

ARTS HEALTH ACTIVITY

**Make A Dreamscape Collage,  
inspired by *Take me back to sleep*  
by Matt Coyle from the Maitland  
Regional Art Gallery Collection**



Matt Coyle, *Take me back to sleep* 2016  
Ink, coloured pencil, gouache on paper 52 x 70cm  
Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection

**MAITLAND  
REGIONAL  
ART GALLERY**

This artmaking activity promotes imagination, storytelling and creativity. The activity is designed to be used with an accompanying video or on its own.



## Have a good look

Take your time to have a look at *Take me back to sleep* by Matt Coyle. It is a drawing made with ink pens and gouache, creating a surrealist, shadowy and perplexing image.

You might like to think about, and discuss, the following questions. Please keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers and feel encouraged to come up with some imaginative responses.

- What do you think is happening in the artwork?
- What are the people doing?
- In what kind of landscape is the house located?
- Does it look warm or cold?
- Where do you think the scene is located?
- Have look at the scale of the people in the image in comparison with the house; do you think that it is a small house or are they giant people?
- Do you like the artwork? Why or why not?
- What's one word that you would use to describe this artwork?

# Let's Get Creative

What you will need for this art making activity:

- **A4 sheet of paper**
- **Glue stick**
- **Scissors**
- **Old magazines to cut up**

1



## Step 1.

- Gather your materials and make sure that you have a nice clear space where you can work.



2



## Step 2.

This activity can be guided by images that you find appealing in the magazines or catalogues you have. Flick through the magazines and tear out pages with interesting items and backgrounds in them. You or your artmaking companion can start to roughly cut out your selections.

## Step 3.

Work together to start to arrange your cut-outs in interesting compositions. You might like to choose what you would like in the background first. Start at the top of your page and work your way down to the bottom, glueing things in place as you go. This approach will help to create a sense of the background and the foreground.



## Step 4.

Now that you have created a weird and wonderful background, you can start to decide on what other interesting elements will be featured in your dreamscape. This could be anything! From food, whitegoods, animals and plants to sculptures, shapes or people.

Have fun arranging them in interesting ways on your page. Will they be stacked? upside-down? sideways? cut in half?

Once you are happy with your dreamscape, you can glue it in place.



# Reflection

- What do you think is happening in your dreamscape?
- If it is a story, who is the main character? What are they doing?
- Imagine it is a snapshot from a dream, what is going to happen next?
- What is the most interesting part of the image?
- Would you like to visit the place that you have created?
- What title will you give your artwork?

# Extra

Using your answers from these questions, you might like to write a short story or poem to accompany your artwork.

## **Example of a short story to accompany the example image:**

*At the swimming pool plateau, when the clock strikes 12, the washing machines will turn on and the horse will have to try and balance the soup to prevent it falling in the many pools below. The owl is trying to manifest a jade handled spoon, resting on the oval moon, so that she can enjoy the shaken soup and then do the washing up in the sink.*