



The Westminster Retable, 1259-69

11-18 activity – Christianity in 10 Objects

What do you see in this picture?

What do you think the object might be?

What would you like to know about the object?



The Westminster Retable is a beautiful work of art that shows images of important people and stories from the Bible. The retable was placed behind the High Altar, the place where Christians celebrate Holy Communion and remember the life of Jesus.

Talk with others

Think or talk about the difference between private and public. What might you do in public but never in private. Why? Can you think of something you do that is different in public and private environments? For example:

Watching a film - Why do people still go to the cinema when we can watch films at home?

Art - Do you respond to art differently at home, in a gallery or on the street?

Fashion - What do you wear at home and what do you wear out and about? Why?

Activity: Create a public piece of art

Why don't you become a guerrilla artist and create a public piece of art to inspire hope or joy?

The Retable is a way of publicly sharing stories from the Bible, stories to offer hope and wonder.

While we still have the retable it is damaged and worn. Think about creating something that you know will not last.

Some guerrilla artists use:

Crochet - to decorate trees and street furniture.

Chalk - to inspire games and activities

Notes or letters - to elicit nostalgia or emotions

Posters - to provoke laughter

Glass Bottles - to leave letters in the ocean

Words - to move those who read them

You could research some of these techniques to find out more about them.

1. Start by thinking: What skills do you have/could you learn? What feelings do you want to inspire? Do you want to be anonymous? Who is your audience? Is it for one person or a hundred?
2. Remember to be kind. Art for one person can be a nuisance or a hazard to another.
3. Create your artwork. Does it have an interactive element? Do you want to know the responses or will it be anonymous?
4. Share your artwork.

Extension

Reflect on how creating this artwork felt. Set a reminder to look back and reflect in six months. How much do you know about the response and reaction to what you made? Does it matter? Have you seen anything similar yourself or online? How does this kind of art make you feel?

Share your experience on Facebook or Twitter using #WAbbeyFun