

Roderic O’Conor and the Moderns. Between Paris and Pont-Aven Post-Primary Workshop

Teachers’ Notes

Summary	In this practical workshop students will uncover how galleries present art, learn about O’Conor’s life and work, and plan their own exhibition. The workshop links directly to the curriculum, and is designed to introduce students to visual culture in a creative and hands-on way, and includes a tour of the exhibition.
Year groups suitable for	4-6th year art students
Session itinerary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to the workshop ● Discussion of exhibition elements ● Tour of O’Conor exhibition ● Activity: Students curate part of an exhibition space ● Activity: Students present their exhibition to the class
Objectives	To aid students with the Leaving Cert museum question through a creative, hands-on workshop
Themes explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● O’Conor’s life and work, and that of his contemporaries ● Modernism ● Artists’ colonies ● Exhibition curation
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interactive discussion ● A guided tour of the exhibition ● Collaborative work ● Curation activity ● Presentation of ideas to class
Curriculum links	Art History and Appreciation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irish Art : Roderic O’Conor ● Appreciation of Art: Museum question
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge: Learn about Roderic O’Conor and modernism; Improve knowledge and foster understanding of how galleries and museums exhibit work 2. Skills: Generate an awareness of, and engagement with, decisions made in curating an exhibition. Communicate with team when designing their own exhibition. 3. Attitude & Values: An increased understanding of the curator’s role and the effort put into exhibition design and the visitor’s experience 4. Enjoyment, Inspiration & Creativity: Foster creativity and be inspired

	<p>5. Activity, behaviour, progression: Use what has been learned for LC museum question preparation and complete post-workshop suggested activities</p>
<p>Before your visit - information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the structure of visit/workshop to students • Share the Roderic O’Conor resource pack (available to download from the National Gallery website)
<p>Before your visit – suggested activities for students</p>	<p>Visit the National Gallery’s website. What information can you find out about the exhibition? Is it easy to find? How is it presented? Does it make you want to visit the exhibition? Is there enough/too much/not enough information?</p> <p>Do some background research on the artist, Roderic O’Conor. What do you anticipate the exhibition will cover?</p> <p>Consider the exhibition’s title, <i>Roderic O’Conor and the Moderns: From Paris to Pont-Aven</i>. How do you think the title sets your expectations for the visit?</p>
<p>After your visit – suggested activities for students</p>	<p>Write an exhibition wall label</p> <p>Activity: Using what you’ve learned from the workshop and how the curators chose to write the wall labels, design your own wall label for one chosen painting.</p> <p>Think about: Who is the target audience? What language will you use? How long will it be? Will it only be text?</p> <p>Learning outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illustration skills 2. Direct preparation for LC question 3. Increased understanding of the importance of the displayed information <p>Curriculum links: In both 2017 & 2018 the LC museum question asked for the “<i>techniques used to inform and educate the viewer [about the artworks]</i>”. Wall labels are key in informing the visitor about the displayed works.</p>