



# GILBERT AND GEORGE RESEARCH 3

## ANALYSIS OF A SELECTED PIECE OF THE ARTISTS' WORK

### How do I Analyse a Piece of Art?

**Form-** This means looking at the formal elements of an artwork.

- What is the medium of the work? (e.g. painting, print etc.)
- What colours does the artist use? Why? How is colour organised? (e.g. complementary colours, pattern etc.)
- What kind of shapes or forms can you find?
- What kind of marks or techniques does the artist use?
- What is the surface like?
- What kinds of textures can you see?
- How big is the work?

**Context-** This refers to how the work relates to a particular time, place, culture and society in which it was produced.

- When was it made? Where was it made? Who made it?
- Who was the work made for?
- What do you know about the artist?
- How does the work relate to other art of the time?
- Does the work relate to the social or political history of the time?
- Can you link it to other arts of the period, such as film, music or literature?
- Does the work relate to other areas of knowledge, such as science or geography?

**Content** The content is the subject of a piece of work.

- What is it? What is it about? What is happening?
- Is it a portrait? A landscape? Abstract?
- What does the work represent?
- The title - what does the artist call the work?
- Does the title change the way we see the work?
- Is it a realistic depiction?
- Have any parts been exaggerated or distorted? If so, why?
- What is the theme of the work?
- What message does the work communicate?

**Process** Looking at process means studying how the work was made and what techniques were used.

- What materials and tools were used to make the piece?
- What is the evidence for this?
- Do sketchbooks provide any clues as to how the work developed?

**Mood** Mood means looking at how the artist has created a certain atmosphere or feeling.

- How does the work make you feel?
- Why do you think you feel like this?
- Does the colour, texture, form or theme of the work affect your mood?
- Does the work create an atmosphere?