohodi, trekingi, gojzarji/planinski čevlji, planinska koča, ptičje petje, kranjski Janez, Gorenjska, Slovenija, jota, matevž, kranjska klobasa, skavti, poletna osvajanja vrhov ... 
Prijetna modra barva gor, ki so nekoliko v ozadju, zabrisane, v ospredju pa vidimo trakove, ki plapolajo v mrzlem pišu vetra, ki se z njimi poigrava- obleke, ki se sušijo po pranju na vrveh ...
View from my window, scouts, long walks on mountains, “mountain shoes”, snow, skiing, yodelling, accordion, singing, dances, merrymaking, joy, fun, ease, appurtenance; Alpes, chain of mountains, bird singing, washed clothes being dried in wind ...

Mbachu Chichi, 27  Nigeria

Different colors representing different ethnic groups but with one aim - to make the world great.
Pascal G Bekono, 27  Cameroon

C’est une peinture qui montre en avant plan une partie de trois arbres et des feuilles d’arbres colorés, puis aperçoit dans l’ombre une forêt, au fond une montagne recouverte de neige.

Vinita Agarwal, 24  India

To me this image of the Tibetan flags, reminds me of my love for Buddhism and Tibetan poetry and scripture. This image that I am replacing it with here, shows how I transformed some Tibetan calligraphy into a design pattern of my own for a photographic project that I did in the first term. The aim is to represent the harmony of those people, with their simple yet effective colours, with a beauty that transcends from within.

Geri Niemi, 38  Philippines

Windy Day
As an ongoing international research project *Big Blue Ball: Pictures, people, place* extends beyond the lifespan of the PhD candidature. With the ideal of ‘infinite play’ in mind, transcultural engagement remains open ended. As this document goes to print, over 100 members of the global community have contributed to the project from over 65 nations, with others still in the interpretation stage. The project continues to regularly enlist new members and intercultural dialogue is flourishing, taking on new dimensions providing more opportunities to build relationships across cultures.

The project has aimed to better understand complex meaning systems development and adaptation within a contemporary social context by creatively exploring how meaning can be reconstructed through cross-cultural exposure and intercultural exchange. Research strategies have positioned images as being central to the representation of the world, therefore the structure of the project’s methodology has allowed for ideas to emerge by exploiting the visual as a cultural resource. With the project’s collective approach to broad-based transcultural engagement a variety of creative interactions have encouraged continuing discourse towards deeper understandings about our global community. *Big Blue Ball: Pictures, people, place* is an ongoing, cooperative, international exchange that creatively moves itself onto new paths, transforming and evolving dynamically and dialogically from the ground up. It is the creative practice in collective action, stimulating, informing and engaging with emerging intercultural narratives of the many-way flows of a global lifeworld.

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