
Padraig Cunningham - Biography

Padraig Cunningham graduated from the DIT and lived and worked in Dublin before relocating to Boyle, Co. Roscommon and taking a studio in the Dock Arts Centre, Carrick on Shannon.

Try to consider these questions about *Drive Through*

1. This painting has very few colours, it's mostly black and white. When a painting is like this we use the word "tone" to describe the paint on the surface. How many tones do you think there are in this painting?
2. Would this be a good painting for your bedroom?
3. Considering tone again, what other elements are present within this piece, consider texture, pattern, line, the application of paint and the surface of the painting?
4. How do the issues of scale and abstraction gel together in this piece? Would it be the same if it was smaller?
5. Cunningham leaves a lot to his audience. He states that much of his work is concerned with reductions and interior spaces. This notion of an interior confined in darkness asks the question what is an outside or an inside. Does the title of this piece make this easier to understand or not?
6. The interior immediately suggests protection from natural elements but it is interesting to consider an even tighter confinement, that of our bodies. Could a work like this be suggestive of paralysis or awakening?

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.