

VOCABULARY Talking about pictures

1 Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the words in brackets.

There are nearly as many opinions on art as there are paintings themselves. Describing a painting is always open to ¹ (interpret). What appears ² (atmosphere) or ³ (drama) to one person may seem dull or ⁴ (convention) to another. Abstract art is perhaps the style that is most difficult to appreciate because its meaning is often ⁵ (ambiguity).

2 Complete the conversation with the words in the box.



realistic intimate subtle abstract bold

- A: Can we skip the modern art section? It's all a bit too ¹ for me. I like to know what I'm looking at.
B: Yeah, sure. ... Look, this one is very ² You feel you could almost pick up the fruit and eat it.
A: You're right. It must be difficult to get in all that detail. And what do you think of this one?
B: Oh, it's very dramatic, isn't it? The colours are very ³
A: Yeah ... but this one is different. These ⁴ colours are very soft and relaxing.
B: Hmm. I find it a bit disturbing to look at a private moment like this, though. It's too ⁵ to share with other people, really.

3 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 This one is so realistic. It looks as
 - 2 Come and look at this. The man in the picture
 - 3 I don't see the attraction. To me all his paintings
 - 4 She looks furious so they've
 - 5 The artist was born in Belgium and that could
 - 6 It all seems very weird. I think it must
 - 7 It's a celebration and they appear
 - 8 Looking at this one, I get
- a to have just got married.
b well be his hometown.
c look really dull.
d if it's been photographed with a camera.
e the impression the artist was rather depressed.
f obviously just been arguing.
g looks a bit like your brother.
h show some sort of nightmare.

Language note uses of look

They **look** really dull. (look + adjective)

It **looks as if** it's been photographed. (look as if + clause)

He **looks like** your brother. (look like + noun)