

Context

Artists create their works in all kinds of cultures and societies. How does context and personal experience affect different art works? Look at a range of works and answer these questions to find out.

STUDY CARD

Artist

- How might the artist's background, age, gender, ethnicity, or beliefs have influenced the work?
- Has the artist been inspired by their experiences of particular social, cultural, historical, political, or environmental events? If so, describe how these experiences are reflected in the work.

Physical environment

- How does the art work's location affect the way you 'read' it? Comment on the space, lighting, and scale.
- Was the work inspired by or created for this particular location? If so, how does it relate to the site?
- Was the work created for another site? If so, where? How did it relate to that site?
- Is it exhibited with other works? If so, comment on their relationships, and the effect these have on your interpretation of the art work.

Other works

How does this work relate to other works by the same artist?

Other artists

 Identify any connections with other artists' work and discuss.

Context

Culture

- Is the work making a cultural statement?
 What aspects of which culture(s) does the work relate to?
- Does your cultural background affect the way you 'read' the painting?

Society

- Was the work made in a society that is different to the one in which you are viewing it? If so, identify any differences. How might this affect the way you interpret the work?
- Does the art work have a political, social, economic, or environmental role, function, or message? If so, what is it?

History

Does the work relate to a historical event or era? If so, which one, and how?

Your view

- Do you feel a personal connection to this work?
- How does your own viewpoint, and your cultural, social, and political context, affect the way you interpret the work?
- Identify key ways in which your personal context may differ from that of the artist. How might these differences affect your understanding of the meaning of the work?



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