

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The Sainsbury Centre was created to display the **PERSONAL** collection of Sir Robert & Lisa Sainsbury. For many years they collected ART OBJECTS from all around the world, and bought from artists and friends, before giving it all to the UEA. The gallery is open-plan, so you can EXPLORE the collection as you please. There are no text panels telling you what to THINK. Every visitor will **INTERPRET** & **RESPOND** to the collection in different ways. The objects are arranged geographically, but **WITHOUT FIXED BOUNDARIES**, to enable you to make **LINKS** between them.

Grab a pencil, maybe take a seat, and let's develop some IDEAS together.

THEMES

There is huge diversity within the collection. There are objects from different places, of different materials and sizes... ..but there is much that they have in common too. You can find things which connect to all these themes:

PATTERN
ADORNMENT
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
TRANSFORMATION
RITUAL/CEREMONY
STATUS/POWER
TRANSCENDENCE
ENVIRONMENT
MENDING/REPAIR
PROPORTION
CONTAINMENT
...and many more.

What's in it for **YOU**?

We want to help you to make the collection a useful resource, as you **CREATE** and **DEVELOP** your art practice. Maybe as you spend time getting to know the collection, you might get to know yourself a little better too.

We are going to use lots of **QUESTIONS** (to help us). There are no right answers.

EXPLORE the gallery and CONSIDER:

What do you have a strong reaction to (good or bad)? Do you know why?

Who are YOU? What is your **IDENTITY**?

Might you describe yourself as an **ARTIST**, or a **CURATOR**?
What do you like to do, make, or look at, think about, or **CREATE**?
What (aspect of art) are you most excited by?
What is your (art)work like?
What is it about?
What materials do you like to use?
(You could write some notes here, on some paper, or in a sketchbook.)

What are the key themes in your work?
Choose one theme to **FOCUS** on now:

.....

LOOK

Within the gallery you will see that some things are attributed to an **INDIVIDUAL**, and some are not.

Regardless of whether they were made by a **KNOWN** or **UNKNOWN** maker, the Sainsburys wanted us to treat them equally. They wanted all the **OBJECTS / EXHIBITS / WORKS / ARTEFACTS** to be viewed as **ART**.
What do you think about this?

SELECT

Choose an art object by an **UNKNOWN MAKER** that connects with your theme. Gather some visual responses / sketches.

Make sure you look at the work from more than one angle; move around it, get beneath it... really **STUDY** it. (Don't think about 'perfect' or 'finished' at this point.)

DRAW

Try different approaches; zoom-in on interesting or important details, or capture the essence of the art object from afar.

When you are drawing, consider:
SHAPE, TEXTURE, MATERIALS, LINE

ASK

Note what intrigues you, and your questions.
What caught your eye first?
What did you notice later?

Who / Why / What do you think the object was made for?
Is the object part of something bigger? What else might have been on/with/next-to the object?

Be conscious of your response to the artefact.
How are you **THINKING** and **FEELING**?

What do you want to **REMEMBER** about the art object?

Does your drawing reflect your thoughts?
Do you need to make some written notes?

LABELS

Look at the written information with the art objects.
Do you find it helpful? Does it capture all that is important about the object?
Would you like to change it?

*If you make a note of the object **NUMBER** you can use this to find the object on the Sainsbury Centre Website: <https://ad-lib.uea.ac.uk/search/advanced>

CONNECT

Select an art work by a **KNOWN MAKER**, which has something in common with the art object you've just studied. It should connect to the same **THEME**.
Is there a **VISUAL** connection, or a **CONCEPTUAL** link between them?
Make notes to explain the relationship.
There is no right or wrong – this is your individual and valid interpretation.

WORLD ART

Many of the Artists within the collection have taken **INSPIRATION** from what **they** called '*primitive*' art. In the late 20th Century the term stopped being used, and we now refer to these objects as World Art.
Why do you think this is?
Do you think the World Art objects in the gallery are '*primitive*'?

SEARCH

Look at the other art objects nearby.
Can you see other things which fit your theme?

EXPAND

Curators make choices to consciously place art objects for a reason. How many other **IDEAS** could **LINK** art objects across the gallery?
Maybe make a list, or create a diagram.
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CURATE

Stick with the theme you have been working on, or choose one of the new ones you just identified.
Write it down.

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Design your own exhibition on this theme.

Choose up to 9 art objects.
Draw each one on a separate postcard (or piece of paper, or post-it-note). You can choose the scale.
Add a little written information to your drawing, from the existing label or re-writing your own.
(Make sure you will be able to identify these art objects later)

DISPLAY

How are the art objects displayed at the moment?
Would you change this?
How would you display them in your exhibition:
on plinths, in cabinets, on the walls or floor, hanging from the ceiling... ..in a large or small room (in which colour/s), or outdoors...?

ARRANGE

Lay your drawings down, and move them into different positions, Make links between them in some way.
Perhaps start by making pairs.
Do you want to place them in a line, or a circle, a grid...or in another formation?
Would you like other people to see them in a fixed order, or would you like them to have a choice?

PRESENTATION

How will you bring these drawings together?
You could stick them, tie them, put them in a box...

INSTALL

When you get home, add an art work of your own to your exhibition. Make something new, or add something you already have which is relevant.

BORROW

If you could add art work/s by other people, what would you include?

REFLECT

Has this experience changed the way you think, or given you new ideas?
What did you learn?
What will you do next?

SHARE

Discuss the experience with your family and friends.
Show us what you have created - share your drawing exhibition on social media:
@SainsburyCentreLearning
#MakingConnections