



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.

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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