



## Talking Art With IMMA / 8

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!

# Talking Art With IMMA

## → Let's Look Closely

This print 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?
- How would you describe the figures? Their expressions? Their poses?
- What words come to mind when describing the scene?

## → 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!

- What do you think is happening between the figures in this image? Why do you think that?
- What associations do you make with spiders? Why do you think the artist has given this spider a human face?
- The title of this work is "Little Miss Muffet", and the idea for the artwork came from the artist's grandchild. Does knowing this information change or impact the way you view the work?

## → Let's Connect

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

- What emotions come to mind when you look at this print?
- Many classic nursery rhymes have dark and disturbing origins – when thinking back on childhood nursery rhymes, do any in particular spring to mind? Do you know their background?

## → Let's Create

- Does this artwork call to mind any other nursery rhymes from your childhood? Using any materials from around the house, why not draw your impression of this nursery rhyme, like Rego did here at her grandchild's request!

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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](mailto: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

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<b>Artist:</b>	Paula Rego
<b>Title:</b>	Little Miss Muffet
<b>Date:</b>	1989
<b>Medium:</b>	Etching and Aquatint on Hand-Made Paper
<b>Dimensions:</b>	52 x 38 cm
<b>Credit Line:</b>	IMMA Collection: Purchase, 1996

## About the Artist

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Paula Rego was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1935 and currently lives and works in London. She trained at the Slade School of Fine Art, under Lucien Freud, and began exhibiting with the London Group in the 1960s alongside David Hockney and Frank Auerbach. Rego is celebrated for her bold and intense paintings, drawings and prints, which intertwine the private and the public, the intimate and the political, the real and the imagined, combining autobiographical elements with stories from literature, folklore, and mythology, references to earlier art, and observations on the contemporary world.

“Paula Rego’s art has come in and out of focus several times since the early 90s...Familiarity may have blotted out her achievements for a while. She was sometimes thought to be a kind of honorary godmother to the YBAs, but in fact her dark and knotted scenarios have almost nothing in common with their eye-popping shockery.” Laura Cumming, Art Critic

Since 2004, major retrospectives of her work have been held at Tate Britain, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid. She currently has a solo retrospective of her work at IMMA, titled “Obedience and Defiance”.

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