
Colin Davidson - Biography

Colin Davidson was born in Belfast in 1968. He ran a graphic design company, before deciding to paint full time in 1999. A member of the RUA and regularly mentioned by the Buyer's Guide to Irish Art, Davidson had received numerous awards and his work is in many noted collections.

Try to consider these questions about *Churchyard Tree*

1. What sort of weather is in this painting, what time of the year is it do you think?
2. Is this churchyard a place you would like to visit, why?
3. This piece is composed of tone, what do you understand by this statement?
4. Considering the theme, shape, tone of the work what do you think the artist is trying to communicate (if anything) with the viewer?
5. The title of this piece loads it with narrative. Is there any clear sentiment being expressed by this artist? Is the notion of a Churchyard particular to one religion or another?
6. How is the paint in this piece used to push the narrative forward? Are there any mythological or psychological implications in the use of the tree?

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.