

## Our Day Out

by Jennie O'Connell

### Schools Activity Sheet

*Our Day Out* is a collection of 13 watercolour and mixed media paintings commissioned by Baboró International Arts Festival for Children. The artist invented a city in her mind and imagined lots of fun, exciting days out for a young girl and her family and friends in this city. She then decided to paint what she imagined. The paintings are fun, lively and full of colour - there is lots to look at and discover.

This activity sheet accompanies the film of the exhibition *Our Day Out* and can be used in the classroom as a resource to help children to engage with the work by asking them questions and encouraging them to make art of their own in response to the film or gallery visit.

We have chosen to focus on 3 different themes for children to look at and to think about. You can pause the film at any stage and engage with the activities in this worksheet. As each theme prompt contains a suggestion for the children to make art, this activity sheet could be used over a three-day or three week period, whatever suits you and your class.

### Theme 1: Story and Character

#### Painting: *Can We Go, Yet?*

Let's have a look at this picture called "Can we go, yet?" Firstly, can you say why you think it might be called that?

Who are the different characters you can see in this picture, and do they all look like they are feeling the same thing?

In this picture, the artist tried to show different emotions, and to make it clear to the viewer how the characters are feeling. Is everyone in this picture happy?

*Can you think about a time where you had to go somewhere you didn't want to go, or do something you didn't want to do?*

*Can you illustrate that picture? You can make it as funny as you want!*

**Remember:** think about how a person's face and body changes when they are happy, or sad, or angry. What does their mouth do? Their eyes? Their eyebrows? Do they show their teeth? Are they hunched over, looking miserable, or are they jumping in the air for joy?

## Theme 2: Colour Palette/Limited Palette

### Painting: *Pumpkins*

This is a very vibrant and colourful picture. Let's think about the colours you can choose when you are making your art.

What can you see in this picture? Pumpkins? Halloween decorations? Fallen leaves? These help us to know that this picture is telling us a story about Autumn. However, we also can see that the artist chose to use colours that really help her to show us that it is Autumn.

She chose a "limited palette" to help her to do this – just 5 colours!

*What season would you like to illustrate?*

*Think about what colours you would use for Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter.*

**Remember:** Try to limit your palette to just 4 or 5 colours for your seasonal picture, and also, try to think about what kinds of things people usually do in the season you have chosen. This will really help to set the scene.

## Theme 3: Composition, and what does the artist show us?

### Paintings: *The Parade* and *The Seal and Me*.

Let's compare two very different paintings here, so that we can think about *composition*. When looking at a picture, *what* the artist has decided to put in the picture, and *where*, help them to tell us what they believe the picture is really about.

Composition also means deciding to focus on different parts of the story you want to tell, and deciding what you think the important parts are. An artist can do this by deciding to make certain parts bigger, or nearer, or to look at something from a particular angle.

When we look at "The Parade", we can see that the artist has chosen to show only a small part of the parade, and to show the reactions of the spectators.

Now, let's look at "The Seal and Me".

How is this painting different from "The Parade"? We know that they show two very different things happening, but also, the composition is very different. We are not up close to the girl and the seal. Does it help you to imagine how you might feel if you were going for a walk, and suddenly you came across this girl, having a special moment with a seal? Would you be quiet? Would you stay back, and watch? Or would you rush forward? What do you think is *missing* from this picture?

*Choose your favourite from these two paintings. How would you illustrate the "story" differently?*

**Remember:** think about the composition of your picture: what is the important bit of your picture that you want to show? Should you be close to the action? Far away? How should the viewer get to see what your picture is about? What angle will you choose to draw your scene from, and how will this make the viewer's experience of your picture different?

Well done! We hope you enjoyed imagining your own days out!