

# MOSTYN

Resource pack for secondary schools

Ages 14+



## Athena Papadopoulos Cain and Abel Can't and Able

14th March - 1st November 2020

Athena Papadopoulos, Subterranean Bleacher Bash, (Cain Can't) 2020.

Cain and Abel Can't and Able.

Installation view at MOSTYN, Wales UK, March 2020.

Photograph: Mark Blower



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# Notes for students and teachers

## How to use this pack

This pack has been produced with secondary school aged children (KS4 & KS5) in mind. We recommend that due to the nature of the work and its themes, it is not suitable for younger children.

All the tasks can be done from home, requiring access to the internet, your camera or smartphone, and some basic household items.

It is helpful to follow the tasks in order.

## This pack consists of the following :

Glossary and key terms (dichotomy, emotive etc) relating to Papadopoulos' work.

Task: Can we have an emotive response to objects?

Photography mini project. You will need your camera or your smartphone for this.

Images of Papadopoulos' work installed at MOSTYN.

If you wish to get in touch, or would like to share images of your work with MOSTYN, please email [engagement@mostyn.org](mailto:engagement@mostyn.org)

Athena Papadopoulos was born in 1988 in Toronto, CA. She lives and works in Hull. Following her BFA at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, CA), she completed her MFA at Goldsmiths (London, UK) in 2013.

Working across sculpture, painting, text and sound, Papadopoulos' practice defies traditional representations of the body, creating excessive, decaying and abject hybrid forms hovering between the worlds of the imagined and the real. Through a process of assemblage, her work is formed of found objects amassed and collaged together. Traditional binary perceptions of gender and sexuality are uprooted and unfixed.

The exhibition is inspired by her recently published book *Cain and Abel Can't and Able*, which gives the exhibition its title. Drawing from the biblical story of Cain and Abel, Papadopoulos reflects on her own personal experiences of sibling rivalry and competition within romantic relationships and crucially, the struggle between good and evil.

Centred around a dialogue written by Papadopoulos, in which an imagined narrative between two voices is played out, *Cain and Abel Can't and Able* explores themes of jealousy, lust and kindness. Papadopoulos transforms this dialogue into wall-based sculptural paintings, an experimental sound work which can be heard throughout the gallery space and pages of the text that reappear hidden, splayed and nesting within the installation.

Take a look at Athena Papadopoulos' work, using the links below.

<https://www.mostyn.org/athena-papadopoulos>

<https://www.athenapapadopoulos.com/>

If you want to take things further, try searching

'TANK Magazine Athena Papadopoulos'

<https://tankmagazine.com/tank/2020/04/athena-papadopoulos/>



## Glossary and key terms

**Cain and Abel** - a biblical story from the book of Genesis. It is a story of murder and sibling rivalry.

**Dichotomy** - a distinct division, or something that is entirely different or opposed.

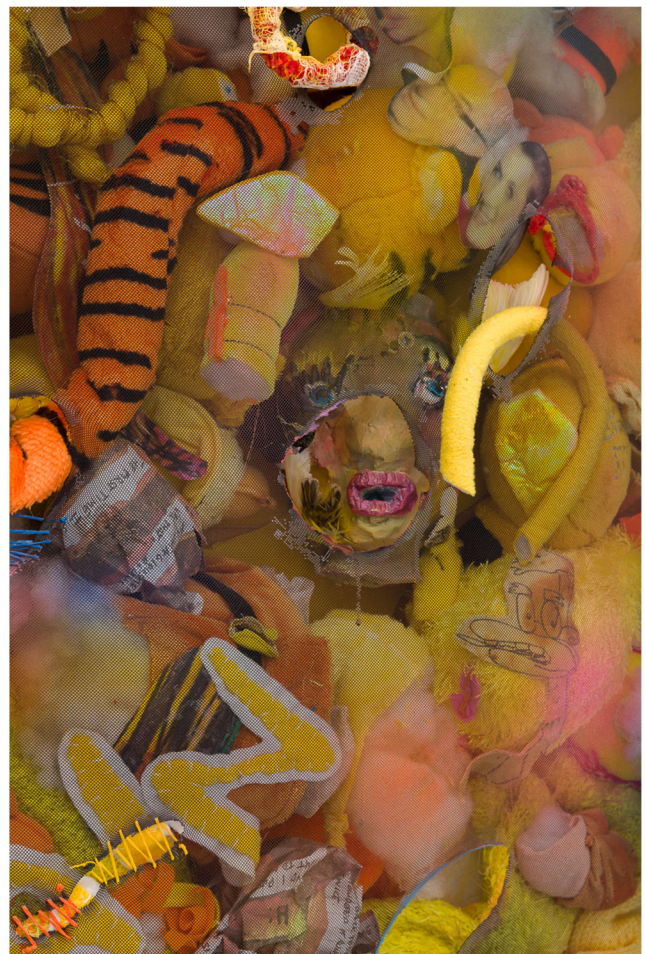
**Emotive** - something or someone which is able to arouse feelings and emotion.

