

TEAR, a better activity

Devised by artist-in-residence Sarah Carne

Materials required: 1 sheet of A4 photocopier paper, 3 pieces of masking tape

Materials not required: pens, pencils, drawing ability

Background:

This activity is designed to be a prompt for you to have conversations with visitors and staff or for you to think about on your own.

I am interested in how we think about things visually. The following activity could take five minutes or twenty, the more questions you ask yourself or the person you're with about the choices you make the more interesting it will be. Be strict, don't let them (or yourself) get away with 'I don't know' or 'just because'!

There are no right or wrong answers, only different ones.

Activity:

Take a piece of A4 paper and tear it into two. Ask someone who is with you which half they think is better, or decide yourself.

Sometimes it helps if you hold them up, as if they were on display. Otherwise they might just look like torn pieces of paper (which they are).

Take the preferred piece and tear it in two again, now which one is better? Is it chosen for the same reasons as before (a pleasing corner? Or a curve? Or the size?).

Crumple the chosen piece, now which is better?

Now imagine each of the pieces is an artwork in a gallery, which artwork do you like best? Does your choice change when you think of them as art?

Choose 3 of the pieces and display on your wall and see if you feel the same about them tomorrow.