

How to use this guide

Arts in Junior Cycle encourages active engagement when using short films in the classroom. The suggested questions and activities below are a sample of how this film featuring Maria McKinney can be incorporated into classroom practice. In adapting this resource for your students, you should consider the age and stage of the students within your school context. This film was produced in collaboration with the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts (RHA).

Key Skills focus: Being Creative | Communicating

Before Viewing

Consider prior knowledge in anticipation of viewing

- In your opinion, what are some of the similarities and some of the differences between science and art?
- What is the strangest / least conventional material you have used to create a piece of art?
- Is there a particular medium that you like to communicate through? Why?

While Viewing

Support active viewing. On second and subsequent viewing, pausing may be used for specific focus

- Maria makes reference to old handcraft skills as well as the resourcefulness of previous generations. Do you think it is important to consider the past when looking to the future? Why/ Why not?
- *'Agriculture and food production'* are central to Maria's work. What sort of themes do you like to engage with? Why are you drawn to those themes?
- Maria uses a range of materials in her work. In particular she uses less conventional materials. List the materials you use in your work. Is there an opportunity for you to widen the range of materials you use?

After Viewing

Follow up on key ideas and synthesise information learned. Viewing and pausing may be used for specific focus

- Maria challenges the traditional understanding of sculpture. After seeing her work, has your understanding of sculpture changed? How so?
- What does Maria mean when she states that she very often *'responds to context'*? How might you respond to context in your work?
- In the film we see images of Maria's sculpture on exhibition in galleries. How does the gallery, placement within a gallery and the space around sculpture, affect our interpretation of the work?



Maria McKinney Sculptor

Arts in Action
Short Film Series

Did you use this guide or other Arts in Action short films in your classroom? If so, tag @JuniorCycleArts on social media or email us at info@jct.ie