

The road not taken

An exhibition of new works by David Bridgeman



Collect
a pencil.

Go on a journey through
the exhibition.



Discover
Caymanian
works of art.

★ **Look, learn and have fun!**

TEACHERS'/PARENTS' GUIDE

- ★ A star occurs next to various individual **ACTIVITIES** students are expected to complete.
- A circle occurs next to **Follow Up Activities** which the students should do for homework and continue to enrich their learning.
- E** An 'E' occurs where you have a chance to teach more about the **Elements of Art**; see reception if you require additional teaching materials.
- P** A 'P' occurs where you have a chance to teach more about the **Principles of Design**; see reception if you require additional teaching materials.



The road not taken is a meditation on choices made (or not) in life. It surveys a landscape that binds the worlds of the past and present— of the Caribbean and Britain – and attempts to create an emotional and expressive view of a world as seen by both child and adult.

The culmination of many years' work, this series is based on the combined landscapes of the artist's native England and his long-time home, the Cayman Islands. Says David, "My landscapes are inextricably linked with the country of my birth but rely heavily on the fact that I have lived in this one very different place for twenty-seven years. The forms constantly referenced are Cayman's red birch trees and the ironshore rock. The spaces created within the artwork relate to places where I grew up, such as the Oxfordshire landscape. The whole piece is bound together with a strong sense of belonging and contains the intricate fabric of memory which, I think, helps to uniquely define some artists." The exhibition also draws on the wider themes of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Bridgeman has examined the way landscape painting has evolved since the 17th century in Britain and considers how his own work fits into a new appreciation of the landscape.



Image: David Bridgeman, *Industrial Landscape*, (2014)
from the collection of the artist.

★ **FIND** *Industrial Landscape*.

★ **FIND** the following iconography in the painting:



The Wittenham Clumps

A pair of wooded chalk hills – Castle Hill and Round Hill – in the Thames Valley, in the civil parish of Little Wittenham in Oxfordshire.



Didcot Power Stations

A combined coal and oil power plant (Didcot A Power Station) and a natural-gas power plant (Didcot B Power Station) in Oxfordshire.



Thistles

The common name of a group of flowering plants characterised by leaves with sharp prickles on the margins.



Bluebells

Sweet-scented violet-blue flowers, with strongly recurved petals and now a protected species in the UK.

The artist uses these symbols to record memories of his childhood in Oxford, England.

As a family, **SHARE** childhood memories with each other. **DISCUSS** moments that you have experienced together.

- **Follow Up Activity** Bridgeman uses these images many times throughout the exhibition. **FIND** as many as you can.



★ **FIND** the image of a boy wearing a crown hiding in a painting in this exhibition.

- **Follow Up Activity** **FIND** the boy wearing the crown among the trees in the *Landscape Of The Soul* installation.

As a child David remembers the Poem Tree – a large beech tree in a grove on top of Castle Hill (one of the Wittenham Clumps) that had a poem carved into its bark.

- ★ **WRITE** a poem together in the space provided to the right. Be creative and compose your own.

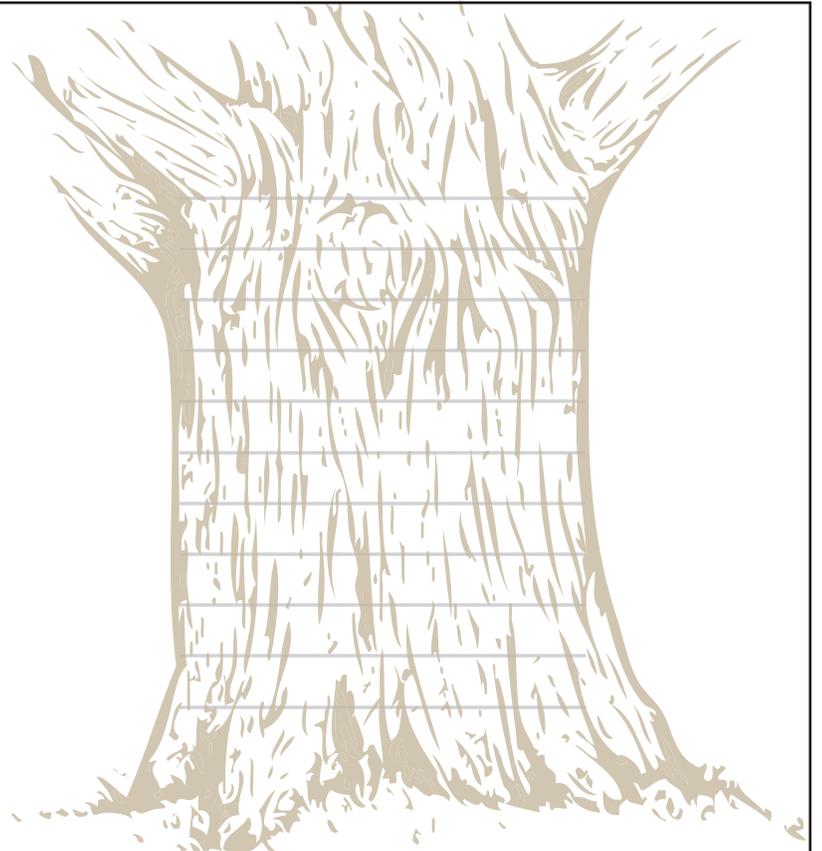




Image: David Bridgeman, *The Apple Never Falls Far From The Tree*, (2013) from a private collection.

- ★ **FIND** *The Apple Never Falls Far From The Tree*.
- ★ **FIND** the red birch trees and the ironshore in this painting.
FIND where these trees and rocks have been used in other paintings and drawings.
- **Follow Up Activity CONSIDER** a visit to the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and a hike of the Mastic Trail one weekend.

- ★ **FIND** *Landscape of the Soul*.
- ★ **DISCUSS** how the artist may have lit up the tubes and **FIND** how many images you have seen elsewhere in the exhibition.
- **Follow Up Activity** Using a cereal box and empty paper towel cores, **BUILD** your own Landscape. Be sure to draw and paint on your tubes.



Image: David Bridgeman, *Landscape of the Soul (detail)*, (2014), from the collection of the artist.