



ART  
GALLERY  
NSW

# POP TO POPIISM

CHILDREN'S TRAIL

**SYDNEY  
INTERNATIONAL  
ARTS SERIES**

# POP TO POPISM

The pop art movement began about 50 years ago, at a time when television was still fairly new and advertising was becoming a major part of everyday life. Many young artists wanted to reference this new image-filled world in their art. Soup cans, magazine ads and pictures of famous people – things that had never before been considered artistic subjects – became important. Popular culture was their inspiration. Even the name – ‘pop art’ – comes from ‘popular culture’. Take a look at how the artists in this exhibition have used images from pop culture and think about what their art tells us about our world.

**HAVE FUN EXPLORING  
& MAKE SOME ART  
OF YOUR OWN**



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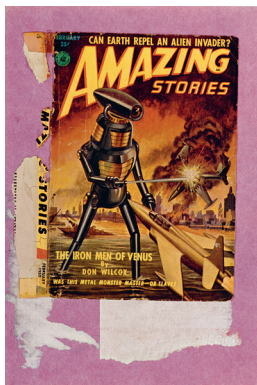
★ **Find** this space-age collage.

Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi was inspired by comic books and magazine advertisements about aliens, robots and machines. He often cut them up and collaged them together to make designs for new artworks.

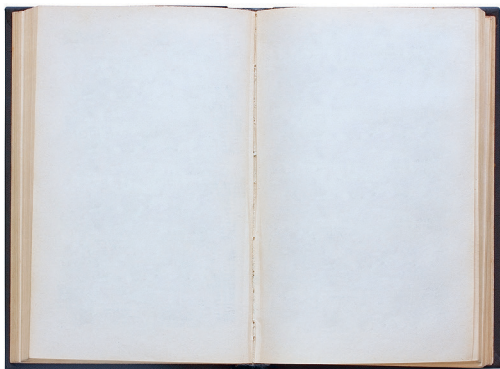
**Spot** the giant space-age robot. Do you think someone or something could be inside controlling it?

Where do you think this action is taking place? What is going to happen next?

**Invent** your own amazing alien or robot creature and make up a story about it.



Eduardo Paolozzi Was this metal monster master — or slave? 1952, collage mounted on card



**At home** make a collage out of pictures, patterns and advertisements from magazines.



★ **Spot** this artwork.

American artist Robert Rauschenberg was inspired by everyday objects and turned discarded junk into art. He called these works 'combines'.

**List** all of the things you can recognise in this artwork. Are they the sorts of things you expect to see in a gallery?

**Imagine** you could add or combine more objects to this artwork to change its appearance or to make it bigger. What would you add?

**Draw** your ideas around it here.



Robert Rauschenberg *Dyabaly* 1962. rubber tyre, oil on packing case timber, iron nails



**At home** make a sculpture out of recycled objects and discarded junk.



★ **Look** at this target.

Targets and other everyday objects often appear in pop art. Rather than paint a target, British artist Peter Blake bought this archery target at a sports shop and attached it to a canvas.

What other things has he stuck to the canvas?

**Imagine** you could buy an object from a shop and stick it to a canvas to make an artwork.

**Draw** your idea here.



Peter Blake *The first real target* 1961, enamel on canvas and paper on board

**At home** find images of targets, flags and other everyday objects that have been painted by pop artists. Which one do you like best?



★ **Find** this large collage painting.

American artist Tom Wesselmann was inspired by billboard images of food and mass-produced goods to make this large artwork that combines painting and cut-out pictures.

**List** what objects are painted and what objects are stuck on. Do you think this artwork would look as effective if every part was painted?

**Imagine** the cake stand of food and the blue pepper pot belong to a giant who is about to come and eat his dinner. **Invent** a story about what might happen next.

**Draw** or write your idea here.



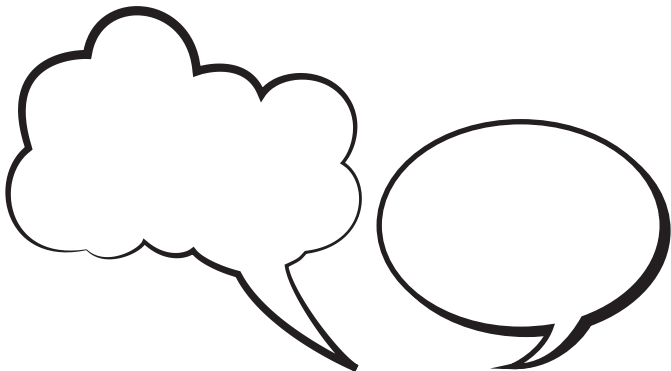
Tom Wesselmann *Still life #29* 1963, oil and collage on canvas

**At home** make a combined painting and collage of your favourite food by cutting images out of magazines.



★ **Look** at this comic-like painting.

