

ART MENU

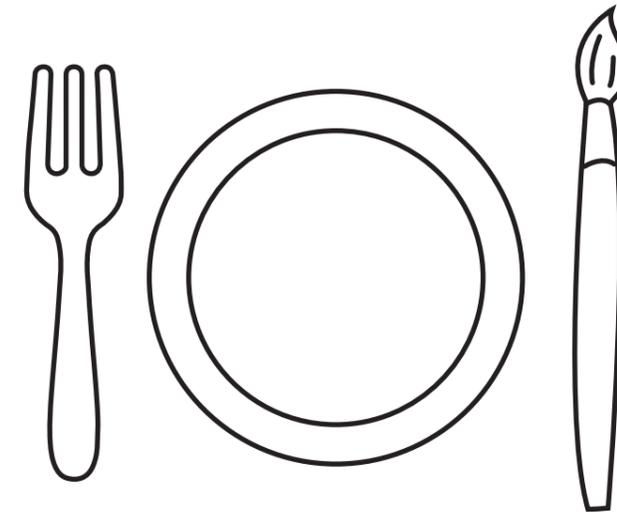
Introduction to Contemporary Art

Turner
Contemporary

ART MENU

Just as you would order items from a menu in a restaurant, **select from the Art Menu to help you engage with the works on display in the gallery.** On offer you have a choice of a starter and sides to get you going, a main course to spend some time over and if you still have room, a dessert to round things off.

Avoid over-indulging. Like with good food, take your time and savour it. You can always come back for more later.



STARTER

SLOW LOOKING

Select an artwork and simply look at it for as long as you can.

This might sound simple but the average time people at a gallery spend looking at a work of art is under 30 seconds. You may wish to set a timer and **spend 5 minutes looking at a single artwork.** It'll feel like a long time, but the more you look, the more you'll notice.

Whilst looking consider what materials have been used and how.

What shapes and colours are in the work?

How do they influence each other?

Does your eye rest in one place or is it led around the work?

Pay attention to what thoughts and feelings are taking place.



OPTIONAL SIDES

SAY WHAT YOU SEE

A really good way of honing your looking skills is to imagine that you are a radio presenter who is about to describe an artwork to their audience.

Call someone or leave a voice note explaining what you can see. It focuses your mind and encourages you to really think about what you are experiencing.

What do you remember:

After looking at an artwork, turn away from it and try to remember everything you can about it.

You could write down notes, do a quick sketch or if you are with somebody else, get them to ask you some questions about the work.

How much did you actually take in?

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MAIN COURSE: FORMING IDEAS

Art can be like reading a good book or watching a travel programme on TV, it transports you to another place without needing to leave the gallery. You are invited to give it a go by examining the artwork.

Before you read the wall text, what do you think the artwork might be about?

These are your first thoughts, which are usually the most important.

Work through these series of questions:

If you could jump into the artwork, where would you go and why?

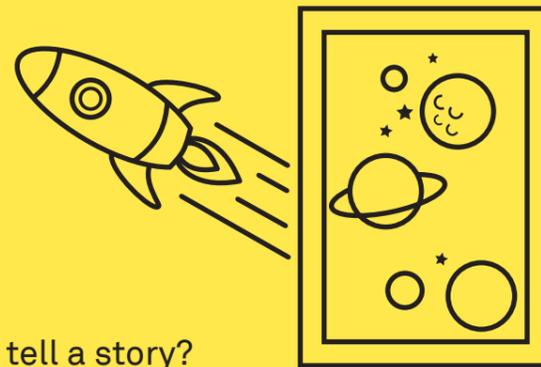
Where do you think the safest part of the artwork is?

If you only had 5 words to describe the artwork what words would you use?

If you are with someone, try this exercise and see if they can guess which artwork you are describing.

If you had to give the artwork a title what would it be?

What is going on in the artwork?



Does it tell a story?

Does the artwork tell you anything about the artist?

Can you guess when the artwork was made or who may have made it?

Now read the wall text and think about these questions:

Were your first thoughts anything like the artist's intention?

If not, whose idea is better, theirs or yours?

Can you find a connection to the artwork?

It could remind you of a poem, a smell, a sensation, it might be as simple as the colour of your childhood bedroom.

Has the artwork made you think about something in a different way?

Or from someone else's point of view.

Has it challenged what you thought you knew?

DESSERT:

BIG QUESTIONS

Visiting a gallery gives you plenty of opportunities to think about life's big questions. That's because artworks are full of them.

What questions does the artwork make you ask?

Try turning these into bigger open-ended questions to start a discussion or have a go at answering some of these philosophical questions below:

If something is displayed in a gallery, does that make it art?

What if it was displayed somewhere else?

Who decides what 'good' art is?

Does art have to have a meaning?

Is all art equal?

