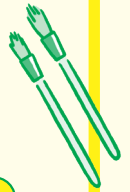




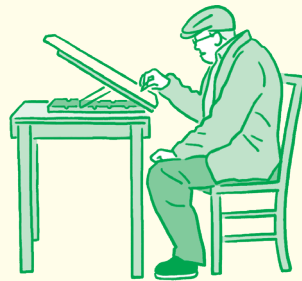
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MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
東京都現代美術館



DAVID HOCKNEY Exhibition Guide



for teens



15 July - 5 November 2023

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo,
Exhibition Gallery 1F/3F



Who is David Hockney?

1



David Hockney was born in 1937 in Bradford, an industrial city in northern England. He went to a local art school from 16 to 20 years old. From when he was 22, he studied at the Royal College of Art in London for three years. Since then, for more than 60 years he has continued to work with painting, printmaking, photography, film and more. Travelling all around the world to create his work, he has studios in London, UK; Los Angeles, USA; and Normandy in France, where he is based now. Hockney has also visited Japan many times, which is related to his interest in Japanese art and Chinese scroll paintings. He studied “pictures” extensively in pursuit of “how to depict the world,” always interested in experimenting with new materials and techniques. The iPad is one such example, and you can see works made on an iPad in this exhibition.



2

Hockney moved from London to Los Angeles in 1964. In this tropical climate, very different to England, he started to depict water and light in constant motion, such as pool surfaces reflecting sunlight, or sprays of sprinkler water falling onto grass — fleeting moments that cannot be captured by the eye. He used acrylic paint, which was newly available at the time, making the most of its characteristics to render buildings and pools into a flat, vivid surface. He has also rendered landscapes celebrating light and water using various printmaking techniques, or on the iPad he started to use in 2010. Look out for the water and light in his pictures, which change their expression not only with the season and time of day, but also with the method he uses.

Painting ever-changing light and water



Painting people close to him

Hockney has depicted many portraits of those close to him like family, lovers and friends as models. In one of his best-known works, *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy*, Hockney's two friends looking out at the viewer are painted almost in real size. This work took him about one year to finish. He painted the room based on photos and sketches, trying to express the space naturally by the effect of the light coming through the window behind, and the position of the table in the lower left corner. He had the couple pose in his studio many times, painstakingly completing the painting. Hockney tells that what he wanted to depict most in this work was the relationship of the couple.

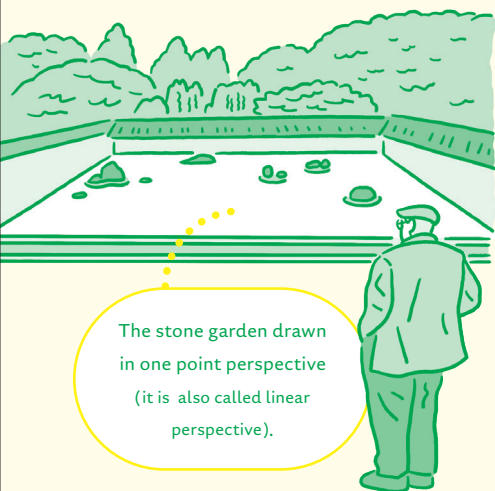
Take a look at the couple's expressions, pose and position. What kind of feelings can you read in each of them?



Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy, 1970-71, Tate



The lilies painted here are said to represent purity and motherhood, while the cat symbolizes being moody or free-spirited. What kind of story about the couple does this suggest to you?

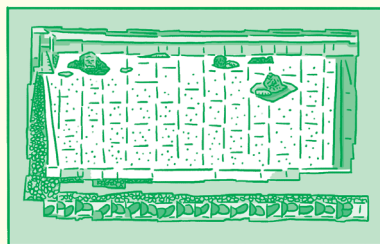


The stone garden drawn
in one point perspective
(it is also called linear
perspective).

Hockney visited the stone garden at Kyoto's Ryoanji Temple in 1983. Walking on the edges, he took more than 100 photos from his feet to the wall, and pasted them together. Why did he do that? In this work, Hockney challenges traditional perspective. From one particular perspective, objects in the forefront look bigger, while those further away are smaller. For example, even though the garden looks rectangular to the naked eye, when you take a photo of the garden with a camera, it appears to be trapezoidal.

Looking at things from different perspectives 4

But Hockney came to think about how a photograph can express the shape of the garden as it looks to the naked eye, and he realized that the perspective of the photographer needs to move. So in this work, you see stones that would be hidden when you look from a certain edge of the garden. Hockney's feet which you can see at the bottom of the work show movement and passing time, which cannot be captured in one photograph. Here, Hockney discovered expressing things seen from multiple perspectives on a single plane.



Walking in the Zen Garden at the Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto, Feb. 1983,
Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

Hockney's work which
put together photographs
taken from multiple
perspectives.



5 Looking at the

landscape close by

Hockney has created works on the theme of the arrival of spring several times. The oil painting in the series “The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire in 2011 (twenty eleven)” is comprised of 32 canvases. It shows grass and flowers blooming all over the ground, and new green leaves dancing in the wind from beyond the small path. The piece was created by Hockney in his studio while recalling spring landscapes he had previously seen. These show dynamic expressions of grass and flowers blooming all over the ground, and new green leaves dancing in the wind from beyond the small path. On the other hand, the works drawn on his iPad were created outdoors on the same path, every day between the end of winter and the beginning of summer. The ever-changing lights and colors of the landscape captured quickly with his iPad show us the vivid changing of the seasons. Another masterpiece, *A Year in Normandie*, was also drawn on the iPad. This work was inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry, a 70 meter long embroidery showing historical scenes from 11th century Normandy. Hockney drew this 90 meter long work over one year, connecting the landscape as seen from his garden. Try walking along and experiencing the changing of seasons and passing of time.



Bayeux Tapestry

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