Howard Arkley - Interiors

Photoshop - Airbrushing
History – Howard Arkely

• Howard Arkley is popularly known as a painter of Australian suburbia. His signature houses and domestic interiors and were produced always in connection with his interest with the abstract, patterns and the shift between two and three dimensions.

• "I believe that Howard sees the suburbs as a landscape. One of the most interesting memories I have of Howard was him telling me he was moving to Oakleigh and he said to me, "yesterday I went to the milk bar and I was totally blown away by all the garage doors." He was intoxicated by the garage doors, and he saw enough there to be the source of art, Cezanne looked at mountains, van Gogh saw flowers, but Howard had an eye-full of garage doors!

• He was absolutely engrossed by a type of banal iconography. He could see it and felt confident that he could dignify it and bring a lustre and honour to it.

• Every community or society has artists, and Howard is our artist.
Student Examples
Task:
Your task is to create your own Howard Arkley inspired suburban image.

Using the elements and principles of art/design create an artwork using Photography and New Media that represents your everyday life and its beauty.

The focus will be on Line, Shape, Colour and Pattern.

Assessment:
-Folio; research images, print screen examples from different stages of work, NGV interactive example
--One A3 colour Howard Arkley Inspired Suburban Landscape
-Evaluation; 250words following previous criteria
Research for Folio

Part 1:
Collect examples of some of the source materials that inspired Arkley, including drawings from real estate advertising, interior design books and magazines, and shopping catalogues.

Why might these images have inspired Arkley, and how did Arkley use them in his work?

Compare and contrast a work by Arkley with that of another artist inspired by aspects of suburban life, eg Elizabeth Gower, Robert Rooney, Jon Campbell, Constanze Zikos etc...

Research the work of architects Peter Corrigan and Maggie Edmond. What does their work have in common with Arkley’s?
Practical

Part 2:
Log onto the NGV website
Complete the interactive section. Print screen and save the image to include in your folio.

Part 3:
Take digital photographs of your house, in your street/suburb or a building at the school.

Part 4: (teacher directed)
Using Photoshop experiment with colour and effects to create your own Arkley-like image of suburbia. Using the airbrush tool you will begin to fill in each section with multiple layers and colours, much like that of Howard Arkley’s work. (See additional worksheet and demonstration using Photoshop)

The size of the artwork should be A3. Ensure that your image is a high enough quality.