

# Art

## Live from London podcasts

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| <b>Author:</b> Adrian Tennant   |
| <b>Level:</b> Pre-intermediate / Intermediate                                   |
| <b>Age:</b> Teenagers / adults  |
| <b>Time needed:</b> 30-40 minutes approx  |
| <b>Language and skills:</b> listening for gist; listening for details; pronouns |

### Warmer

1. Elicit some names of famous artists that your students know. Write the names they give you on the board. Next, ask the students to look at exercise 1. Explain that there are the names of five famous artists in the word snake. Get the students to work in pairs to find them.

**Answers:**  
monetxsipdalifwhistlerbcmavangoghbihockneyvet

Then, ask the students if they know anything about the five artists.

- Monet:** French impressionist artist, famous for his series of paintings called *Water Lilies*  
**Dali:** Spanish surrealist painter who also experimented with film, sculpture and photography  
**Whistler:** American-born artist, who lived in Britain, remembered for his portrait painting  
**van Gogh:** Dutch painter notorious for cutting off his ear and whose most famous work is *Sunflowers*  
**Hockney:** English painter, influenced by Cubism and influential in Pop Art

### Listening

2. Ask the students to look at the nine words in exercise 2. Explain that they will hear eight people talking about Art. They don't need to worry about understanding everything – they should simply listen for the words in the exercise and tick [✓] the boxes next to the words they hear. Play the recording and then get the students to check their answers in pairs.

**Answers:** *old-fashioned; museums; artists; genius; impressionist; colour*

3. In exercise 3, explain that the students should match the artists on the right with the speaker who mentions them on the left. Play the recording and then get the students to check in pairs. Play the recording twice if necessary.

**Answers:** *Speaker 1: Dali; Speaker 2: Tracey Emin;*



*Speaker 3: Vinod Mukherjee; Speaker 4: James Whistler; Speaker 5: David Hockney; Speaker 6: Dale Chihuly; Speaker 7: van Gogh*

4. Finally, ask the students to read through the six statements and try to remember if they are true or false. Encourage them to discuss their ideas in pairs. Play the recording and then get the students to check their answers in pairs.

**Answers:** 1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F (*Dale Chihuly is*); 5. F; 6. T

### Vocabulary

5. Ask the students to look at the six sentences and try to complete them using the words in the box. Ask them to do this activity in pairs.

**Answers:** 1. *scenic*; 2. *tones*; 3. *captures*; 4. *stunning*; 5. *glass*; 6. *block/figure*

### Language

6. The students should read through the text and choose the correct word in each set of three *italicized* words. Again, encourage them to do the activity in pairs.

**Answers:** 1. *I*; 2. *my*; 3. *we*; 4. *I*; 5. *his*; 6. *He*; 7. *his*; 8. *it's*; 9. *I*; 10. *it*

### Speaking

7. Put the students into small groups and ask them to discuss the five questions. Monitor and help where necessary. Finally, ask two or three groups to report back to the class on their discussion.

### Project

Put the students in groups and ask each group to pick two of the artists featured in this lesson. Ask them to find out more information about the artists and collect some pictures of their work. These could then be turned into poster displays.

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### Transcript

#### Intro

Welcome to onestopenglish's *Live from London podcasts*. In *Live from London*, we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today we're in Trafalgar Square, outside the National Gallery, asking people the question, 'Who are your favourite artists and why?'



#### Speaker 1 (male, Mexican)

I like Dali and Monet, err... I like them err... for all the piece of art I've seen in museums in New York and in other places.

#### Speaker 2 (male, British)

Err... Tracey Emin because I knew her, know her. I'm from Margate.

#### Speaker 3 (male, Indian)

Vinod Mukherjee. That's what his name is. Err ... because it's so very natural and err ... he takes the scenic view at the background and err ... he doesn't use err ... modernized err... scientific elements, it's all natural basically.

