

Video Transcript

Title

How to Look at Art

Summary

What do we see when we look at a piece of art? Do we all see the same thing or do we each bring our own ideas and experiences to the work? We invited pupils to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh to better understand what it is to appreciate art in this short video.

Duration

3:09

Speakers

Morwenna Kearsley, Art educator
Sam Rutherford, Art educator
School children

Transcript

[Captions appear overlaid upon shots of children standing in front of artworks: We invited two school groups to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art to examine different artworks they had never seen before. Then we asked them what they thought.]

Pupil 1

Interesting... crazy...

Pupil 2

I've never seen something like that before.

Pupil 3

Mysterious...

Pupil 4

Colourful...

Pupil 5

It made me feel confused.

Pupil 6

Beautiful

Pupil 5

Why is she naked?

[Shot of children sitting on the floor looking at a painting. The children are putting up their hands to answer questions.]

Morwenna Kearsley, Art educator

The first thing we do when we look at the artwork is just really to look at it properly we start by asking the most basic of questions which is what can you see in the picture. The next stage is we think about what the painting reminds us of. The third part of the process is more to do with the imagination and wondering about if we can expand on the descriptions of what we've seen.

Pupil 7

One of the paintings reminded me of a jigsaw puzzle.

Pupil 8

I thought it was really cluttered and it took me a long time to like get my own idea of what was happening and had to really analyse it.

Pupils

It looked joyful... it made me feel weird. The blue shapes kinda reminded me of raindrops falling down a window.

[Different shots of Jean Dubuffet's painting, 'Dishwasher', are shown on screen.]

Pupil 9

One of them reminded me of a strawberry.

Pupil 1

I saw a chicken nugget and I saw a dog.

Pupil 10

I thought was quite intriguing coz I didn't really know what was going on and everyone had their own idea about it.

Pupil 2

When you actually look at it for ten minutes or so and actually take everything in, it kind of makes you think more about the painting.

Sam Rutherford, Art educator

We were thinking about different senses, jumping into the painting, thinking about how it might smell, taste, what noises might be there, trying to think of it as a place to visit.

Pupil

There was a man that kind of looked like he was puking so I was like 'Why is he puking?'

[Different shots of Ronal Brooks Kitaj's painting, 'If Not, Not are shown on screen.]

Pupil 3

That one seemed very apocalyptic.

Pupil 7

I think it would smell like paint and I think it would make crackling noises.

Pupil 11

You have to sit and consider everything because it is a serious thing.

Pupil 8

It's really powerful it was just upsetting to look at but it looked like they were getting back on their feet so it's got like a story to it, kind of.

Pupil 2

I thought it was an amazing painting, everything was happening it was kind of like going back in time.

Morwenna Kearsley, Art educator

It's to encourage them to value their own opinions and their own experiences of life and bring that to the artwork. You get a completely different set of reactions every single time, you can take absolutely anyone into a gallery, no matter their age or background or ability, and you can unlock artworks and experience the artwork in a different way.