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### **Simon Mc Williams - Biography**

Simon Mc Williams studied art at the University of Ulster 1988-92. He exhibits regularly between London and Ireland and has won many awards including the Guinness award at the Royal Academy Summer Show.

#### **Try to consider these questions about *Office Ceiling***

1. If you were in this room what would you be doing?
2. What are all the lines for?
3. This painting represents a very determined perspective. Think about this in terms of line and direction. Consider also the title of the piece as opposed to what we are actually seeing.
4. Where does your eye first rest in this painting and what colour is that element? If the artist had selected an alternative pallet what effect would it have on the painting?
5. The office seems to be a current theme for comedy, drama and art. Why do you believe a theme like this is currently in vogue? What does this painting contribute to that concern?
6. Our natural view of this space is barred by diagonal lines. These lines are obviously significant, but what is their effect beyond just composition?

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.