Roth, Dieter

Sculptural Installation

Dieter Roth is a German conceptual artist who made 'Artists' books'.

He said: "From time to time I take books I can't stand or from authors I want to annoy and make sausages."

Hegel was a renowned German philosopher. To create *Hegel: Collected Works*, Roth used traditional sausage recipes; stuffing sausage skins with lard and spices and 'meat' made by putting Hegel's books through a meat grinder. He then suspended them in a wooden frame.

Roth said the following about his conceptual artworks: "When I was young I wanted to become a real artist. Then I started doing something I felt wasn't real art, and it was through this that I became a well-known artist."
Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist who underwent more than thirty operations in her lifetime, due to a streetcar accident in which her pelvis and spine were damaged; leaving her disabled and infertile. Most of her paintings are intensely autobiographical: relating to her almost constant physical and psychological pain. She had an unstable marriage to the painter, Diego Rivera. Today her work is famous, but during her lifetime she did not receive the same level of recognition as her husband did.

In *The Broken Column*, Kahlo painted herself crying, naked and alone in a desolate wasteland. Her spine is represented by a shattered stone column and her body is held together only by a back brace. Her flesh is punctured by sharp nails.
Image C

Stopforth, Paul

*Healer #1 (Sunlight)* (2004)
Mixed media on paper, 51 x 76 cm

Stopforth is classified as a Resistance artist in South Africa as many of his artworks deal with the torture and death of political prisoners in detention during the apartheid era. The official explanations of death frequently given were that the prisoner had ‘slipped on the soap in the shower’. *Sunlight* is a brand name of a type of inexpensive soap which is commonly used in South Africa. This soap was supplied to the prisoners on Robben Island where Nelson Mandela and many other political prisoners were imprisoned. The brand name is ironic, as actual sunlight provides light and warmth, is a natural antiseptic and is healthy in moderation.
South African artist, Penn, based her artwork (Image D) on a Highveld cloud which reminded her of the 'mushroom cloud' caused by the atomic bombs dropped by the Allies on Japan in World War II.

Penn said: "I watched a video of an atomic bomb explosion, it was truly beautiful, mesmerising, which only made it more horrific … I can't look at these images without seeing both the beauty and the horror of the mushroom cloud."

The title: The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters, refers to a 1799 etching of the same title by the Spanish artist, Francisco Goya. In his image, he is asleep, surrounded by nightmarish creatures which reflected his view that Spanish society, at that time, was demented and corrupt.

In an interview Penn explained the link with Goya's work, referring to interesting research about people who had sustained injury to the frontal lobe of the brain which is associated with the ability to reason. The injury, surprisingly, left them intellectually able but emotionally damaged. Penn learned that it is not reason alone, but also emotion, that is crucial to decision-making. It bothers her that 'being emotional' is seen as a negative state and is often used negatively when referring to women.