



Talking Art With IMMA / 6

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 painting 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?
- What colours, shapes and forms do you notice?
- How would you describe the room we can see?
- Where do you think this may be? Why do you say that?

→ Let's Look 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 books do you think they may be reading? Do you think the books have a connection with the view?
- What about the figure in the painting? What do you think they are they seeing? What might they be thinking?
- Can you imagine any smells or sounds while viewing this work?
- If you were the artist how would you title this work?

→ Let's Connect

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

- How would you describe this work to another person?
- If you could ask the artist about the work, what questions would you ask?
- What would be your ideal window view?

→ Let's Create

Using any drawing materials you happen to have to hand, cuttings from a magazine or newspaper, or a camera, why not create an image of your dream view from a window.

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

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| Artist: | Stephen McKenna |
| Title: | The Yellow Window |
| Date: | 1990 |
| Medium: | Oil on Canvas |
| Dimensions Framed: | 126.8 x 167.3 x 5 cm 120 x 160 x 3.5 cm |
| Credit Line: | IMMA Collection: Donation, Maire and Maurice Foley, 2000 |

'The Yellow Window' is one of a series of works by Stephen McKenna portraying interiors with a view. Architecture is a key element in these painting and an atmosphere of stillness and reflection is conveyed to the viewer.

About the Artist

London-born artist Stephen McKenna (1939-2017) studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. He came to prominence as a painter in the 1970s. McKenna travelled extensively, spending time in Italy and lived in Ireland, in County Carlow, from the 1990s. McKenna's still life, landscape and interior compositions reference classical antiquity and explore the contemporary potential of those traditional genres.

He has exhibited extensively, including major solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Stadtische Kunsthalle, Dusseldorf, and the Royal Hibernian Academy, Hugh Lane Gallery and the Douglas Hyde Gallery Dublin. In 1986, he was shortlisted for the Turner Prize. Elected to Aosdána in 1999, he became a member of the RHA in 2002 and served as president of the RHA from 2005-2009.

