

## Town Centre – Phyllis Ginger (1946; Tate)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/ginger-town-centre-p01706>



- What kind of place is this? The country or city? How do we know? **It is a city (Bristol). It's full of buildings, vehicles and people, and not much nature or space.**
- Is this a new painting or from the olden days? **It must be from the olden days: there are old fashioned vehicles including buses which are open at the back, the fashions are different, there are horses and carts and no signs of modern traffic lights, pedestrian crossings or lines painted on the roads.**
- Is this as a noisy artwork or a quiet artwork? **If you answered "quiet" you are right that it does not really make noise. Paintings are not TVs or tablets. But the great thing about looking at art is that we have to do some of the work ourselves.** It is hard to look at artworks like this without hearing lots of different sounds. What sounds could we hear if we were there? Make as many of them as you can. If you are in a group you can all make them at the same time to give an idea of how busy and noisy it would be.



Registered charity no.1048092  
[www.magiclanternart.org.uk](http://www.magiclanternart.org.uk)



Artsmark  
Partner

*Supporting cultural education, endorsed by Arts Council England*

Here are some ideas:

- **Cars' engines revving**
  - **Car horns beeping**
  - **Buses' bells ringing**
  - **Horses clip-clopping and neighing**
  - **People running, talking, calling**
- Has the artist used similar colours throughout or lots of different colours? Why do you think she has done this? **She has chosen a range of colours to add to the busyness and noise of the town. The brighter colours, especially the red van in the middle, draw our eye away from other parts. Some children might know about primary colours (red, blue, yellow).** Ask them to identify any primary colours that stand out and what they notice about them. The placement of the reds in particular but also the blues and yellows is very carefully balanced to lead our eye all over the image and add to the sense of hustle and bustle.

### *Follow on ideas*

- Have a discussion about how this city is different to where you live.
- How would it be different today, over 70 years after it was created? Paint or draw a modern version showing as many things we would see now that we would not have seen in 1946.
- Picture yourself walking inside this artwork. Talk through the route you would take and what you would see and do on the way. Do you know anyone you see as you go past? Would you stop and buy something from a shop or use one of the vehicles?
- Life in Lockdown discussion: How can people do the activities in this picture, like working or shopping, without leaving their house?

### *Topic links*

- Transport/Journeys
- Cities
- Animals
- Colours