



FAMILIES

Art chat for ages 6+



nationalgalleries.org

NEW ARRIVALS

From
Salvador Dalí
to **Jenny Saville**

This exhibition is called *New Arrivals* – it’s full of art that the gallery has bought, been given and collected over the past five years for the people of Scotland.

This chat book isn’t about dates or even names of artists. It’s about looking at, thinking about, sketching and talking about art – it’s your ideas that are important.

When you get home, you could fill the spaces in this book with your own 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!

ROOM 1

Along this corridor you'll find lots of interesting artworks.

Why don't you warm up your art-chatting muscles by finding an artwork that catches your eye and have a quick think about some of these questions.

Look

- What can you see?
- Where has the artist positioned everything?
- Describe the shapes, pattern, colours and textures
- What would you add, remove, or change about the artwork?

Technique

- What materials, tools, techniques were used to make this?

Mood

- How does it make you feel? Why?
- Does the person you're with feel the same?

Context

- Do you know when, where and why was this created? (*Sometimes a gallery wall label can help here!*)
- What's it about? What might it mean?

Remember! There are NO wrong answers. These questions are here to help you think about the process and decision-making that artists go through, to help you with your own art-making!

Next, find the series of three colourful prints by Alberta Whittle.

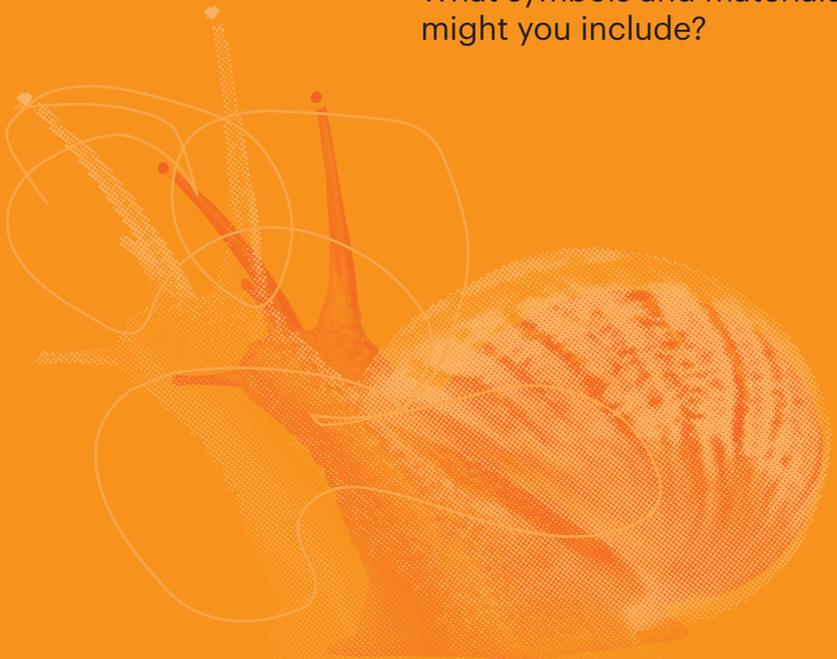
Alberta Whittle

Artists take inspiration from lots of different things. Alberta Whittle makes art that connects different cultures and often sparks conversations about *hidden histories* – stories from the past that haven't traditionally been told.

- Can you see a gold mark on these prints?
- What do you think made them?

It's a trail made by live garden snails! They are 'invading' the prints, like a type of non-native snail found in Barbados, where the artist grew up. The gold ink has been chosen to remind us of the role of trade, wealth and power in history. The artist wants us to think about power and resistance – and how history is written by a specific group of people.

- What do you care about?
- What could you do to bring attention to something that you think is important?
- What symbols and materials might you include?



ROOM 2

Scotland and the Landscape



Paintings can be portals into different worlds – some might look and feel familiar and some might be totally new to you.

Choose your favourite painting in this room.

Stand in front of it, look closely and imagine you've just stepped into the painting.

- Where is this place?
- What can you see in front, behind, below and above you?
- What can you smell?
- What can you hear?
- Is there anything you could taste?
- What can you touch? What does it feel like?

You could use your answers to create a story, from inside the painting...

ROOM 4

Time and Space

Bosco Sodi

Can you find a pile of 25 bricks?

They are taken from a stack of 1,600 bricks made in Mexico - and used to build a wall in London in 2018.

It was based on a performance in New York when the artist built a wall on the same day that Donald

Trump was signed in as President of the United States of America. One of Donald Trump's controversial, and divisive, political statements was that he wanted to build a wall to divide Mexico and the USA.

ROOM 5

Surrealism

Some of the artists in this next room have used their imaginations to create dream-like (or sometimes nightmare-ish!) artworks.

We don't often notice the ordinary things around us (like chairs and telephones) but when there is something unusual about them, we take notice!



Image: *Primitive Seating*, Dorothea Tanning, 1982
© ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2022

Art can help us look again – and see things differently.

Go into the room and ask your grown-up to close their eyes.

- Choose an artwork that you are drawn to.
- Take a minute to really look at it – and describe out loud all the details that you can see in it.

- Ask your grown-up to draw what they think it looks like – without peeking!

How close were they? How difficult was it to describe? What details do you think are the most important?

ROOM 7

Contemporary figures

Raqib Shaw

This is a self-portrait. He has included himself in the centre, holding a cage of fireflies. He remembers fireflies from when he was young - they represent hope in the dark. He also includes his dog – can you spot him?



Image: *Self Portrait with Fireflies and Faces*, Raqib Shaw, 2016 © Raqib Shaw; photograph © George Darell, courtesy White Cube

Look closely. He draws out the work using a thick gold liner to create an intricate web of raised lines. He then drips the paint into the gaps between the lines. The paint is then wiggled using a needle-sharp quill – it's such a delicate, intricate process. Can you imagine how hard you would need to concentrate?

Have a go at sketching a quick self-portrait ...

- What (or who else) will you include?
- Will you include different expressions?
- What symbolises hope for you?



ROOM 10

Painting Sensation



Can art make your eyes dance?

Both paintings in this room relate to movement and rhythm – but they feel very different.

- What similarities and differences can you see between the two paintings?

France-Lise McGurn says that painting, for her, is like dancing in a nightclub.

She began this painting by making a single mark - and built-up layers and lines – adding colour, and making more marks, as she felt like it.

- Do you think there's a sense of energy in the painting?

Image: *Bachelorette*, France-Lise McGurn, 2020
© France-Lise McGurn



Bridget Riley is also interested in rhythm and movement.

This painting appears to be rising and falling – but it's very ordered and controlled, unlike France-Lise McGurn's loose, quick brushstrokes.

- Which do you prefer?
- Can you draw a line that is energetic?
- How about one that is slow, fast, sad, happy?

ROOM 12

Naum Gabo: Monoprints

Take your time to really look at these prints.

Pick your favourite and, without looking down at your paper, sketch the lines here.

Enjoy the feeling of letting your pencil move across the paper.

What do you notice, the longer you look?



Contact us: enquiries@nationalgalleries.org
+44 (0)131 624 6200

Registered Address: National Galleries of
Scotland, 73 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS

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