



# the border drama

a process drama for secondary school students by offset art

*Borders separate friends, strangers, family members and enemies all over the world. Fences, rivers or other clear indicators usually determine where these borders lie – but between Thailand and Cambodia exists a piece of disputed land, where an ancient temple stands. Both sides fight for it to be theirs.*

## Concept |

The border drama uses dramatic symbols and the conventions of ritual to explore the concept of conflict resolution. The drama begins within a fictional context, where students develop a harmonious community that share space and culture. Tension is injected into the drama by the appearance of an imposing border in the space – peace deteriorates as a dispute over territory erupts. It is at this point that the real-world context of the Thai/Cambodian conflict is introduced. Through dramatic activities, and in the safety of roles, students explore possible solutions to resolve the conflict, including letters of protest, activist stunts and war. The drama continues to reveal the effects of each option. The arrival of a wooden puppet monk, symbolising an ancestor, helps students to discover ancient wisdom that resolves the drama with hope.

## Rationale |

Embedding global perspectives into aesthetic learning experiences stimulates compassion. In a time when images of conflict, pain and poverty compete against images of pop culture and mass-consumerism, it is essential for students to realise their position within the global community and their potential to fuel positive change. Offset Art believes in empowering artist activists to transform local and global communities by fusing the arts with civic engagement and sustainable development.

## Specifics |

Facilitator	Nathan Stoneham
Contact	nathanstoneham@gmail.com
Duration	2 hours
Requirements	Large empty classroom, stereo with input for ipod, 10 sheets of butchers paper, 5 marker pens, 1 piece of A4 paper for each student
Cost	\$200, GST free service