Art week 8 - To explore how artists use trompe l’oeil to create illusions.

Show your child the “photo” of a game of Scrabble on the slides. What do you think of this as a work of art? Is it art? Why or why not? Ask your child to discuss their ideas.

 • What about if you knew that this was an oil painting and not a photograph? Would that change your opinion? Again, discuss ideas.

• Go through the information on the slides about hyperrealism and how artists today make artwork as realistic as photographs.

• Explain that artists have been trying to fool people with their artwork for hundreds of years. Show the picture ‘Escaping Criticism’ by Borrell de Caso on the slides. This boy is escaping from the painting! How is he doing that? Discuss ideas.

 • Go through the explanation on the slides about trompe l’oeil (meaning ‘deceive the eye’) and how artists use shading to create the illusion of paintings being real objects. Show the other examples of trompe l’oeil art, such as murals on buildings.

 • Today, artists use hyperrealism or photorealism to fool people into thinking that their artwork is photographs instead of art. Show children the other examples on the slides and discuss their reactions to each one.

Task:

 Create your own piece of trompe l’oeil artwork. Children can either use a painted frame to make it look like someone is coming out of the artwork, or create a notice board with objects pinned to it. For the latter, children could pin objects to a noticeboard to copy. Provide children with the Picture Cards (from photocopied pack) as examples of trompe l’oeil artwork. Encourage children to look at how the artists use shading to create the illusion that the objects are not flat on the page.

If possible, show the Honda advert ‘An impossible made possible’ which has lots of examples of trompe l’oeil. How many examples can you spot? You can find this online, for example at https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=UelJZG\_bF98#t=21.