

Thinking, talking and documenting in the Sainsbury Centre Living Area

On the following pages are cut out instructions, information and prompts to encourage students to focus on their surroundings and actively explore the collections.

How to:

■ Read through the instructions and activities and choose ones you feel will suit your students' study and ability.

■ Print and cut out the pieces to be stuck in notebooks or on different types of paper to make a journal of responses. Leave plenty of space around each task. This could be something you do to prepare for the visit, or a pre-visit activity for students.

■ Bring the prepared journals in notebooks/ papers with the tasks stuck on, and pencils. We can provide clipboards, world maps and paper if you need them, just ask when you book.

■ Enter the galleries and start your exploration! We would advise splitting groups down into smaller groups which are supervised with enough adults to keep the students safe.



Getting started – fill your first pages with sketches, words and ideas about the gallery itself in response to the questions and information below

Date:

Where am I?

Sketch or write your first impressions. What are you expecting to find in an art gallery?

Why is it here?

Robert and Lisa Sainsbury were art lovers who collected works from around the world and bought works from artists they befriended and supported.

Their collection outgrew their home and in 1973 they donated their collection to the University of East Anglia. David Sainsbury (their son) funded the building to house the works and The Sainsbury Centre was opened in 1978.

Sir Robert Sainsbury was the grandson of the founder of Sainsbury's supermarkets.



After a quick walk around the space, write three words to describe Robert and Lisa's choice of things to display. Who do you think the art gallery is for and why?

Find sculpture busts and portraits of Robert and Lisa in the Living Area. Why do you think they collected art and put it on public display?

Do you have a collection, or do you know someone with a collection? Write down three things that are different about the Sainsbury Centre collection than your collection, or the collection of someone you know. Write down two things that are similar.

Why is it called the Living Area?

Robert and Lisa Sainsbury's vision for the gallery was to create a place for people to feel comfortable and at home with art, just like they did in London. The carpets, comfy seating and opportunity to view objects at 360° degrees make this gallery a 'Living Area', like a living room.

The building and galleries were designed by Sir Norman Foster, world renowned British architect whose buildings include *The Gherkin* in London.

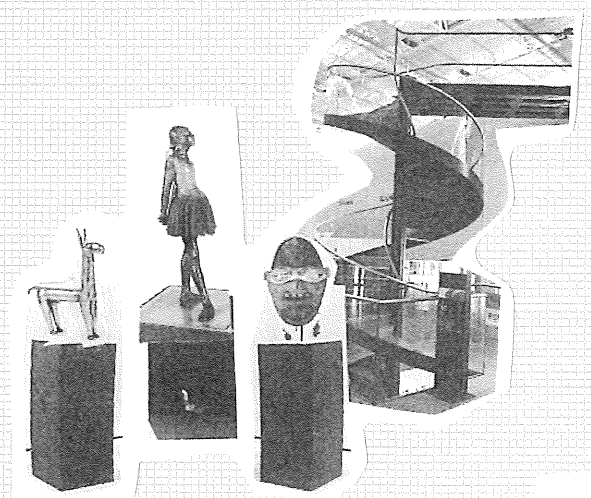


Find some writing on a panel in the gallery which tells you more about Robert and Lisa's vision for the gallery and write down some key words or sentences

Take a walk around the whole space, jot down some things that you think make it feel like a 'Living Area'. Write down some other things that could be added or taken away to make it even more comfortable

If there are other visitors in the gallery, have a look at what they are doing. Write down your observations – do they stop and look, do they sit down and read, do they walk through quickly? Why do you think they behave like that?

What do you think is the best way to look at artworks? Design a way the gallery could encourage more of this type of looking.

