

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Morning Session YSP

The pupils met an education officer, who took them round the access sculpture trail of YSP. He showed them some of the sculptures, and the pupils discussed what the sculptures were made from and what they depicted, and how the artist had worked with the materials.



The pupils were encouraged to draw the sculptures using different materials, grass, mud etc, to make marks on the paper.



By one of the sculptures, they were also asked to draw different viewpoints of the sculpture on the same piece of paper.

However, he offered no explanation as to why it was important to experiment with different drawing methods and materials.

The sculptures placed on the access trail were by one or two artists only; therefore the pupils did not get to see a wide range of different subjects, materials or scale.

In addition, the weather was very cold, and the pupils enthusiasm was flagging by the end of the morning.

Afternoon Session YSP

The pupils were taken to another area of the park, where they were split into five groups. Each group was given a poem, and asked to produce a sculpture in response to that poem.

They were provided with basic tools and materials. My group was more interested in gathering materials and playing with the tools, than in creating anything. However, having a tight time frame helped to focus their thoughts, and they eventually managed to produce a good imaginative piece of work. They were unable to use most of the tools themselves as they lacked the necessary strength. However, the pupils enjoyed looking at the other sculptures in this area, which showed a greater range of materials and scale than the sculptures on the access trail.



My only complaint about how the trip was organized by YSP, was that the whole focus of the day was on representational sculpture – no mention was made of abstract sculpture, or how sculpture works in the landscape, or how different materials affect the appearance of the sculptures. However, this was a good introduction to sculpture, and the pupils enjoyed the opportunity to see large scale works close up – and to have the opportunity to create their own.

Accompanying the pupils on this outing, and its close proximity to the start of the project, meant that the pupils associated it with the project – moving their focus away from geography and creativity, onto sculpture. This meant that later in the week, some pupils were still focusing purely on sculpture, and not on the garden environment. I had only intended to use the creation of sculpture as a tool to enable the pupils to explore the garden environment and materials; I am therefore uncertain as to the benefit of this day in relation to the project.