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### Phillip Flanagan - Biography

Philip Flanagan was born in Belfast in 1960 and graduated from Camberwell College in London in 1985. His work appears in major collections in Ireland, Britain and America.

#### Try to consider these questions about *Concrete Form with Yellow*

1. Name the colours and shapes that you see. If this piece of art was food what would it be?
2. Might this piece of art be made from concrete? What are your reasons that it either is or is not?
3. There is a great sense of contrast in this piece. What contrast do you notice? Is the contrast that you have found the only one in the work?
4. The word "form" reoccurs endlessly in the art world. A common dictionary definition is "the visible shape of something, a particular way in which a thing exists (passages in a poem), a type and what is usually done". Which, if any, of these definitions is useful when considering this piece (why the emphasis on yellow).
5. Flanagan is concerned with serenity and the perfection of a world just out of reach. Does this consideration come through in the work.
6. Stylistically there are echoes of Piet Mondrian's compositions in this work. The sureness of line and direction, the boldness of colour, the rigorous abstraction. But on closer inspection they couldn't be more different, why?

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.