

Family Artful Conversations: Art & Nature

For children age 4 to 9 years old



Here are **three tips** for engaging an art conversation with children at home

- Take some time to look closely with your children and have them talk about their observations about the artwork.
- Follow up their observations with a question such as “What makes you think this way?”
- Look out for some visual elements found in the artwork. What shapes, colours and patterns can you see?

Artwork 1



Boschbrand (Forest Fire)

Raden Saleh

1849

Oil on canvas

Collection of National Gallery Singapore

This work of art has been adopted by the Yong Hon Kong Foundation

Let's explore! Looking at art through questions

1. What do you think is happening in the artwork?
2. What can you see in the artwork?
3. Why do you think there is a fire?
How do you think the fire started?
4. Look at the roaring tiger.
How do you think the tiger is feeling?
5. How do you think the other animals are feeling? What makes you say so?
(e.g. highlight the tiger's expression, posture of the animals, etc.)
6. Why do you think the artist painted this artwork?

Artwork 1



Boschbrand (Forest Fire)

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About the artwork

Beware! A fire rages through the forest, sending a herd of animals hurtling to the edge. Can you feel the heat of the blazing fire, smell the acrid smoke, and hear the stampede? What a cliffhanging moment, before they plunge to their fate! Through this gripping picture, the Javanese painter Raden Saleh has vividly depicted the raw power of nature.

About the artist

Nature was a big source of inspiration to Raden Saleh. As a young man, he ventured to the remote areas of west Java on expeditions, encountering volcanoes, plants and animals that would later feature in his paintings.

Artwork 2



Lotus in a Breeze
Georgette Chen
c. 1970
Oil on canvas
Gift of Lee Foundation
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Let's explore! Looking at art through questions

1. Look closely at the artwork. What colours do you see?
2. What do you like about this artwork? Why?
3. Do you think the artist painted this artwork in the day or at night? What makes you say so?
4. Look closely at this artwork. Where do you think the breeze is blowing from? What makes you say so?
5. Why do you think the artist painted lotus flowers?
6. If there is no sunlight, soil or water, what will happen to the lotus flowers?

Artwork 2



Lotus in a Breeze
Georgette Chen
c. 1970
Oil on canvas
Gift of Lee Foundation
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

About the artwork

Georgette Chen enjoyed painting outdoors. She captured scenes of nature in natural light in her paintings, and the lotus was one of her favourite subject matter. She once painted lotuses from day to night for ten days!

About the artist

Whether painting still life, landscapes or portraits, throughout her years as an artist, Georgette Chen drew from her surroundings. Georgette grew to like Singapore so much that she started painting nature, tropical fruits like rambutans, as well as places like the Singapore River. She also loved to capture the vibrant, multicultural people of Singapore.



Works of art can capture moments in history or an artist's own experiences. Artists are like storytellers who share stories through their art.

Artists share their stories by creating characters, expressions and places. The next time you are in front of an artwork, look closely and think of the story an artist might be trying to tell!