Art Chat:
Conversations with the Collection
For Families aged 6+
Conversations with the Collection

This display is called Conversations with the Collection – it’s full of art that tells stories, celebrates colour and movement, makes marks and plays with materials. It brings together artists from across the world – and over many years. This is Scotland’s art collection. Come and discover the stories within.
This chat book isn’t about dates or even names of artists. It’s about looking, thinking, talking about art, and encouraging you to make your own.

When you’re exploring the gallery, and when you get home, fill the spaces in this book with your art. You can visit nationalgalleries.org/learn/yourartworld for more inspiration and upload your art onto our online gallery — we’d love to share what you create!
Every line and mark that we make tells a story.

Look around the room and think about how each artist has made their mark. Is it fast, thick, detailed, precise? Does the way the artist made the mark change how you view it?

Sophie Brzeska, Landscape with Houses and Sun, date unknown.
Can you draw a line that is angry, sad, confused or excited? How much emotion can you put into one single line?

Fill this page with your own line drawings. You could draw the person that you’re with or your favourite artwork in the room.
We all think about and experience colour differently. What and how we see varies from person to person.

This room is full of artists who understand the power of colour. Do you think that colour can affect your emotions?

Choose one word to describe how each of the artists in this room have used colour.
When you get home write about your day. Illustrate it with colours that might show your mood.
Many artists are inspired by what’s around them, including buildings and architecture.

Can you find the paintings in this room by Prunella Clough?

Do they remind you of looking through a camera lens? In Clough’s paintings we could be looking at something close-up or a far away, bird’s-eye view. She was inspired by the ever-changing city around her after the Second World War in Britain.
Draw, photograph, paint, collage or sculpt a building that you know, such as your house or school. Have a look around this room for inspiration. You can decide if your art will be realistic like the work of Sze Tsung Leong, abstract like Prunella Clough or made-up of shapes, and textures, like Toby Paterson.

You could make a quick sketch of your favourite art in this room to inspire you when you get home.
Room 16
Transformations

All of the artworks in this room share a common theme: the human body – and now your body has just entered the same shared space!

Find this artwork. The figure here is the South African runner Caster Semenya.

Ask each other these questions. Remember there’s no wrong answers when you’re looking at, and chatting about, art!

• What materials, tools and techniques do you think were used to make this?
• What stages do you think the artist went through in creating this artwork?
• How does it make you feel and why?
• What kind of person do you think made it?
• Where would be a good place to display it?
The word ‘home’ means something different to everyone.

Have a look at all the artworks in this room and pick one that you are most drawn to. What do you think the artist might be telling us about their relationship with home?

When you get home create your own ‘home’ portrait by collecting objects from around the house. Why did you pick them? Are they interesting shapes, colours or objects that can be used? Would they tell a stranger something about you?

Draw, or photograph, your chosen objects from above, below and at eye level. Which is your favourite?
They experiment with everyday stuff that surrounds us. Using their imagination, they create new ways of looking at the world by reusing, recycling or repurposing unusual art materials.

**Paul Neagu** transforms matchboxes, **Joseph Beuys** reuses paint colour charts, **Louise Nevelson** collects wood and wire, while **Mark Boyle** and **Joan Hills** rescue furniture, car exhausts, bed springs, and bicycle wheels from the streets of London.
Can you find paper, cardboard, maps and newspaper in this room? What other materials can you spot? Which do you think is the most unusual/best? You can ask the person you’re with if they agree or disagree.

What unusual materials could you use to make art? Jot down some ideas here:
Artists are often inspired by specific places or experiences that they have had when they were in a particular place.

Look around this room and think about how these artists have been inspired by the outdoors. Do you have a favourite landscape?

Have you ever made art outside? What do you think might be some of the benefits and challenges?
We all have different relationships with our bodies; and sometimes we have complex ideas about our identity and who we are.

The artists in this room explore themes around identity, body stereotypes and rituals through performance, photographs, painting and ink drawing.

Find *Sabine* by *Alison Watt*.

There’s no human figure in this painting, but it still feels like somebody has been there or is under the sheet.

**Can you make an artwork that shows the presence of someone, without showing that they are actually there?**

One way to do this is by taking a photograph of your shadow. You can’t see a face, but you can still recognise that a person is there. Ask your family if they have any other ideas!