

Generic questions to support the reading of images

- What media is the work? Does the work use traditional media or new technologies? Why might the artist have chosen this to make the work in this way?
- Describe what you can see and where is it within the image / film?
- Consider the composition – where are things placed within the image? What affect does this have?
- What is the artist's / your viewpoint – where was the camera positioned? Close up or far away? What does this imply? What has been included and what has been left out of the image?
- What type of light is present within the image? Is it natural or artificial? Is the image taken inside or outside? Is the light coloured? What atmosphere / mood does this create?
- Is the image colour or black and white? How does this affect your reading of the image? How would the work differ if it were changed from colour to black and white or vice versa?
- What scale is the work? Is it small or large? Does it make you get up close to look at it or stand far away? Is it intimate or dominating?
- How is the work presented? Is it framed, hung on the wall, floor based? Why do you think it's presented like this? What effect does this have?
- Does the work have sound? How does the sound add to or change your reading of the work? Is the sound an integral part of or an addition to the visual artwork?
- Are any relationships formed between the image and other works in the exhibition? Is it part of a series? How does this affect it's meaning?
- What associations does the work have for you? What does it make you think about, how does it make you feel?
- Is the work titled? How does the title affect the meaning of the work?
- What do you think the artist is trying to say? What are their intentions? Do you think they have communicated their ideas successfully?
- Do you like the work? Why?
- Do you dislike the work? Why?