

# A Slow Art Day Guide

## How do you look closely?

What do we mean when we talk about slow looking or long looking?

Here is a quick and easy guide to looking closely and carefully at art. Take it with you wherever you go and spend some time enjoying the art you find along your way.

Go through the questions in order and see what you can discover.

Remember, art isn't a one-way street. You bring your own experiences, emotions, preferences and interests to any work you see and it impacts how you respond. Everyone is unique and that is wonderful.

You can learn a lot about yourself by spending time getting to know a work of art.

### Guide Questions

#### 1. What do you see? Simply observe physical qualities of the artwork

- What size is the work?
- What colours do you see?
- What shapes do you see?
- What textures can you see?
- What kind of lines do you see?

#### 2. What is the subject? What is the artist showing you?

- What is closest to you? (Foreground)
- What is further away? (Background)
- What is in between? (Midground)
- Do you know what the subject is? Are you familiar with it, or is it something new you've never seen before?

#### 3. What media are they using? (media is the stuff that is used to make art – paint, charcoal, collage, paper, clay, metal, photography... the list goes on.)

- Have you used this media before?
- What other artworks have you seen that use this media?

**4. Details: Look closely at one section, what do you see?**

- Can you tell how the artist made this work?
- Do you see something you hadn't noticed before?

**5. Senses: Imagine you can enter this artwork, wandering through the space the artist created.**

- What would this art sound like?
- What would this place feel like?
- What can you imagine hearing?
- What would this place taste like?
- What else can you imagine seeing if you could walk into this artwork?

**6. What is the artist trying to share with you?**

- Based on all of the questions you've asked, what do you think the artist is trying to share with you?
- Does this artwork hold a story? A person? A place? A feeling? Several of these things?
- What have you learned by looking at the work? Is it something new?
- Are you curious to learn more?
- Do you want to look at more work by this artist?

**5. How do you feel?**

- Does this work remind you of someone, someplace, or an event from your past?
- What emotions are you feeling?
- What is it in the artwork that is bringing up these memories or feelings?

**6. Impressions?**

- Do you like this artwork? Why?
- Do you not like this artwork? Why?
- If you could see any one of the artworks in this show everyday, which one would it be? Why?
- Where can you imagine this artwork living in a 'forever home'? Why that place?