
T.P. Flanagan - Biography

T.P. Flanagan was born in Enniskillen in 1929. He was introduced to watercolours by Kathleen Bride and has exhibited all over Europe as a landscape painter since. He exhibits regularly with the RHA and RUA.

Try to consider these questions about *Still Life*

1. Are the colours in this piece very bright?
2. Do you think the artist enjoyed painting this work of art?
3. Make a list of the functions you imagine a painting may fulfil. Now look at this work and consider does it fulfil your list requirements for a work of art.
4. Can you think of an alternative title for this work of art?
5. Artists associate themselves with materials as loyally as any fan of a sporting team. They will go as far as to suggest that they are born to work with one material or type of paint. Of all the materials to work with, watercolour is one of the most demanding. Is there a sense of struggle in this work or is the difficulty of the material fully overcome?
6. Very few fields of human endeavour lend themselves to comparison with art. Sport could be compared to art in its concept of human drama, its attempts for excellence and its love of perfect performance enacted by flawed human beings. These are great themes of art history. In what ways is art different from sport?

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.