

## 2.36 But is it art?

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**Summary:** Talking about art

**Level:** Upper-intermediate and above

**Time:** 1 hour (30 minutes on the Net)

**Language:** Describing things, giving opinions, biographies

**Sites:** <http://www.artsearch.net>

**Notes:** Art Search is the gateway to an enormous collection of web resources connected with art, galleries, artists.

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### *Preparation*

You need a set of postcards or colour photocopies of famous paintings by famous people. You might even like to invite each student to bring in a postcard or magazine cut-out showing a painting. Give students a chance to walk round examining them, but don't let them see any details yet – just the picture. Get students into pairs and ask each pair to choose a picture they particularly like. Pre-teach some vocabulary for describing pictures (e.g. 'in the foreground', 'in the background', 'on the horizon').

### *Online*

Starting at the Art Search page, ask each pair to find out some information about the picture they have chosen, and the artist who painted it. They should get biographical information, history of the picture and details of other work done by the artist.

### *Offline*

Each of the pairs is now in charge of a special exhibition in the class. Their job is to give a small introduction to the exhibition, talking about their chosen painting and giving some background information on the artist.