
William Crozier - Biography

William Crozier was born in Glasgow in 1930 and educated in Glasgow School of Art between 1949 and 1953. He has represented Ireland and the UK overseas and has been awarded the Premio Lissone. In 1992 he was elected to Aosdána. Crozier's work appears in the national collections of Canada, Poland and Austria.

Try to consider these questions about *The Cut Field*

1. This painting explodes with colour. Name three things that the green shape reminds you of.
2. If this artist were in a helicopter or an aeroplane when he made this piece, what would the picture be of? Is your answer different to your first answer now?
3. This is a painting that deals with realities both seen and imagined. Crozier has decided upon a particular view of his subject, why has he selected this view?
4. This painting is rich with the most addictive elements of painting - strong strokes, vivid colours and traditional themes. It is also embroidered with the strong individualistic style of the artist. How would you describe this style and do you think you would recognise it again?
5. Landscape painting (in the overall context of art history) is surprisingly relatively new. It is possible to argue that it stems from a modern concept of property and ownership. A painting like this may be appreciated as a part of that tradition but it is clear that it also exists well beyond this tradition. How is this duality achieved?
6. This painting has a temporal element, perhaps its most satisfying effect. The cutting of the field fills the senses with renewal and has the immediate effect of that smell of mown grass. Does experiencing the work this way engage the senses and allow the work to become a real memory that can be relived?

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.