



Yinka Shonibare CBE, *Water Kid (Girl)*, 2020. Fiberglass mannequin, Dutch wax printed cotton textile, globe, brass, steel baseplate, antique water jug, 52 ¾" x 22 ½" x 19 ¾" (134 x 57 x 50 cm). Courtesy of James Cohan Gallery. © Yinka Shonibare CBE. All Rights Reserved, DACS/ARS, NY 2022.

# Investigating Contemporary Art

Works of art and design have meaning. They send messages, raise questions, suggest moods, prompt action, and show beauty, for example. To discover what an artwork is about, spend time looking carefully and thinking critically. Work with others for multiple perspectives.

## FINDING CLUES

The more information you gather about the artwork, the more evidence you have for making connections and creating interpretations.

### What do you see?

- What is the art form? What materials and techniques did the artist use?
- What do you recognize in the artwork, if anything?
- What are the parts of this artwork and how did the artist organize them?
- What words can you use to describe this artwork? How do those words “fit” or describe the artwork?
- How is the artwork presented for viewers to experience it?

### What do you know about the artist?

- How does the artist work?
- What has the artist said about art or ideas?

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

What is this artwork mostly *about*?

Interpret the meaning of an artwork by connecting what you see, know, and remember with what the artwork suggests.

### What expressive words are suggested?

- What expressive words “fit” or connect with the artwork?
- What expressive words *do not* “fit” or connect with the artwork?
- What evidence can you give?

### What themes or ideas are suggested?

### What purpose might the artwork have, if any?

- What evidence can you provide to support your interpretation?

## EVOLVING IDEAS

### Which contemporary strategies (Evolving Ideas) did the artist use, if any?

- How does the use of contemporary strategies help convey the artwork’s meaning?
- What evidence can you provide to support your idea?

Copyright  
Davis Publications, Inc.

DO NOT DUPLICATE