



Open Arts Objects

Open Arts Archive

<http://www.openartsarchive.org/open-arts-objects>

Open Arts Objects (OAO) is an open access platform which provides free films to support the teaching of Art History. This activity will teach you how to make your own film, based on the same questions that we use to make our professional films with curators and art historians. These are short films (between 2-5 minutes). You can see examples on our [website](#) and you can also see examples from other students on our youtube channel.

Choose an object/work of art:

From a gallery website, conduct a search to find an object of your choice. It can be anything: a painting, sculpture, a ceramic, metalwork, textile, print... You will find a [list of suggested websites and resources](#) at the end of this document.

Once you've picked your object, answer the following questions (based on the same questions that we use to make our professional films with curators and art historians). Try to use your own words rather than copying what the museum's website says. You don't need to answer every prompt under each main question; these are just some suggestions and not each question will relate to the object/work of art you've chosen:

1. Who are you? (Optional)

Introduce yourself and your interests (e.g. your favourite art or art history topic) in one sentence.

If you choose to share this on social media, you might not want to identify yourself. You do not have to introduce yourself by name.

2. What is it?

In no more than two sentences, describe the main components of the object/work of art.

Does it have a title?

Who is the artist? Or is it anonymous?

What is its medium (painting, sculpture, textile, ceramic)?

Does it have a genre (portrait, landscape)?

What time period is it from?

3. What is it made out of?

What material is it made from?

How do you think it would feel to touch or hold?

4. What does it look like?

Are there decorative elements to it? Are these associated with a particular culture or region?

What colour is it?

Is there a subject matter?

What is the scale? (How big is it?)

Where is the viewer? (Are we looking up/down at the scene?) or if it's an object, how might the beholder engage with it?

Can you describe the composition? (How are elements arranged in the space?)

If there are figures, can you describe their poses, gestures, expressions?

5. What is its purpose/function?

Where is the object from?

Where did it end up?

Who created it and why?

For what purpose was it created? Does it still have the same function?

How was it used and by whom?

6. What is its relevance for today?

Where is it housed?

Why is it important to study?

What does it tell us about the culture who produced it or used it?

How might it be related to a current issue or debate?

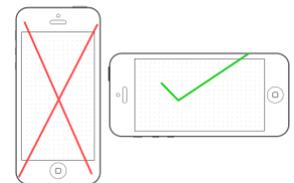
Presenting your object

Once you have answered the questions, rehearse your answers: how will you put these into your own words to present to camera?

Once you feel you are ready, have a go! Try not to look at your notes but present to camera as if you were talking to someone in person.

Tech spec:

On smart phone, make sure the camera is set horizontally, not vertically.



Once you are done, you can share it on [youtube](https://www.youtube.com), only if you have permission from your parents. Mention [OpenArtsArchive](https://openartsarchive.org) in a comment and use the hashtag

#myOAOfilm and we will add it to our playlist! If you don't have a youtube account, you can also upload to Instagram tv ([IGTV](https://www.instagram.com/igtv)) and tag [@openartsobjects](https://www.instagram.com/openartsobjects) and use the hashtag #myOAOfilm. Alternatively you can email your video through [wetransfer](https://www.wetransfer.com) to openartsobjects@open.ac.uk along with your permission form from your parents to share on social media.

Useful Online Museum Resources

The following museum websites have resources on their collections, which should provide you enough information you need to make your film:

UK Museums:

[ArtUK](https://www.artuk.org): online home for every public art collection in the UK. Since 2003 it has digitised over 220,000 paintings by over 40,000 artists and is now expanding the digital collection to include UK public sculpture.

[Ashmolean Museum](#): Antiquities from the Palaeolithic to Victorian periods, collected from Egypt, the Middle East, Europe and Britain. Also check out their [learning resources](#)

[Birmingham Museums](#): The BM&AG collections encompass fine art, applied art and historic collections of paintings.

[British Museum](#): The original collection included antiquities, coins and medals, natural history specimens and a large library collection. It now comprises over 8 million objects spanning the history of the world's cultures from the stone tools of early man to twentieth century prints.

[Burrell Collections](#), Glasgow: Information about this extensive collection of European paintings, medieval arts and modern sculpture, housed in Pollock Country Park in Glasgow.

[Leeds Museums and Galleries](#): Collection of 20th century British art. Includes a slideshow of images, and information about exhibitions and events.

