

A picture tells a thousand stories

Be inspired by Richard Hamilton's controversial image



Swinging London '67, (1968) by Richard Hamilton

Richard Hamilton was one of the leading pioneers of Pop Art. He worked in advertising and commercial art as a young man and was heavily inspired by popular culture.

In this work we see Mick Jagger handcuffed to art dealer Robert Fraser, a paparazzi photograph cut out of a newspaper. Hamilton was interested in working with found objects and incorporated images from film posters, magazines and art history in his work.

We've come up with two activities inspired by Hamilton's use of found objects and this image in particular – take a look at the next page to find out more.

Activity One

Write a short story, script, poem or comic page inspired by this image.

Here are a few prompts:

- What happened here?
- Who are these people? Are they good or bad people?
- How did they become handcuffed?
- Where are they?
- What is their connection to each other? Are they friends?
- Are they anxious about their current situation?

Activity Two

Our next activity is Blackout Poetry, which means to find hidden poetry within words chosen by someone else. Using a simple black marker and an old newspaper, you can create something new out of something old.

All you will need is:

- Magazine, newspaper or an old book
- Black marker or felt tip

Here are a few simple steps to consider when creating a Blackout Poem:

- With a pencil underline words that spark your interest
- Does the layout of the words create a pattern or join up in an unusual way?
- Can you fit it into a theme or mood?
- Draw, colour over or block out the words you don't need

Here is an example of what you might come up with:

