

Ian Kirkpatrick

Where Do We Come From? What Are We?

Where Are We Going?

9 February - 16 September



Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going? explores the social and natural causes behind human migration – both in ancient times and in the present day. It presents historical and modern peoples moving across a landscape in response to conflict, climate change, urbanisation, and the discovery of new territories. The artwork uses allegorical iconography to ask questions about humanity's origins, its fundamental nature, and its responsibilities for the future.

Figures inspired by William Blake dancing around a DNA tree



Britannia
shepherding
people of the
island

Figures inspired by Gauguin painting of the same name



Roman & Viking
invaders

Example of a
human cause of
migration- war



Influenced by
Delacroix's
'Liberty'
painting

Remixing imagery from classical paintings alongside iconography from Great War postcards, Roman coins and the Bayeux Tapestry, the artwork invites viewers to consider the ongoing factors that contribute to human movements across the globe.

Look up the paintings and artists that the artist was inspired by and consider why he might have chosen them.

Information about Ian Kirkpatrick

Ian Kirkpatrick is a Canadian artist whose work is inspired by the history of art and design, from ancient Greek amphorae, to contemporary street signage. His pieces are filled with iconographies and text collected from across cultures and time periods, which he combines into narratives that respond to world history and current global events.

Ian's work explores the sculptural and communicative potential of commercial packaging design, using cardboard box packaging as a starting base. He is interested in the ways that everyday disposable products can be used to express society's myths, fears and obsessions—looking at the ritualistic function of ancient decorative vessels such as Greek vases.



Find out more about Ian at: <https://iankirkpatrick.wordpress.com>

Ideas for creating art work at home or back at school

Creative ideas to think about during your museum visit:

- Ian has created a four panel piece to create a story- referencing Bayeux tapestry. Think about narrative and how you might tell a story visually. This could be in the form of a comic strip/ one piece/ picture book.
- Use the phrases 'Where do we come from?' 'What are we?' and 'Where are we going?' to generate ideas. Think about what these phrases mean to you and ideas that might come out of this
- Symbols of identity- Think about what you might use as your symbols of identity, these could relate to your nationality but could also be the things you wear, your hobbies, life choices.
- Ian uses a lot of colour in his work and has a graphic flat style of working. Think about how you could use similar effects e.g. collage/working digitally/paint markers.
- Collect newspaper stories about migration, look at the imagery used and think about whether migration is represented in positive/negative way. What do you think are the positives and negatives of migration?
- Look up the artists that Ian was inspired by and think about why he chose those. Eugène Delacroix / Paul Gauguin / William Blake.

Visit the Settlers exhibition to find out more about migration and human genetics. Also visit <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/settlers/>