[Manchester Art Gallery](#): Searchable collection of over 25,000 objects of fine art, decorative art and costume, developed over the last 200 years

[National Galleries, Scotland](#): This collection of Scottish and international art is housed in five galleries across Edinburgh. The online collection currently displays information on, and images of, 1802 works of art. Also see [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#)

[National Gallery, London](#): Details of the collection of 2,300 Western European paintings, with examples from every European school of painting from 1250 to 1900.

[National Museum Wales/Amgueddfa Cymru](#): Part of the National Museum, Wales, this gallery houses the Welsh national collection of fine and applied art

[National Portrait Gallery, London](#): National collection demonstrating the history of British portraiture. Includes paintings, sculptures, engravings and photographs. Searchable by sitter, artist and title.

[Tate](#): Website of Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Tate Liverpool and Tate St Ives. The Tate is home to British art from the sixteenth century onwards, including a collection of modern international art. Over 65,000 works are currently available for online viewing.

[Victoria and Albert Museum](#): Collections of contemporary and historic art and design including resources for architecture (it houses the resources of the RIBA British Architectural library), fashion, photography, theatre and performance, sculpture, contemporary design, ceramics, Asian art and design, furniture, textiles, jewellery, metalwork and many more.

[Walker Art Gallery](#), Liverpool: Painting, sculpture and decorative arts from the 13th century to the present day.

[The Wallace Collection](#): French 18th-century paintings, furniture and porcelain including Old Master paintings and an armoury.

[Whitworth](#): This collection includes modern and historic fine art, prints and textiles.

[Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#): Outdoor collection of modern and contemporary sculpture.

International Museums:

[Accademia Gallery, Venice](#): Masterpieces of Venetian painting up to the 18th century.

[Art Institute of Chicago](#): Collection including Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art, American art, Old Masters, European and American decorative arts, Asian art, modern and contemporary art, architecture and industrial and graphic design.

[Centre Pompidou, Paris](#): This is the French national centre for modern and contemporary art and culture. There are both French and English versions of the site. The 'online resources' include details and some images of more than 60,000 art works.

[Gemaldgalerie, Berlin](#): Information about, and images of, this collection of European art from the 13th to the 18th centuries.

[Getty Museum, Los Angeles](#): Major art collection ranging from antiquity to the modern era.

[Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg](#): Collection of more than 3,000,000 works of art, charting the development of world culture and art from the Stone Age to the 20th century.

[Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna](#): Select 'Visit' then 'Picture Gallery' to view images of paintings from Europe from the 15th century onwards.

[Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York](#): Over two million works of art, more than 6,500 of which can be viewed online.

[Morgan Library and Museum, New York](#): Collection of old master drawings.

[Musée d'Orsay, Paris](#): This museum contains works of art from 1848 to 1914. The site has examples of works from each collection: paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photographs, graphic arts and architecture.

[Musée du Louvre, Paris](#): This site offers a virtual tour of the museum and has online images with details of the exhibitions and collections.

[Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#): Collection of more than 450,000 objects, including masters of American painting, Impressionist and post-Impressionist works and Asian and African artefacts.

[The Museum of Modern Art, New York](#): Collection of architecture and design; drawings, film and video; paintings and sculpture; and photography, prints and illustrated books.

[National Gallery of Art, Washington](#): Collection of American and European works, including paintings, decorative arts, sculpture, photographs and architecture. Searchable by title, artist or subject.

[National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa](#): Collection of European and Canadian paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings and photos.

[National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin](#): Irish national collection of Irish art and European master paintings.

[Philadelphia Museum of Art](#): Collection of more than 225,000 objects, including artefacts from the Medieval era to the present.

[Pinacoteca - Vatican Museums Online, Rome](#): The Vatican Pinoteca (art gallery) makes selected images available from the 12th to the 19th centuries.

[Pinakothek, Munich](#): Website of the Alte Pinakothek, Neue Pinakothek and Pinakothek Der Moderne in Munich.

[Prado Museum, Madrid](#): Includes the history of the museum and its collections, general information for visitors, and a map of the museum. There is also an online encyclopaedia with details about the artists and works on display in the museum.

[Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam](#): Collection of fine and decorative arts, paintings, sculpture and applied art and Asiatic art.

[Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York](#): An internationally renowned art museum and one of the most significant architectural icons of the 20th century, the Guggenheim Museum is a cultural center, an educational institution, and the heart of an international network of museums.

[Uffizi Gallery, Florence](#): Paintings from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

[Yale Center for British Art, New Haven](#): The largest and most comprehensive collection of British Art outside the UK. Includes paintings, drawings, sculpture, rare books and manuscripts.