

VIEWPOINTS



BURIAL URN WITH WINDOW FOR THE SOUL

Unknown

Burial Urn with window for the soul

Ceramic, Glass, Anglo-Saxon

This vessel from the Anglo-Saxon period is similar to many other finds from this period. The vessels used for cooking and cremation are similar in construction.

The hole in the bottom indicates that there was once a glass window in the base suggesting that this was not a cooking vessel. The Anglo-Saxons reused Roman glass in window urns; but we are unsure of the reason for these windows.

Some archaeologists believe that it could be to allow the Soul to escape or to see out from the urn.

LCNCC; I956.105

I love the idea of the window for the soul to fly out.

It also reminds us how deep is the impulse to decorate- to make art- even when something is going to be buried.

VIEWPOINTS



CAR DEALER, LINCOLN - DAVID MOORE

David Moore (1961 -)

Car Dealer, Lincoln

C-type print, 1996

This photograph is one of 16 that make up the series *Pocket fiction*, which were all taken around Lincolnshire.

Each participant in the series was asked to choose an object, which represented them, and then be photographed showing this object.

The open hand is a welcoming and friendly gesture of greeting and all works in this series use this style.

The photograph allows us to imagine the person photographed and why they feel these objects represent them. A memory or feeling has been made physical by being attached to the rings.

What do you feel represents you?

Kindly loaned by University of Warwick Art Collection

CAR DEALER

David Moore

Stages of life. Who am I at this stage?

What objects define me? I have a quest to continue to find me so how would I define me? Interesting.

Marriage changes you, the rings, I have 3 from one man, engagement, wedding and eternity.

Childhood, teenage years, and marriage if you want it. Show how we see ourselves, define ourselves.

It's so simple and so part of us, we are who we are.

CLARA

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Your future is in your hands to which pathway you choose.

Brings out insecurities.

Past relationship failure-relatable.

This artwork stood out to me because though the woman in the photograph is holding wedding rings she is also wearing one. This gives the rings many different meanings. Perhaps the rings are her parents or perhaps they are her own previous marriages.

Lauren 19

It makes me think about stages of life; who am I at this stage? What objects define me? I have a personal quest in time to find me, so how would I define me – interesting.

Personally I feel marriage changes you, the rings, I have three from one man, engagement, wedding and eternity. This reminds me of stages of life, childhood, teenage years and marriage, if you want it. I think the artist is trying to show us how to define ourselves. I was drawn to the piece as its so simple and so points us to who we are.

I find it interesting how art can bring forth thoughts and memories, which are not really related to the work and what it means.

My first thoughts upon seeing this picture were of the rings, and specifically the One Ring from the Tolkien Lord of the Rings Novels, there is a mixture of both simple and ornate rings in this image that drew upon my memories of seeing similar rings portrayed in the many films and books on the subject.

This picture raises more questions than it answers!

I find it quite sad, she is wearing a wedding ring, so who do the rings in her hand belong to? Mum? Dad? Past loves?

VIEWPOINTS



CORN DOLLYS

Kindly loaned by Arts Council Collection, Southbank
Centre, London,
Unknown

Corn Dollies

Straw, 1980s

The Corn Dolly or Corn Mothers come from ancient pagan traditions across Europe. Produced from the last corn crop of the year, it is believed the spirit of the harvest creates their home within the dolly. When the first harvest is sewn the Dolly is buried along with the seed and the spirit returns to the earth and insures a good harvest. Made in the 1980s these examples show traditional shapes. The craft has evolved in modern times closer to weaving and you can now find Corn Dollies in shapes as varied as the Skegness fisherman and the Humber Bridge.

This has personal meaning to me
because it is interesting and is like an
angel on earth.

It reminds me of Dad's art.

A manifestation of the persistence of hope in human beings, the corn dolly is an elegant object made with optimism and sacrificed to bring a good future.

Does the Subject Matter

Munnings

Alfred Munnings (1878 - 1959)

Does the Subject Matter?

Oil on canvas, approx. 1953

An important painter of racehorses Alfred gave a passionate speech about 'so called modern art' at the annual banquet of the Royal Academy in 1949. This painting follows on from that speech. It shows viewers discussing a sculpture probably meant to be one of Barbara Hepworth's bronzes. In the background hang three paintings by Picasso, who Alfred was known to dislike; within this work they represent the very worst of modern art. In the foreground a black dog similar to the one in Velazquez's *Las Meninas* represents Alfred's notion of true art, possibly guarding his ideals.

This painting captures the essence of the exhibition “Viewpoints”. It is full of detail and executed in a traditional way. It’s asking the viewer to think about his/ her response to contemporary art:

Which do we think has greater worth?

Or perhaps which provokes the greatest reaction?

The controversy continues...

At first I thought this was unfair – a beautiful woman yet all the men were, frankly, a bit weird.

Then I looked around me & I thought.
“Ah, life imitating art.”

This strikes me as an expression of
pretence by 3 male “experts”
compared to the simple viewpoint of
the lady.

A woman who admires art possibly
admired by men who would like her to
think that they admire this art

Richard wills 58

At first I thought this was so unfair – a beautiful woman yet all the men were, frankly, a bit weird.

Then I looked around me and I thought – “Ah, life imitating art’

Imagine a way that we could hear the truth about what we are as people, think about ourselves, others and the world around us without our minds blocking it out in fear of insulting ourselves and making us as people feel bad.

I believe this is what art is. We look, we see and then take the findings as pure fiction and so do not dwell. However, what we see is individual to us because we mold it.

We create the meaning. The art is us.

DOES THE SUBJECT MATTER?

Interested.

Jeeves and Wooster.

Engage the spectator.

60 years on, Munnings still asks the most relevant question facing modern and contemporary art!

Does the Subject Matter

Alfred Munnings

A time when there were differences.

Atlee at the left, MacMillan and Home
on the right. How different it is now!

John

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This conversation piece captured my attention because it could apply to almost any era in the history of art.

Art is progressive and with every new genre there are always those who don't understand or appreciate it.

Munnings captures perfectly the attitude that he perceives as the hypocrisy of art critics feigning interest and understanding of a new genre.

The only person who sees to be admiring and appreciating a work is the young lady – maybe because she is younger she is more open-minded?

On the other hand, I can't help thinking of the Harry Enfield sketch in the "antique" shop, where the owner persuades the brainless Sloane girl to buy rubbish at astronomical prices.

(this is not antifeminist!!)

Ann Measures

over 21+

I love the comment and style of the comment. Brilliantly executed – tells an insightful story.

I really like this one. The pink dress pulls you towards the picture.

The three male 'friends' look like they are toadying up to the lady.

Personally, if they were my friends I would lose them!

Tessa, 28