
Neal Greig - Biography

Neal Greig is an Irish painter from Belfast currently living and working in Monaghan. He graduated from Edinburgh College of Art with a BA in Fine Art (1987) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art (1988). His work, essentially sea and landscape based, has been exhibited in New York, Chicago and throughout Ireland including within a number of significant national collections.

Try to consider these questions about *Glaslough*

1. Think about reflection? What is reflected in this painting?
2. Is this place in the town, the city, the country, or someplace else? Would you find a lot of people around here? Can you explain your answer in an imaginary story?
3. The horizon line is a term used for the part of a picture where the sky touches the ground. Is this line (or any compositional line like it) employed in this painting and to what effect?
4. Nature rarely works on the principal of blocks of pure pigment- it is more of an infinite range of colours and tones, one blending and merging with the other. How does this painting demonstrate this?
5. It is refreshing to occasionally note whether or not it is a nice day or overcast one. Nature is always producing a huge drama for us to observe. Light conditions are always shifting and our picture of the world is in constant flux. A painting like this can make us mindful of nature's shifts and details, but is painting the most useful tool for describing nature?
6. If there were such a thing as a job description for an artist, perhaps a portion of it would deal with seeing things for everybody else. Perhaps the role of an artist is making time to discover new or forgotten places, bringing their results to the public's attention. In a sense, artists may allow the public to live vicariously through them and their works as voyeurs, providing fresh perspectives for viewers. You are invited to look, so in this instance what is your first response? What, if anything, has been awoken in you by this piece?

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.