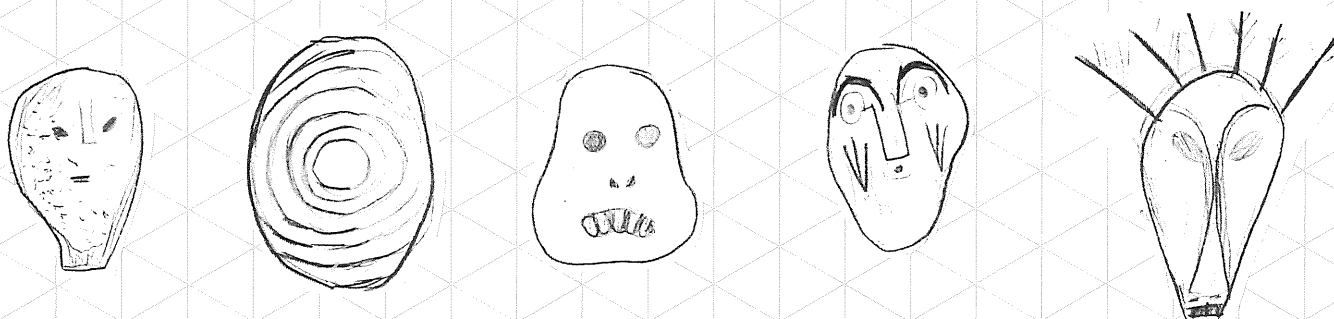


Start to explore – focus on two or three objects that grab your attention, fill your next few pages with sketches, words and ideas in response to the headings and questions below

Write down everything you can figure out about the artwork just by looking closely. Jot down ideas on texture, colour and material. Look again, closer. Double your amount of notes with more observations.

What is the story of this artwork? Is there something going on in the drawing or painting? If it is an object what do you think its function would have been before it was collected? If is a sculpture, imagine an environment that it would live in and what it would do there.

If you can, walk the whole way around the object. Try to see it from different angles or distances. Sketch or describe the most interesting angle to view the artwork from.



Read the caption – what does this information make you realise about the artwork? If you have more questions, jot down the name and UEA number of the object and ask a gallery guide or look it up in one of the big white books on the tables. (Ask at reception if you need help finding guides and books)

What do you imagine this object/ painting/ sculpture/ drawing is thinking?

What would they say to you or what noise would they make?

How would they move around the gallery? Sketch out a quick storyboard or write a description of what would happen if they sprung into life.

What questions do you want to ask them? What questions might they ask you?

Can you find...? – Find artworks that match the headings below, document your journey around the gallery with sketches, ideas or even a map of your route

Figures

Animals

Masks

On a plinth

In a case

In a frame

Line

Sculpture

From Africa

Pattern

Henry Moore

Made of wood

From Mexico

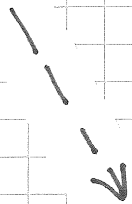
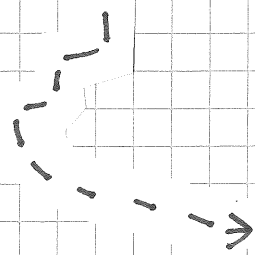
Tiny objects

From North America

Made of stone

Faces

Make three of your own headings



Making connections –fill your next few pages with sketches, words and ideas in response to the activity ideas below

Write down a word to describe one of the artworks. Explore the gallery until you find three other things that fit with that word. On your page, write or sketch the artworks with links between them to show they are now connected.

Repeat the process with a new starting artwork and add them to your page. Keep going until you have over 20 artworks listed or sketched in an inter-connecting map (some can connect to more than one word)

Lots of artists on display like Modigliani and Picasso found inspiration in artwork from around the world such as African masks. Find a painting/sculpture/drawing which connects in some way to an old object or artefact and write or sketch their similarities and differences.

Pick an artwork, and ask a friend to pick another one on the opposite corner of the gallery. Meet back at one of the artworks and journey through the objects writing down word connections between them as you hop from one to the other. When you reach your second artwork, read out all the words you have documented to hear a poem of your journey.

Think about what the objects are looking at. Can you find two objects or artworks that seem to be gazing at each other? Draw or describe what they can see.

Which artwork do you think has the most interesting view? Which artwork has the least interesting view? Draw or jot down where you would like to be if you were installed as a new artwork in the gallery.

Make a connection with an artwork and something outside of the gallery. Does a sculpture remind you of someone you have seen in a film? Does the colour of an object remind you of something you have at home? Jot down these connections.

Reflecting on what you have seen – take some time to look back over your ideas and sketches and write some comments about what you have seen and thought about in the gallery

Look back at your first impressions and expectations. Has anything surprised you?

Read the text about Robert and Lisa Sainsbury's vision for the gallery again. Do you think they have succeeded? Is there anything you would change about the gallery space or collection?

Write one sentence to describe the gallery to someone who has never been before.

Write down one artwork which made you stop and look. What was it about this object that caught your attention? If you were to take it home with you, where would you display it? Write a new caption for that object in its new location.

What did you enjoy doing most in the gallery? Was it sketching, writing, talking or just having time to have a good look? If you visit again, what will you make time to do more of?

To get in touch with the schools and outreach team
email scvagroupvisits@uea.ac.uk or ring 01603 591597

This resource was produced by

Lynn Gray and Rose Hughes 2018

**SAINSBURY
CENTRE** 40 YEARS
1978–2018

