
Pat Harris - Biography

Pat Harris was born in Dublin in 1953. He graduated NCAD in 1978. He pursued his studies at the National Hight Institute of Fine Arts Antwerp and has exhibited widely in Europe and Ireland. He currently resides in Mayo.

Try to consider these questions about *White Flowers*

1. Is this picture shiny and bright or is it dark?
2. Can you see the white flowers in this picture? What sort of flowers do you think they are?
3. What do you understand by the phrase "style of work" or an "Artists style"? List the qualities in this painting that you think are unique to this artist and this work.
4. This artist has a second piece of work in the exhibition. Without looking for names or titles can you locate the second piece of work by thinking about the artists style and the scale of the painting?
5. Many artists have pursued spiritual or transcendent qualities in their work. It is a mark of deep commitment to be able to weave deep questions and glimpse answers into relatively simple or commonplace subject matter. Is there more to these images, do they transport you or pose new questions for your consideration or is the image as simple as its title suggests?
6. There is a fragility in this work, but it's a fragility that goes on. There is a quiet beauty and a stillness in it, but it is still firm and defiant. How is this gentility and strength embodied on one surface?

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.