
Patrick Scott - Biography

Patrick Scott was born in Cork in 1921. He worked as an architect with his namesake Michael Scott until 1960 when he decided to become a fulltime painter. In 1960 he devoted himself solely to painting and design and was a member of the White Stag group. In 1960 he represented Ireland in the Venice Biennale. In 1981 a retrospective of his work was shown in the Douglas Hyde Gallery. His work can be seen in many important collections worldwide.

Try to consider these questions about *Gestural Drawing*

1. What is the first thing that you see when you look at this painting?
2. Why do you think there are so few colours in this piece of art? Would you put in more, why?
3. Is this a painting? Look carefully and come up with explanations for your answer.
4. List the materials used in this piece and explain how they interconnect. Try to suggest alternative materials. Would they affect the impact of the piece?
5. People attribute spiritual experiences to art. Is there a spiritual dimension to this work?
6. The original reason cavemen developed a visual culture is unknown but hotly debated. What remains is the art and the marks they made. Bearing any cave painting in mind, compare it to this work.

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.