

# German Expressionism

## Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

**Key Stage 3 curriculum links:** History, Language and Literacy, Art and Design

**Cross curricular links:** Citizenship

### 1. Session Description

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery houses Leicester's internationally renowned collection of German Expressionism. This important collection began after the end of the Second World War with a bold exhibition of 'Mid European Art' in 1944. The objects used in this session relate to the fascinating story behind why some of this art first came to Leicester and the conditions under which many of the artists lived.

### 2. Session Length

90 minutes (1.5 hours)

### 3. Session Structure and Breakdown of Timings

| Time          | Activity  | Length of activity |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 0-5 minutes   | Introduction  | 5 minutes          |
| 0-25 minutes  | Introduction to German Expressionism and the provenance of Leicester's collection | 20 minutes         |
| 25-65 minutes | Object handling and investigation   | 40 minutes         |
| 65-85 minutes | Gallery exploration   | 20 minutes         |
| 85-90 minutes | Plenary   | 5 minutes          |

Note: timings are flexible in response to student participation

### 4. Learning Outcomes

- Encourage working together and to contribute within a small group or whole class discussion.
- Understand how Leicester Museums & Galleries have come to have a significant collection of German Expressionism artworks.
- Understand the background of German Expressionism and how the movement originated.
- Understand the term 'degenerate' and understand the struggles artists faced in Nazi Germany.
- To work in groups to encourage discussion and investigation.
- Learn about some of the conditions in which many artists lived under the Nazi regime.
- Examine replica artefacts and documents to answer questions and to engage in discussion.

## 6. Staffing requirements

Museum facilitator led plus at least 2 accompanying adults from the school.

## 7. Room requirements

German Expressionist Gallery at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery.

## 8. Pre-visit and Post-visit activities

### Pre-visit activities

1). Research the art movement known as German Expressionism and how Leicester came to have such an important collection of these works.

Follow this website link for information about Leicester's collection.

<https://www.germanexpressionisleicester.org/leicesters-collection/>

2). Find out about some of the artists work on display at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery and participate in discussions and research suggested in the 'Focus On..' cards Pre-Visit Activities.

<https://www.germanexpressionisleicester.org/learning/learning-resource-packs/>

### Post visit activities

1). Download a line drawing of 'Red Woman' from our website and paint her in different colours – does it make a difference to the mood or tone of the piece?

2). Create an image in Franz Marc's style where colour is important in the work to express emotion and spirituality.

2). Discuss censorship and whether you agree with censorship decisions.

