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### Blaise Drummond - Biography

Blaise Drummond was born in Liverpool in 1967. He graduated from the National College of Art and Design in 1994 and achieved an MA at the Chelsea School of Art four years later. He exhibits widely throughout Europe and more recently in Los Angeles, California.

### Try to consider these questions about *Wreck of Hope*

1. Is this aeroplane going very fast or is it totally frozen?
2. How far up do you think it is and why so you think it is so small compared to the rest of the painting?
3. Examine the surface of the painting carefully for evidence of brushwork. What is the effect of such a smooth surface?
4. This is a large piece of work. Why is the central element so diminutive? Does this painting have a right way up?
5. The title of the piece is a reference to a Casper David Friedrich painting about a brave expedition taken to the North Pole. Friedrich's piece concerns itself with the final moment in the life of the ship as the winter pack ice eventually consumes the trapped vessel. It embodies the fall of man against insurmountable odds. Why has Drummond referenced this piece?
6. Drummond has frequently employed small or alternatively balanced elements in his compositions. This device really works in this skyscape. Apart from the proportion of the elements of the painting, what are the further consequences of the compositional choices within this painting?

On the reverse of this sheet is a short one-page exercise to assist you while looking at the painting. It comprises of five questions. Feel free to fill it out and take it home with you or you can simply use the questions in your mind as prompts to look at the painting more thoroughly. (If you do fill it out, please tell a member of staff so we can replace it for the next visitor)

1. Answer the first question, "Like/Dislike", with just one of these two words.
2. The next one is "Description", here describe all the physical details you can about the painting such as the name of the artist; the title; medium; dimensions as well as how the paint is applied and so on.
3. For the next one "Imagery", note down what the painting is of. For example Barrie Cooke's Two Lough Key Islands might include, "an island in mist, sort of abstracted, out in the lake but sort of floating in the painting" or Blaise Drummond's *Wreck of Hope* might include "a passenger aeroplane flying through a circular gap in stormy clouds in the centre of the painting. The plane is very small for the size of the painting" Describe as much as you can, everything you notice such as the choice of colours, the position of things in the painting and so on.
4. In the next one "Interpretation". Try to figure out what the artist was trying to communicate, what they meant by putting these things on the canvas, why are they there, what does the choice of colours signify, how does one bit relate to another, what was the artist feeling? Think about this for a couple of minutes before you come to your conclusions.
5. Finally you come to "Like/Dislike" again, but this time rather than just one word, give a sentence or two about your answer.