

The Courtauld

A Closer Look – Using memory, the senses and music

A Bar at the Folies-Bergère, Édouard Manet (1882)

These activities can be used as introductory exercises or starters, extension activities or longer episodes that are more involved.



Édouard Manet (1832-1883), A Bar at the Folies-Bergère, 1882, The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust) © The Courtauld

Memory Game

This activity can be used to explore any artwork and encourages descriptive language in a fun and informal way:

- Look closely at the painting for 1 minute
- After 1 minute remove or turn over the image and ask learners to describe what they remember (write key words on the board – or designate one learner to write them down)
- Look at the image again and discuss which objects you have all forgotten!

Explore sensory elements within the painting:

Encourage learners to imagine that they have stepped into the painting and can **see**, **hear**, **smell** and **touch** everything in the bar. Learners can use the [sensory word bank](#) to support this activity.

Consider introducing sensory elements to help learners to describe the painting. For example, items with strong fragrances, distinctive textures or that can be manipulated to produce sound. This could include fresh fruit, flowers, perfume, herbs and spices, textiles, sandpaper, wood, foil and glass.

Music and the Folies-Bergère:

As the Folies-Bergère was famous for entertainment and music, you might like to explore the artwork through music and recreate an atmosphere of 'unmixed joy' in your classroom!

You could play two different pieces of music and ask learners to choose which best represents the artwork and encourage learners to describe and compare the two pieces.

[Listen to the Spotify playlist we created for this activity.](#)