**Assemblage** - the piecing together of items in a considered arrangement.

**Hybrid** - something which is created by combining two separate elements.



Athena Papadopoulos, (Eavesdripping Book) 2020.  
Cain and Abel Can't and Able  
(installation view) at MOSTYN, Wales UK, 2020.  
Photograph: Mark Blower



Athena Papadopoulos, Artist He, Artist Shh Shh She,  
(Cain Can't) 2020 (detail).  
Cain and Abel Can't and Able  
Installation view at MOSTYN, Wales UK, March 2020.  
Photograph: Mark Blower



# Can we have an emotive response to objects?

**Task:** Find two objects which give you an **emotive response**. They might be objects you love, or that you really dislike, or even objects that you do not know exactly what their purpose is or where they came from.

Draw your two objects in the boxes below.

Think about the **emotive response** these objects give you.

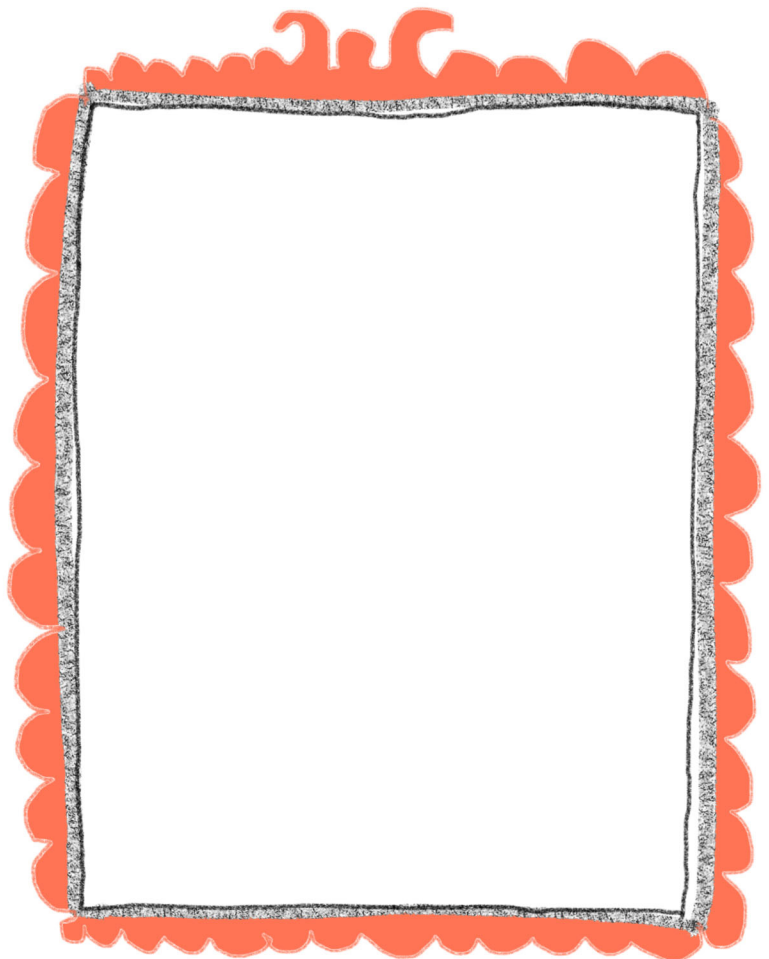
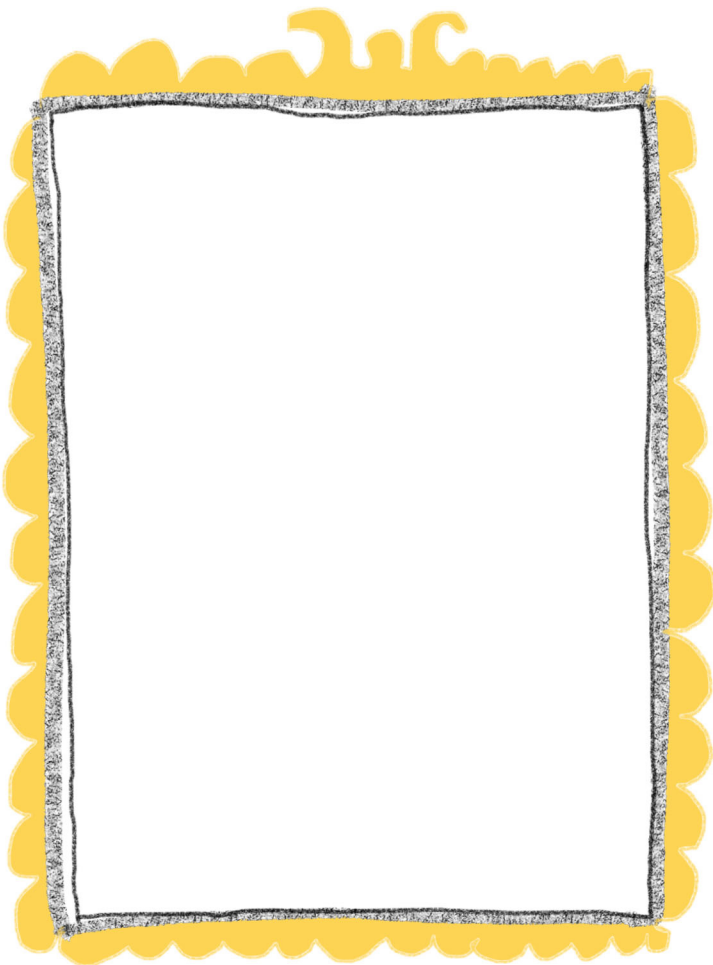
What words would you choose to describe the objects and the feelings they create for you?

Can you invent a **story** (no more than 1 sentence) for each of the objects?

The story does not have to be the truth!

Surround each object with the words that you associate with these objects.

Include the **story**.



## Take another look at Papadopoulos' work.

Note how the objects are arranged, paying attention to texture, colour, text and shape.

These objects might be seen as a kind of 'sculptural collage'.



Top row images, left to right:

Athena Papadopoulos, *Able Abel*, 2020.  
Cain and Abel Can't and Able  
Installation view at MOSTYN, Wales UK, March 2020.  
Photograph: Mark Blower

Athena Papadopoulos, *Subterranean Bleacher Bash*,  
(Cain Can't) 2020.  
Cain and Abel Can't and Able  
Installation view at MOSTYN, Wales UK, March 2020.  
Photograph: Mark Blower

Bottom row image:

Athena Papadopoulos, *Artist He, Artist Shh Shh She*,  
(Cain Can't) 2020.  
Cain and Abel Can't and Able  
Installation view at MOSTYN, Wales UK, March 2020.  
Photograph: Mark Blower



# Photography mini project

Collect objects from around your house which correspond to one of the following themes:

**soft, anger, calm, comfort, argument**

...and photograph them in an assemblage.

Think about:

- the textures you use
- the colours you use
- adding some text (this could be from a newspaper, magazine or your own written notes)
- the shapes you create with your objects



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