

Family Artful Conversations: Art and Our Environment

For children ages 10 to 14 years old



Here are **three tips** for engaging in an artful conversation with your children.

- Take some time to look closely at the artwork. Prompt them to talk about their observations.
- Ask follow up questions about their observations, such as “What makes you think this way?”
- Look out for some visual elements found in the artwork. Discuss the different shapes, colours and patterns they see.

Artwork # 1

DBS Singapore Gallery 2



Chng Seok Tin
Man and Environment
1988
Paint, graphite, ink and newspaper on canvas, 117 x 86 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Let's explore! Looking at art through questions:

1. Let your eyes move around the artwork. Do you spot any interesting patterns or shapes?
2. What do these patterns or shapes remind you of?
3. What do you think this artwork is about?
4. What materials do you think were used to make this artwork?
5. If you could touch the different materials on this painting, how do you think they would feel? What makes you say so?
6. Do any of the textures or patterns remind you of your environment?

Artwork # 1

DBS Singapore Gallery 2



Chng Seok Tin
Man and Environment
1988
Paint, graphite, ink and newspaper on canvas, 117 x 86 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

About the artwork

In *Man and Environment*, Chng Seok Tin experimented with different materials such as paint, fabric, paper pulp and plaster to produce different textures and reliefs. She often used her works to express her concerns about human, social and environmental issues. She once said, "As an artist, you cannot just hide in your own tower. You should be concerned about society, about human beings, about the environment."

About the artist

This artwork was created in 1988, the same year that Chng Seok Tin lost most of her eyesight after a brain surgery. Even then, she continued to develop sculptural and mixed-media works, sometimes using unexpected natural materials such as dried lily buds.

Artwork #2

UOB Southeast Asia Gallery 7



Hernando R Ocampo
Dancing Mutants
1965
Oil on canvas, 101.8 x 76 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Let's explore! Looking at art through questions:

1. What is one word that comes to mind as you observe this painting?
2. What do the colours in the artwork remind you of? How do they make you feel?
3. Look at the shapes in this artwork. Do they seem regular and symmetrical or wavy and curved? We call the former geometric shapes and the latter organic shapes.
4. What do you think this artwork is about?
5. Imagine you were the artist. What colours or shapes would you add or take away? Why?

Artwork #2

UOB Southeast Asia Gallery 7



Hernando R Ocampo
Dancing Mutants
1965
Oil on canvas, 101.8 x 76 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

About the artwork

If you look at the artwork from a certain perspective, you may be able to see that the green leaf-like shapes make up three humanoid figures. The central figure spreads his arms and legs in the shape of a star. The direction of strokes and patterns in red look like they are dancing and swaying. *Dancing Mutants* was Hernando R Ocampo's reaction to the horrors of war, after he was inspired by a film in which creatures mutated from the aftereffects of a nuclear bomb.

About the artist

Hernando R Ocampo once said that the strongest influences on his paintings were from the things he saw around him every day: "The flora and fauna, the sunshine, the rain, the flowers and the birds and the bees, the shells and fish of the Philippines, as well as the TV films and the movies that I see."



Artists use colours, shapes and figures to express their thoughts and feelings. Some also use found objects from their environment to create artworks that express their concerns about the world. The next time you see an artwork, think about how the artist might be trying to inspire you!