

O C C A S
I O N A L
G E O M E
T R I E S



Talking Together

Rana Begum Curates the
Arts Council Collection
15 July–29 October 2017
Longside Gallery

In this exhibition artists have used materials, space, place, light, colour and shape to explore the relationships between them, the space that they are shown in and the person looking at them and how they feel.

Rana Begum is an artist who has curated this exhibition. A curator gathers, collects, groups and assembles things to help to tell a story or share an idea. What story do you think she is trying to share?

Imagine you are a curator. Would you move any of the artworks around? Discuss or share which ones these are and why.

As a child, Rana Begum recalls sitting in her local mosque, where the room was dappled with light and the Quran was being read aloud. Seeing the light, patterns, and hearing the familiar recitation, she felt both calm and exhilarated. She tries to capture this special memory in her work. Is there something you can do to feel calm? What makes you feel very happy? Can you think of a time when you've been both excited and peaceful?

Soda Lake was created in response to a dry lake in the driest desert in North America. Have you seen a desert? Nigel Hall said that the lake was so vast and there were only occasional objects in the landscape. Look closely at the sculpture. What do you think the shapes in the sculpture could be? Now move further away. Does it change the way that you see it?

What do you think would happen if one of the chairs was removed from *March of the Vaedictorians*? Imagine that the chairs are people. What do you think they are thinking? What might they be feeling?

Peter Joseph was inspired by music that he listened to when painting. Imagine a song that he could have been listening to when making *Yellow Painting* and share your ideas with each other. Do sounds or music affect how you feel?

Hilary Wilson has created a drawer that is over three metres long! Who would own a set of drawers this big? What do you think would be stored in them?

Artists sometimes create artworks that help to represent a mood or a feeling. Walk around the exhibition, and collect as many words or phrases to describe the feelings that you can see. Find two artworks that you think share the same mood, and belong together.

Nicky Hirst finds shape and pattern in the world around her, and records and shares her images online. Can images that are shared on social media be art? When they are displayed in a gallery, does this change their meaning?

When you are in the gallery and around the Park, use your phones and cameras to record shapes and patterns that you spot. Share your images with us using #occasionalgeometries

Find Richard Smith's *Brief Alphabet – Triptych* and John Carter's *First Spacer Painting No.1*. These artworks move into the gallery space. Do you think that they are a painting or sculpture? Can painting be sculpture? Can sculpture be a painting? Can an artwork be both at the same time?

Lots of artworks in this exhibition are from the Arts Council Collection. This is a special collection as it belongs to everyone. It was started over 70 years ago and there are now nearly 8,000 works in the Collection. Works of art go out on loan for everyone to enjoy – a bit like library books. Do you have a collection? What do you collect? Who gets to see it? Do you ever let people borrow things from your collection? Share your collections with us using #ACCMYCollection

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