American artist Roy Lichtenstein is famous for turning printed comic book images into his own hand-made paintings. This large painting uses the same bold colours and black outlines popular in comics.



**Notice** how the painting is made up of hundreds of tiny dots. Lichtenstein would use metal stencils punctured with holes so his dots were neat and uniform, just like a comic.

**Imagine** where these people are going. What could they be saying to each other?

**Write** your ideas in these speech bubbles.



Roy Lichtenstein *In the car* 1963, oil on magna on canvas

**At home** create drawings for a comic strip story about characters that you invent. What adventures will they have?



★ **Meet** this soccer team.

German artist Konrad Lueg has used flat, bright colours so this painting looks like a graphic-style advertisement.

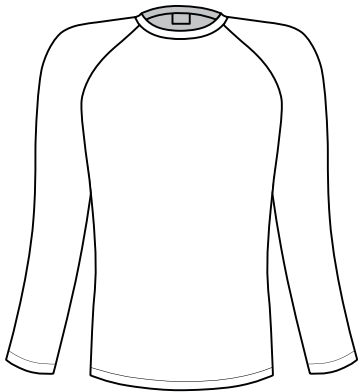
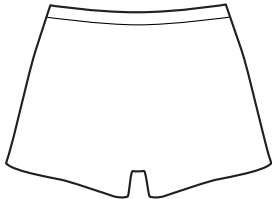
**Notice** how the lack of detail in the players' faces adds to the impression that this is a stylised image.

**Spot** the patterns created by the players' interlocking arms and their red socks.

**Design** a uniform for the opposition and invent names for both teams.



Konrad Lueg *Football players 1963*, tempera on canvas



**At home** draw yourself and your friends playing your favourite sport as if you are in a graphic-style advertisement.





★ **Spot** this sleek painting.

Australian artist Bridgid McLean has painted a close-up view of a car's exhaust pipes using a smooth painting technique to suggest the shine and gleam of the chrome.

**Look** at how the blended colours of the bending pipes create the illusion of shape and form.

**Notice** how the dark background shape focuses our attention on the power and unexpected beauty of the pipes.

**Draw** the type of car you think these pipes belong to.



Bridgid McLean 'Untitled' 1969, synthetic polymer paint on canvas

**At home** make drawings of close-up views of household objects or machine parts to highlight their unexpected beauty.



★ **View** this watery scene.

British artist David Hockney is well-known for his paintings of swimming pools which explore the surface qualities of water as it ripples and splashes.

**Look** at how patterns and shapes are created by sunlight on the water's surface.



David Hockney *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)* 1972, synthetic polymer paint on canvas

**Imagine** diving into this pool. Would the water be warm or cool?

**Describe** the sensation.

**Create** a poem that expresses the joyous feeling of swimming on a sunny day, starting each line with the letters of the word 'splash'.

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**At home** experiment with different art materials to create artworks that depict water rippling, splashing and splashing.



★ **Visit** this colourful home.

Australian artist Howard Arkley loved looking at the houses in Melbourne's suburbs and their patterned flyscreens, pathways and architecture.

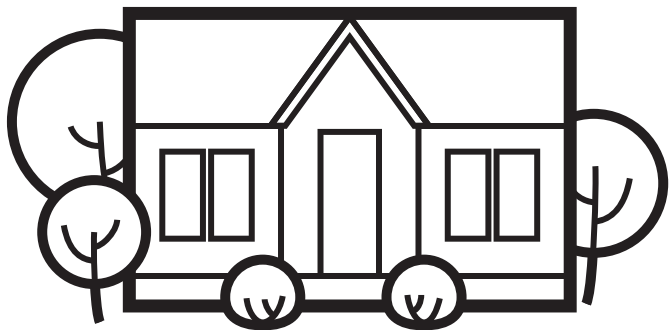
**Look** at how Arkley uses bold, bright colours and strong outlines to make the house look decorative and cartoon-like. Would you like to live here?



Howard Arkley *Triple fronted* 1987, synthetic polymer paint on canvas

**Imagine** you could transform this house into a pop painting.

**Add** decorative patterns and shapes to give it a pop makeover.



**At home** look more closely at the shape and architecture of your home and paint or draw it in the style of Howard Arkley.



★ **Find** this shattered soup can.

Australian artist Maria Kozic was inspired by famous works of art and altered them to make us look at them in new ways. This fractured soup can is based on a famous artwork by pop artist Andy Warhol.

**Look** at the fragments and the jagged shapes which make the can look like it has exploded.

**Imagine** you could make an artwork of something shattered or exploded.

**Draw** your exploding object here.



Maria Kozic **MASTEPIECES** (Warhol) 1986, synthetic polymer paint on wood

**At home** draw or paint a picture of a food packet or can, then cut it up and stick it down so it looks like it has shattered.

