



A visual representation of "modern concrete" by Eddie Tay

Chan Yuet Yi

Carmel Divine Grace Foundation
Secondary School



The poet shows a loss of human touch in the rapidly developing city, leaving behind a cold and concrete city. The writer repeated in the poem ‘i try for colour’, wishing to add warmth and colours to the dull metropolis. In the artwork, I used grey as the primary colour to deliver the coldness of concrete and the loss of colour in the city. In a particular concrete block in the middle, the walls were coloured to illustrate the line ‘trying for colour’. However, the colour was covered with another layer of grey on top, symbolising the process of trial and error. Other than that, I painted curtains to illustrate the loss of human contact, especially in the neighbourhood. I also added an excavator in the grove to portray the impact brought by urban development to nature. Under the busy bridge, I drew swimming fish going along the same direction as the cars to echo the line ‘the cars gleaming silver like fishes’ in the poem.

Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Care and perseverance

Positive message(s):

In the process of urban development, people should persevere the colours of the city.

modern concrete

Eddie Tay

*i try for colour
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*concrete is modern as airports
bridges pavements and the river still
a river and functional*

the cars gleam silver like fishes

*i try for colour
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*the new hermit
a snail of a shell is modern and not seen
like wi fi*

*he lives within a mountain
of pigeon flats
holes in an economy of a few million snails
by the bank of pale water*

the cars gleam silver like fishes

*i try for colour
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*so here's the housing project in chunks
with mended words*

the cars gleam silver like fishes

“modern concrete” was published in *Dreaming Cities* by Eddie Tay, p.55. Copyrights © 2016 by Eddie Tay. Reprinted by permission of the poet.