

## Activity Sheet

### **The Situation of the Rocks**

By Kay Harwood (b.1978)

Oil on linen

2007

Lodeveans Collection, © Kay Harwood



### **Discussion**

Discuss the following questions with your group in front of the painting.

*What are your first reactions to the work? What is the painting about?*

*How has the artist used her paints? Why do you think she chose these colours?*

*Does the picture remind you of anywhere you have been before? What did you do there and how did you feel?*

*What emotion do you think the girl is showing? Why?*

## About the Artist

Kay Harwood was born in Preston in 1978. Harwood composes her paintings by making a collage from old photographs and magazine pictures. Harwood plays with the images until she reaches a balance of colours and shapes that result in a slightly haunting and tense image. She's particularly inspired by portraiture of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; like portraits of these eras, she often uses rural backgrounds in her paintings.

## Suggested extension activities

1. Collages: Invite your group to make their own collages like Kay Harwood. Using newspapers, magazines and photographs, encourage the group to create their own scenes. Choose a background, a foreground, and finally a figure for their portrait. Ask the group to present to the class who they imagine this person to be and what they are doing. Alternatively, give the entire group a copy of same character, and ask them to create their own background scene from their imagination.
2. Writing Stories: Using *The Situation of the Rocks* as your starting point, invite your group to write short stories about either a) their own experience of visiting a similar place, or b) the girl in the painting (Why is she there? Where is she going? What emotion is she showing and why?).