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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 see?
- Describe the landscape. Can you see anything in the distance? Describe the textures visible within the photograph.
- What can we tell about the man standing in the foreground? Let's start by describing his clothing. How would you describe his stance? The expression on his face? What does he appear to be doing?

→ 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!

- Imagine you were standing next to this man. What can you hear? Does it feel cold or warm?
- Do you think the man in the photograph knows the photographer? What leads you to say that? Why do you think the photographer chose to photograph this man?
- Perry Ogden, the photographer, also works as a professional fashion photographer for publications like 'Vogue'. Do you think he brings his experience as a fashion photographer to this photograph? In what way?

→ Let's Connect

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

“You make images of things that interest you, intrigue you, that you care about and that extends to wanting to preserve them because the next time they will be gone. In some ways photography is an act of preservation.” - Perry Ogden

What would you choose to preserve through photography?
Would it be a person, a thing or a place? How would you choose to represent it – in colour, or black and white? In landscape or portrait format?

What title would you give your photograph?

→ Let's Create

If you have a camera, or a camera on your phone, why not choose something within your home, an object, person or room. Create a 'portrait' of it, taking care to set up a composition that you are happy with. When you are finished, think of a name/title for the photograph.

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 phonenumber 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:	Perry Ogden
Title:	Connemara portraits from the series 'There's Plenty Cloud on the Mountains Abroad'
Date:	1992
Medium:	Silver Gelatin Print
Dimensions:	27.3 x 20.3 cm
Credit Line:	MMA Collection: Purchase, assisted by funding from Maire and Maurice Foley, 2010

Here, the artist writes about the time when he made this work;

“In the early nineties I was living in Paris directing television commercials. Beyond working with some great cinematographers, I wasn't enjoying it much. I'd lost my focus, and had even given up photography. The turning point came on the eve of making a McDonalds commercial. I had a crisis of conscience, and decided to abandon it all to spend time drawing and painting. My new life took me more and more to Connemara: I was drawn to its remoteness, the bog and the Atlantic, and became fascinated by my neighbours and others working on the land, cutting the turf. [...] Making these pictures reignited my love for photography.”

About the Artist

English photographer Perry Ogden (born 1961) trained with fashion photographer Tony McGee before working as a professional fashion photographer for publications including 'Vogue', 'The Face', and 'Arena'. Ogden's other photographic projects include documenting Francis Bacon's Studio in London, the road from Belfast to Derry and 'Pony Kids' in Dublin. He produced his first feature film, 'Pavee Lackeen', in 2005. Ogden's photographic work has been exhibited widely at venues including Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane; Fondation Beyeler, Basle, and Fondation Van Gogh, Arles.
