

MAKING CONVERSATIONS WITH ART

Here are two paintings on the opposite page, from the gallery's collection. You can choose one or both.

What to do

Sit comfortably and allow yourself to spend time with the painting. You might want to write down notes about what you notice, but you don't have to.

Notice your first impressions of the painting. Do you like it? Does it remind you of anything? Does it make you feel a certain way? Do you have any questions about it? Then take your time to notice the following aspects of the painting, one by one:

Composition – what shapes make up the painting, how much space is around them?

Colours – you could try focusing on one colour at a time, for example, noticing all the different shades of blue in the painting, and then all the different shades of pink.

Light and Shadow – scan the painting looking first for all the brightest parts and then explore all the areas of shadow.

Texture – notice the different textures in the painting, soft, shiny, scratchy, smooth...

Let your mind wander

What might the story of this artwork be? Why do you think the artist has painted this and what might they be trying to say? (It doesn't matter if you don't think you know this!) Does the painting relate to you and your life in any way?

Start making

This is an opportunity to make something inspired by the images in any format you like. For example, you could make a drawing, set up a scene on your kitchen table and take a picture, write a poem, make a collage from scraps, or think about sewing.

Be creative with the materials you have around the house. Here are a few suggested materials you could use:

Kitchen paper tubes, envelopes/junk mail, packaging, biro, pencil, string, rubber band, tape, scissors, wrapping paper, camera/smartphone, old fabric/clothes, wool or garden pots.

Focus on the joy of making, there is no right or wrong.

**Manchester
Art Gallery**

Still Life by Edward Hartley Mooney 1918



Black Pyramids by John Armstrong 1893 - 1973



Manchester Art Gallery is the original useful museum, initiated in 1823 by artists as an educational institution to ensure that the city and all its people grow with creativity, imagination, health and productivity. Through its collections, displays and public programmes it works with all our constituents to ensure

creativity, care and consideration infect all aspects of the way we live.

If you would like to look at these, or more of the paintings from the gallery, and you have access to the internet, you can visit our website here:
<https://manchesterartgallery.org/>