



# RHA

## Primary School Education Pack - Teacher Guidelines

In response to Niamh O'Malley's 2019 exhibition *handle*

### Suitable for classes 1st - 6th

This pack introduces students to the 2019 exhibition [handle](#) by Irish artist Niamh O' Malley, via 3 short videos, an accompanying student worksheet, and a guide for their own art making activities.

The pack has been split up into 3 sections: **LOOKING, THINKING and MAKING**. Each section will be introduced via a short video, and should take no longer than half an hour each to complete. Part 1 and 2 correspond to the worksheet, and part 3 involves the making of their own sculptures in class. We recommend gathering some art materials for this part!

### This pack includes:

- **3 Videos** showing photographs taken of the exhibition, with a voiceover introducing the artist, the key concepts of the artworks and the making that went into producing them. The videos will encourage the students to think about what it would be like to visit the exhibition and what you need to think about when making sculptures.
- **Student Worksheet** (to download and print) to help the students to think about and brainstorm around artworks in the exhibition mainly through the medium of drawing.

It would be handy to gather some materials in the classroom and ask the students to bring some bits in, such as things from the recycling bin, the sort that would normally be used for junk art. For example old boxes, inside of toilet rolls, yoghurt pots.

### Suggested timeline:

**Each section: 30 mins. Total time: 1 hour 30 mins**

All 3 sections over 3 days, 1 section per day.

**Or**

Section 1 LOOKING and Section 2 THINKING on one day (completing the worksheet) and Section 3 MAKING on another day (making the sculptures).



# RHA

## **SECTION 1 : LOOKING: Describing the exhibition**

**Time:** 30 mins total time

### **Instructions:**

- Play video 1. LOOKING (8 mins)
- Distribute worksheets - side 1 relates to this video
- Do worksheet - side 1 (20 mins)

### **Explanation**

This video corresponds to side 1 of the worksheet. The video introduces the RHA gallery and looks at the exhibition 'handle' by Niamh O' Malley. The voice-over describes different sculptures in the exhibition and encourages the students to look carefully at the sculptures, and to imagine visiting the exhibition.

There are several points where the voiceover asks a question, and then answers it. You may like to pause here to take some answers from the class.



# RHA

## SECTION 2 : THINKING : Finding inspiration

**Time: 30 mins total time**

### Instructions:

- Play video 2. THINKING (5 mins)
- Distribute worksheets - side 2 relates to this video
- Do worksheet - side 2 (20 mins)

IF DOING THE NEXT SECTION , **SECTION 3: MAKING**, THE NEXT DAY, YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK YOUR CLASS TO BRING IN SOME JUNK ART MATERIALS FOR THE NEXT DAY.

### Explanation

This video corresponds to the 2nd side of the worksheet. The voiceover looks at the different materials that Niamh uses to make her sculptures, and wonders where she gets her inspiration.

It also introduces 2 art terms: *Abstract and Figurative*.

*Abstract art is art that does not try to look like something but instead uses shapes, colours, size and marks to achieve its effect.*

*Figurative art looks like something that we recognise as a thing from the real world, and often contains the human figure.*

Again, there are several points where the voiceover asks a question, and then answers it. You may like to pause here to take some answers from the class.



### **SECTION 3: MAKING : Making a maquette Time: 35 - 45 mins total time**

#### **Instructions:**

- Play video 3. MAKING (5 mins)
- Distribute materials
- MAKE! (30 - 40mins)

#### **Explanation**

This video encourages the students to think about what kind of sculpture they would like to make that could be in the exhibition alongside Niamh's sculptures. It looks to Niamh's sculptures for inspiration as to what techniques she uses that could also be applied to the students' sculptures.

These are:

- She balanced things against other things.
- See-through-ness - she used lots of see-through materials, she used glass, but we could use plastic.
- If your model is abstract could you try adding a figurative piece ? Or if your model looks just like something could you add an abstract shape to it?
- She coloured in some bits with her pencil to make them shiny.
- She added flat shapes.

It also introduces 1 art term: *Maquette or model*

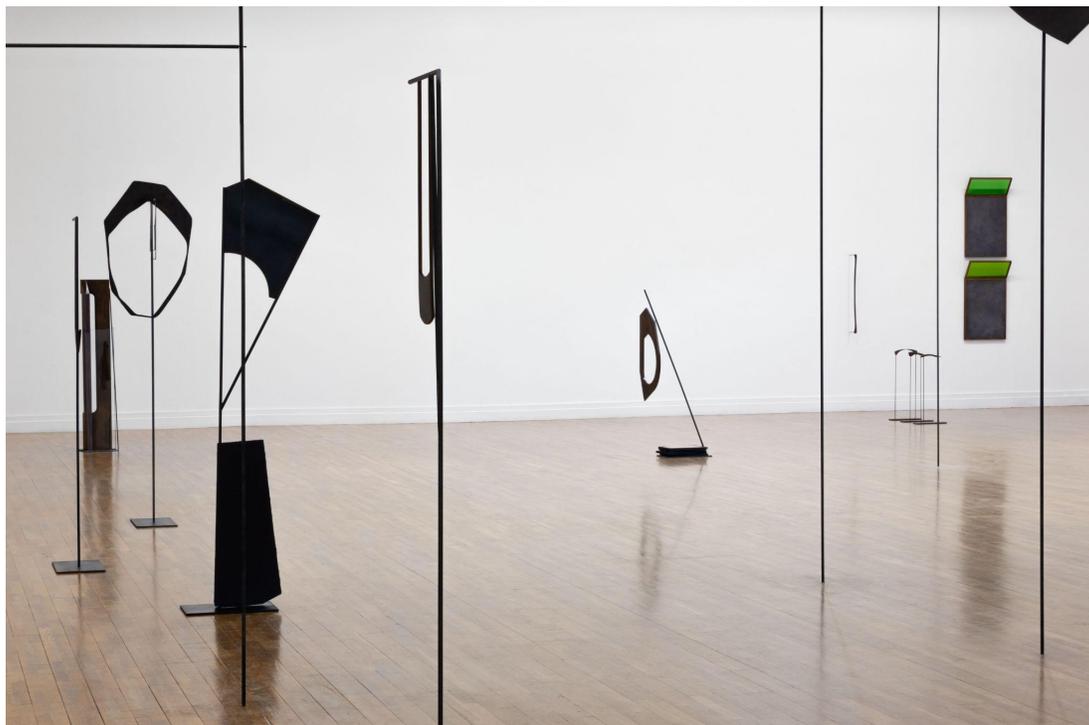
*Maquette or model : A maquette is a smaller version of a sculpture that allows an artist to test out their ideas in a smaller form, and with less expensive materials.*

Again, there are several points where the voiceover asks a question, and then answers it. You may like to pause here to take some answers from the class.



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Some images of the exhibition





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All photos Kate Bowe O' Brien

Tour and worksheet developed and delivered by Sophie Béhal for the RHA Gallery.



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