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Welcome to Talking Art with IMMA, where we invite you to take a closer look at selected artworks from the permanent collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. We encourage you to use the questions below to have a conversation about the work with someone in your household, or with a friend or family member over the phone. There is no limit to the number of participants, the more the merrier!

Talking about an artwork with someone else can open our eyes to new details and reveal things we did not see at first. There is no need to rush, so get comfortable, take your time to discover and remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Have fun!

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→ Let's Look Closely

The photograph is full of details that could be missed at first glance, so let's slow down, take a close look and tackle the image bit by bit.

- What do you notice first? Why does it stand out to you?
- What colours can you see, are they bright or dull?
- Let's talk about the people in the image. How would you describe their clothing?
- What do you think they are doing?
- How would you describe the building behind them?

→ Let's Delve Deeper

After looking closely, we can have more questions than answers - this invites us to wonder what the artwork might mean or represent. Let's see what interesting ideas emerge!

- What time of day do you think this photo was taken?
And why?
- Does it look like an inviting place?
- Body language can be revealing, do you think the people are posing?
- How would you describe the atmosphere or mood?

→ Let's Connect

Let's use what we have discussed and uncovered to connect more personally with the work.

- If you met the artist, what would you ask them?
- Do you like the artists style of photography? If yes, why? And if not, what would you do differently?
- If you could suggest a title for this work, what would you call it?

→ Let's Create

Cameras are more accessible than ever before, especially as they can be found in most mobile phones. Using this work as inspiration, let's try to take some photos of a friend/family member or an object. Lighting can create dramatic effects which can be seen in the above photograph. When taking your image try to use a single light source such as a lamp in a dark room or allowing light through from only one window.

Allow yourself to experiment and create something different from what you started with, and above all have fun!

We hope you've enjoyed Talking Art with IMMA and we'd love to hear your feedback. Please send us your thoughts either by post, using the enclosed IMMA-addressed postcard, by email to talkingart@imma.ie or leave us a voicemail on our Talking Art phoneline at 01 612 9952.

Talking Art with IMMA was developed by Bairbre-Ann Harkin, Bryan Hogan, Ciara Magee, Aidan O'Sullivan and Domnick Sorace and produced by IMMA as part of Creative Ireland's Creativity in Older Age Programme.

Find Out More

About the Artwork

Artist:	Hannah Starkey
Title:	Untitled
Date:	1999
Medium:	C-type print
Dimensions:	126 x 164 x 4 cm 122 x 152 cm (framed)
Credit Line:	IMMA Collection: Donated by George and Maura McClelland, 2000

About the Artist

“My pictures come out of a sort of defiance against the kind of image that’s too easy to read about a woman, that either overtly empowers her or exploits her”

Photographer Hannah Starkey was born in Belfast in 1971. In 1995 she graduated with a B.A (Hons) in Film and Photography from the Napier University, Edinburgh. Subsequently, in 1997 she acquired her M.A from the Royal College of Art. Hannah Starkey is known for her photographs of women within recreated staged everyday environments. Using filmography methods, she seeks common locations, hires actors or anonymous women to pose, acquire costumes and plan lighting, combining them together to create her images. A sense of storytelling is created by the women captured in mid-actions. In her work the boundary between reality and fiction becomes hazy, this leaves enough ambiguity for the viewer to relate with the characters in her work.