#### Speaker 4 (male, American)

I... I suppose my ... my favourite artist is ...err ...is Monet, although ... ah ...among the – we're Americans – so err ... err ... so among the Americans I ... I like Winslow Homer very much and James Whistler. Monet because of the colours and because of his stature as the ... ah... the impressionist who was at the end of ... of that great ... ah ... period of genius in ... in France and in Europe. Erm ... I would say Winslow Homer because of his subject matter ... err ... he liked the sea ... he ... and his work is ... it's old-fashioned I guess, I like ... I like that aspect of it. Also, of course, because ... err ... err ...he, he captures elements of American life and captures it brilliantly.

#### Speaker 5 (male, British)

David Hockney, err... Chagall and ... Monet. And I just like the ... erm ... I don't know ... the colour tone, really, rather than the ... the particular image. If I'm not trying to be too clever about it.

#### Speaker 6 (female, British)

Err ... well I think it's hard to ... err ... to narrow it down to just a few. I'm a big fan of the American glass artist, Dale Chihuly ... erm ... he does incredibly beautiful, err ... vibrantly-coloured ... erm ... fluid, organic forms ... er ... with his glass and it ... just absolutely stunning. I'm also a big fan of the British artist Anthony Gormley ... ah ... I love the way that no matter what he does, all his art is figurative even if you can't see the figure. Some of his concrete block works, you ... it looks like a concrete block but inside is the shape of a figure, and I think that's really amazing.

#### Speaker 7 (female, Finnish)

Van Gogh, I know that one. The one that cut off his ear. I don't know which he has painted but ... which paintings ... but ...he sounds really dedicated, so he's my favourite!

#### Speaker 8 (female, British)

I don't actually think I've got a favourite artist to be honest, erm, I enjoy going round and looking at art in various forms, but I don't have an artist that's my favourite.

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### Warmer

1. Find the names of five famous artists in the word snake.

g r m o n e t x s i p d a l i f w h i s t l e r b c m a v a n g o g h b i h o c k n e y y e t



### Listening

2. Listen to the eight people. Tick [✓] the words you hear.

- |  |  |                                    |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> old-fashioned | <input type="checkbox"/> artists       | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> museums       | <input type="checkbox"/> genius        | <input type="checkbox"/> colour    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-portrait | <input type="checkbox"/> impressionist | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |

3. Listen again. Match the speaker on the left to the artist he/she mentions on the right.

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Speaker 1 | Dale Chihuly    |
| Speaker 2 | Dali            |
| Speaker 3 | David Hockney   |
| Speaker 4 | Tracey Emin     |
| Speaker 5 | van Gogh        |
| Speaker 6 | Vinod Mukherjee |
| Speaker 7 | James Whistler  |

4. Listen for a third time. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Speaker 1 doesn't really like Dali.
2. Speaker 2 knows an artist.
3. Winslow Homer painted pictures of the sea.
4. Anthony Gormley is famous for making things out of glass.
5. Speaker 7 likes one particular van Gogh painting.
6. Speaker 8 doesn't have a favourite artist.

### Vocabulary

5. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

block captures figure glass  
scenic stunning tones



1. His paintings show really lovely \_\_\_\_\_ views.
2. I love the way Monet uses different colour \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It's the way he \_\_\_\_\_ elements of American life.
4. It's incredibly beautiful and absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Dale Chihuly is a famous American \_\_\_\_\_ artist.
6. It's amazing. It looks like a concrete \_\_\_\_\_ but includes the shape of a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Language

6. Choose the correct word to complete the text.

(1) *I / Me / My* suppose (2) *I / me / my* favourite artist is Monet, although among the Americans – (3) *we / us / our* are American – (4) *I / me / my* would say Winslow Homer because of (5) *he / him / his* subject matter. (6) *He / Him / His* likes the sea and (7) *he / him / his* work ... (8) *it / it's / its* old fashioned I guess, but (9) *I / me / my* like that aspect of (10) *it / it's / its*.

### Speaking

7. Talk in groups of three and discuss these questions.

1. Do you like art?
2. How often do you visit art galleries / museums?
3. Who is your favourite artist?
4. Do you have a favourite painting? If you do, what is it?
5. What's your favourite type of art?