# **Disposition: Appreciating Beauty**

## **Lesson:** Two

### Question/LO: How does religious art help religious people to worship God? How does religious art help religious people to appreciate the beauty of the world around them?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious world-views | **Icons**Explain that icons are special pictures which are used more by Eastern Orthodox Christians. Icons are painted as a religious activity. Many are painted by monks while they pray and blessed by a priest when they are finished. Traditionally they portray Jesus or the Saints. Interestingly, even if the body is painted sideways, traditional rules outline that the full face and both eyes should be shown. So it may look like the eyes follow you as you walk around the room! They are used in worship as Christians who pray before the icons and they may also kiss the picture to show respect. Icons are used in churches and some Christians may use them at home as well. Because it takes so long for them to be painted, they can be extremely expensive to buy. Some Christians may also have reproductions.Ask pupils in groups to look at the icons of Jesus and his mother Mary: What do you notice about colours, expressions on faces, eyes, symbols, materials?**Stained Glass**Stained glass has been used since Roman times, using different colours and layers to achieve an overview pattern, design or picture on glass. The glass still allows the sun to shine through and therefore can be seen to interact and enhance the art. Stained glass is used in a variety of different buildings, as well as of places of worship.Look at the stained glass windows from variety of different traditions.Ask the pupils: What do they have in common? How do they differ? What makes them beautiful? Do you think that they would help people to think about God?You may wish to use the helpful Arts Society pack on stained glass. It contains:Facts and history of stained glassHow stained glass is madeActivity ideas to make ‘stained glass’ | PowerPoint downloaded with this lesson shows different icons and stained glassKS2\_Y4\_Unit\_12\_Sum\_Wk\_02\_of\_03\_R123\_Presentation\_v2PowerPoint downloaded with this lesson shows different icons and stained glass[Red 2 - Stained Glass Windows (theartssociety.org)](https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartssociety.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Red%202%20-%20Stained%20Glass%20Windows.pdf) |