



Talking Art With IMMA / 9

Welcome to Talking Art with IMMA, where we invite you to take a closer look at selected artworks from the permanent collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. We encourage you to use the questions below to have a conversation about the work with someone in your household, or with a friend or family member over the phone. There is no limit to the number of participants, the more the merrier!

Talking about an artwork with someone else can open our eyes to new details and reveal things we did not see at first. There is no need to rush, so get comfortable, take your time to discover and remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Have fun!

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→ Let's Look Closely

The work is full of details that could be missed at first glance, so let's slow down, take a close look and tackle the image bit by bit.

- What do you see?
- What shape, forms and textures do you notice?
- What medium do you think the artist used?
- Can you imagine the scale of this work from the image you see?

→ Let's Look Deeper

After looking closely, we can have more questions than answers - this invites us to wonder what the artwork might mean or represent. Let's see what interesting ideas emerge!

- The artist has used the symbol of hair extensively throughout her work. What do you think the hair is representing in this drawing? What does hair mean to you?
- What gender, if any, do you think the artist is showing here?
- The height of this work is almost twice that of the average person with the hair itself overly long and wavy. How does it make you feel to see this?
- If you were to own this drawing how would you display it?
- What do you think would be a suitable title for this artwork?

→ Let's Connect

Let's use what we have discussed and uncovered to connect more personally with the work.

- How would you describe this work to another person?
- If you could ask the artist about the work, what questions would you ask?

→ Let's Create

Scale can be unnerving if the chosen subject is represented as far larger than its actual size. Try to alter the scale of any household object through a drawing or a painting. Maybe you will find a new meaning or feeling to the subject through this exercise.

We hope you've enjoyed Talking Art with IMMA and we'd love to hear your feedback. Please send us your thoughts either by post, using the enclosed IMMA-addressed postcard, by email to talkingart@imma.ie or leave us a voicemail on our Talking Art phonenumber at 01 612 9952.

Talking Art with IMMA was developed by Bairbre-Ann Harkin, Bryan Hogan, Ciara Magee, Aidan O'Sullivan and Domnick Sorace and produced by IMMA as part of Creative Ireland's Creativity in Older Age Programme.

Find Out More

About the Artwork

Artist:	Alice Maher
Title:	Ombre V
Date:	1997
Medium:	Charcoal on paper
Dimensions Framed:	397 x 152 cm
Credit Line:	IMMA Collection: Purchase, 1997

‘Ombre V’ is one of a series of drawings that emerged from a residency in IMMA’s Artists’ Residency Programme. Maher’s interest in the language of hair and its importance in female identity was inspired by legends such as those of Medusa, Berenice, and Rapunzel, taboos about touching hair, its use as a love token and its severance as an act of punishment.

About the Artist

Born in Tipperary in 1956, Alice Maher is one of Ireland’s leading contemporary artists. Alice works within the realms of nature and culture, subversion and transformation, mythology and memory. Her work involves many different media including painting, drawing, sculpture, print, photography and installation. Alice had a mid-career retrospective of her work, titled *Becoming*, at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in 2012.

