Art Chat

Family trail for children 6+

Yours to discover
nationalgalleries.org
Welcome to the Scottish galleries at the National.

In these galleries you can explore art made in, or about Scotland.

This trail isn’t about dates or even artists’ names. It’s about looking, thinking, and talking about art, and encouraging you to make your own.
Hello!
This is Scotland’s art collection, it belongs to all of us. It’s yours to discover.
What’s the first thing you see?
Myths and magic

Art can be fantastical and magical. Artists sometimes use poems, stories or even songs as inspiration.

Which artworks do you think show real life?
Which ones do you think came from the artists’ imaginations?
Art can tell stories

Choose things you can see in different artworks and use them to make up a story. Does your story have a title? You can draw or write the things you’ve chosen and then finish your story at home. Why not include pictures?
Draw the bravest person you know.

Somewhere in the gallery there’s a lion. Can you find it?

Do you think the girl in the painting is brave? Tell the person you’re with about a time when you were really brave. Ask them about a time when they were.
Can you spot a pair of slippers, teapot and rug?

Artist Anne Redpath often painted objects found in her house. This shows us what her home looked like.

Arrange some things you have at home and draw them here.
Tell me about the art

Labels often tell us interesting facts about the artist and the artwork. Some of the labels have been written by children.
Can you find them?
Choose a painting and write your own label.
Hats on heads

In these artworks you will find some funny looking clothes and hats. Quite different to what we wear today.

Find your favourite hat or hairstyle and draw it here.

Or you could make one up.
Inside and outside

Some artworks were painted outside. A group of artists known as the Glasgow Boys painted people outdoors where they lived and worked.

Can you find any of these paintings?

What do you think the people are doing?

If they could speak to you, what do you think they’d say?
A view from above

When you leave today and go out onto Princes Street you might spot some views that you saw in the paintings.

Imagine you’re a bird flying over the city. What would Edinburgh look like?

Where will you fly to?

Draw a map for the journey
There’s lots for families to discover at the National.

We’re free to visit and open every day.
Ask us if you need anything, we are here to help you make the most of your visit.

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Illustrations by Caitlin Bowbeer