



PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

ALICE IRWIN

Chinwag

Teacher's Activity Pack

Aims

1. To explore the Alice Irwin exhibition
2. Offer activities to complete in the classroom
3. Provide opportunities for meaningful reflections on the exhibition

Exhibition Description

The exhibition's title, 'Chinwag,' is a word meaning to have an informal conversation, to chat or gossip. It's an invitation to step into a new conversation and explore perspectives between people of different backgrounds. Irwin uses her 'Peeps' sculptures to create stories and characters that aim to bring people together, much like how Sir John Soane used the Eating Room at Pitzhanger Manor to gather people for conversation around his dining table.

Key Words/Glossary

Sculpture:

The art of making three-dimensional forms, these can be figurative or abstract.

Figurative:

Style of modern art that has strong references to the real world, particularly to the human figure.

Abstract:

Modern art that doesn't look exactly like something from real life. Abstract art uses shapes, gestures, forms, lines, and colours to represent different ideas and emotions.

Printmaking:

Visual art form where images are made on a surface and then transferred onto another material.

Composition:

The putting together or arrangement of things within an artwork.



Self-Guided Gallery Worksheet

This worksheet will take you through a few activities that you can do together with your group inside the Gallery space.

Before your visit

- Discuss with students if they have been to a gallery or a museum before.
- Set out your behaviour expectations of your students and remind them not to touch the artwork or run in the gallery.

See, Think, Wonder

Encourage your students to think of the following questions as they explore the gallery. Perhaps they can also keep a notepad to write down their thoughts or to sketch examples of their favourite works.

What do you see?

Describe what you see. Be as specific as you can. Don't be afraid to keep it simple.

What do you think?

What do you think about it? Is there anything you like about it? Do you have ideas about what it could be? Does it remind you of anything?

What do you wonder?

Do you have any questions about the artwork? What questions would you ask the artist if you could? Is there anything you don't understand?

Come back together as a group and ask students to share their answers going through the questions one by one. See if the group has any answers to the questions from the 'What do you wonder?' section.

You can always remind your students that you're not the expert but there will be people in the gallery that we can ask or things that can be researched afterwards.

Different ways of looking at art

Choose a different artwork in the Main Gallery. Ask students to have a go at a few different ways of looking at the artwork.

You can try:

- Mimicking the posture and shape of the figures
- Walking all the way around the artworks, noticing how they are different on each side
- Crouch down
- Stand on your tiptoes
- Make a viewfinder with your hands



Activity 1: Design A Peep

This activity allows your students to explore character design using Alice Irwin's Peeps, starting with a sketch and evolving into a fully-fledged character with their own distinct personality. Perhaps these characters can have their own "chinwag" with one another!

Materials

- Scrap/plain paper
- Pencils
- Colouring materials of choice (coloured pencils, pastels, markers, paint, etc.)
- Recycled/scrap materials (cardboard, kitchen roll tubes, plastic bottles, etc.)
- Glue (PVA or sticks)
- Tape (any kind)

Warmup: Drawing Game – Exquisite Peeps

To start their character design, have the students play the surrealist drawing game, Exquisite Corpse.

1. In groups of three, each student will be given a sheet of paper and fold it in even thirds.
2. Set a timer between 2 and 5 minutes. Everyone will start by drawing the head of their figure on the top third of the paper, with the neck extending to the top of the second third of paper to serve as a guide for the torso.
3. Fold the image back to conceal it for the next person.
4. The paper is then passed to the left, and the next artist will draw a torso on the next section of paper. The process continues for the legs on the final third, and then the finished drawings are finally handed back to their owners.

Build Your Peep

Using the drawings, create 3D models of your Peeps! You can use any recycled materials you have around the classroom, or ask your students to bring in things like cardboard, kitchen roll tubes, plastic bottles, and milk and egg cartons. Create stands for your Peeps using folded cardboard.

Once you're finished, share your creations with us at learning@pitzhanger.org.uk!

Extension

- Ask your students to develop their Peeps into characters with names and personalities using a selection of character traits (i.e. trustworthy, shy, loyal, kind, etc.). Create a full character profile including as much detail as you want. Try to avoid stereotypes! They can then explore story writing using the Peeps as characters.



Extras

- Create your own stencils taking inspiration from the recurring shapes and patterns in Alice Irwin's prints.
- Create prints in the classroom using your stencils. If you don't have rollers, you can use common objects including potatoes, Styrofoam, or any recycled materials.
- Combine your students' Peeps into large scenes/exhibitions for display.

Alice Irwin: Chinwag runs from 24 January to 14 April 2024

Self-guided visits for school groups are available free of charge to all Ealing schools.

Book your place now using our [online booking form](#), or contact the Learning team at learning@pitzhanger.org.uk to find out more.

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your visit
now!**



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