

My working experience in M+

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As a person who is fond of working with children and art, I am grateful that I can be a part of the M+ community since August 2021. I have long believed in the therapeutic value of art and currently aspire to be an art therapist. I am a part of the Learning and Interpretation Team at M+ and one major duty is to coordinate school tours and facilitate exchange with children. In the past year, I have worked with primary schools and kindergartens and I find profound joy working with them. Every conversation with children carries a significant meaning to me. Children deliver imagination and creativity with no boundary.

"Which colour do you like the most?" I asked a 5-year-old during an activity designed for kindergarten tours.

"Oh, yellow is my favourite colour!" The little boy replied with barely any hesitation.

"Is it so? Why?" I hoped to know why he liked it.

"I simply like it." The boy smiled at my question, perhaps thinking if there has to be a reason for him being in favour of something.

Conversations like these make my day. Grown ups have a habit of justifying every action that they do—even the act of being in favour of something. But in the world of children, being in favour of something doesn't require a reason. They like it simply because they do. Viewing the world through the eyes of children provides an interesting perspective and this is more so if we are to view art. M+ and its school tours create an environment where children are encouraged to share their thoughts on the art they view and foster exchange with their peers. Being a facilitator of such exchanges is a meaningful task and I enjoy every conversation I share with them. The way children view the world and art inspires me at times.

Regarding exchanges and conversations on art, one event that I particularly enjoyed is the Stamp Making Workshop. It was held on a weekend and many families took part in it. Upon collaborative effort, children and their parents created a stamp unique to their memory of spending their day at M+. While I was assisting their creation process, I admired the beautiful picture of the families exchanging ideas of making a perfect stamp. Art creates shared experience and memory amongst people and their loved ones. The embodied experience of children and parents at M+ leaves a mark on them and working together on a piece of art makes such an experience more memorable.

Stamp Making Workshop is one of the collaborative activities curated by M+ that encourages the participation of children and parents, and virtually all interested visitors. Other similar activities I enjoy taking part in are Model Making Session in East Gallery, Building of Idea Sculptures in Learning Hub and Community Workshop held during weekends. These events share a common objective of fostering artistic exchanges and creating shared memory amongst people and their treasured ones. Some of the values that M+ advocates are similar to mine. Art bridges people and can be therapeutic for some individuals who wish to express themselves through mediums of art. If I am to work as an art therapist, I hope to incorporate some values I have learnt here at M+ and inspirations from these events into the projects that I may pursue.