

## Explore the collection

These activities can be done with any painting, in any room and in any order. They are mainly prompts to start looking and talking about paintings. You might like to stay together as a small group or try some of them by yourself.

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Work in pairs. Each choose a painting and look for 60 seconds. Turn your back to the painting and see what you can remember. Your partner can keep looking at the painting and give you clues if you forget something!

Swap over.



## DESCRIBE

Choose one painting. Look carefully and then each think of 5 words to describe the painting. You could choose words to describe:

- what's in the painting
- the colours
- the overall picture
- how it makes you feel

## WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?

You can use one painting or several. Find something:

- soft
- shiny
- hard
- scaly
- silky
- smooth
- rough

Choose one thing you'd like to have a closer look at. Think about how you would hold it.

- Would you need two hands?
- Would you need to be careful because it might break - or maybe try and escape!
- Try and think of as many words as you can to describe how it would feel.



## TAKE A WALK...

Choose a painting and imagine you can step inside. Decide where you would be and think about what:

- is closest to you
- is furthest away
- you could touch if you reached out your hand
- you could smell if you took a deep breath





## POSES

Choose one person in a painting and try and stand or sit exactly as they are.

Think about:

- where their feet are
- what their hands are doing
- where they are looking
- what facial expression they have - are they smiling, frowning...

Can someone guess who you are trying to be?



## CONVERSATIONS

Look carefully at the people in the paintings near you.

- Who would you choose to speak to and why?
- What would you ask them?

## COMPARISONS

Choose one painting and look for 30 seconds.

Now look at the paintings on either side

Compare and contrast:

- What is the same, what is different?
- Which one would you choose to take away with you and why?



## THINK - BIG QUESTIONS

- Can a painting of something ugly still be beautiful?
- If all the art was removed from the wall would it still be an art gallery? Do you agree that only good art is displayed in galleries?
- Do portraits tell us more about the artist than the sitter?
- Is life ever still?

