

T A B U L A

*Ossian Ward, writer, critic, and Head of Content at Lisson Gallery in London, has developed this approach to assist learners to engage and support understanding of contemporary works of art. **TABULA** is an acronym to help learners access looking at contemporary artwork on display in a Gallery or museum.*

T

Time. Spend two to three minutes simply looking at a work of art, in silence. Allow time to gather thoughts, observations and ideas.

A

Association. Can you relate? Perhaps you are aesthetically drawn to the work of art or it may remind you of something else you are familiar with.

B

Background. The title or wall label may provide some information that may lead you to the artist's intention. At times, just knowing the country the artist is from may help to complete the picture.

U

Understanding. As T A B sinks in, you may begin to piece the information together and some realisations may transpire.

L

Look Again. Take a second look. Prolonged engagement may mean you see something that went unnoticed before.

A

Assess the learning.

The method may help learners to reach some conclusions about or an appreciation for a work of art. While a learner's evaluation is subjective it will be more beneficial to them if they refrain from reaching any harsh judgement too soon in the TABULA process.

Adapted from Ward, O. (2014). Ways of Looking: How to Experience Contemporary Art