

Words and pictures

A picture paints a thousand words, if only we know how to read it. The enigma behind *Mona Lisa's* smile; the drama of *The Fighting Temeraire*; the tranquillity of *Waterlilies*; the anguish of *The Scream*; the mystery of melting clocks and abstract blocks.

Whatever the painter's medium, methods and skill, whether we're artistically knowledgeable or simply know what we like, the important thing is communication. Is the artist telling us something that will educate, move, improve, challenge us, or merely make a pleasant difference to our day, or not, as the case may be? Communication is of course two-way, so the viewer must have a receptive frame of mind if they're going to hear those thousand words.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to apply paint to canvas and convey a myriad of meanings? But I can't, so I write. I live in hope that my well-chosen words can paint a thousand pictures.

© Katherine Dixon