

## Conception to birth sculptures unveiled in Qatar

21st November, 2018



The new artwork was created by the British artist Damien Hirst. He is famous for his art installations that include dead sharks and cows in clear plastic boxes. His new modern-art work is called The Miraculous Journey. It consists of 14 giant bronze

sculptures that show the beginning of human life from conception to birth. The first exhibit shows a human sperm entering an egg. The sculptures progress from the egg producing an embryo, which then turns into a fetus in a giant womb. The final sculpture is of a newborn baby. The very detailed exhibits are between 5 and 14 meters high. They have been installed in front of a women's healthcare center in Qatar.

Not everyone is happy with the sculptures. They are very controversial in Qatar. Layla Ibrahim, a Qatari art specialist, said: "They are not meant to be decorative, they are meant to create debates. We are not expecting everyone to like them [or] understand them." She added: "We believe it reflects the hospital's mission of taking care of the healthcare of women and babies." Mr Hirst said: "Culturally, it's the first naked sculpture in the Middle East. It's very brave." He added: "The journey a baby goes through before birth is bigger than anything it will experience in its human life. I hope the sculpture will instill in the viewer a sense of awe and wonder at this extraordinary human process."

Sources: [mashable.com](http://mashable.com) / [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) / [aljazeera.com](http://aljazeera.com)

## Writing

Art isn't art unless it makes people think. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

artwork / artist / famous / plastic / sculptures / conception / birth / embryo / womb / controversial / debate / hospital / mission / healthcare / naked / baby / awe / human

## True / False

- The new artwork is outside a hospital in Doha, Qatar. T / F
- The artist has used dead cows and dead sheep in his past art works. T / F
- The first sculpture is of a sperm entering an egg. T / F
- One of the sculptures is 140 meters high. T / F
- Everyone in Qatar is happy with the sculptures. T / F
- An art specialist said the sculptures will create debate. T / F
- The artist said it is the second naked sculpture in the Middle East. T / F
- The artist hopes the sculpture will make people have more children. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>unveiled</b>       | a. feeling    |
| 2. <b>created</b>        | b. last       |
| 3. <b>consists of</b>    | c. put        |
| 4. <b>final</b>          | d. made       |
| 5. <b>installed</b>      | e. nude       |
| 6. <b>specialist</b>     | f. remarkable |
| 7. <b>reflects</b>       | g. revealed   |
| 8. <b>naked</b>          | h. shows      |
| 9. <b>sense</b>          | i. expert     |
| 10. <b>extraordinary</b> | j. includes   |

## Discussion – Student A

- Would you like to see the sculptures?
- What do you think of the sculptures?
- Do you think these sculptures are art?
- What is art?
- Does all art have to make you think?
- Why do you think Damien Hirst created the sculptures?
- Would you be a good artist?
- What is your favourite piece of art?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. A new artwork has been                 | a. an egg                  |
| 2. He is famous for his art               | b. 5 and 14 meters high    |
| 3. the beginning of human life from       | c. mission                 |
| 4. a human sperm entering                 | d. everyone to like them   |
| 5. The very detailed exhibits are between | e. installations           |
| 6. They are very                          | f. and wonder              |
| 7. They are not meant                     | g. unveiled in Doha, Qatar |
| 8. We are not expecting                   | h. to be decorative        |
| 9. the hospital's                         | i. conception to birth     |
| 10. a sense of awe                        | j. controversial in Qatar  |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Damien Hirst?
- Why might people not be happy with the sculptures?
- Should art be decorative?
- Should all hospitals have artwork like this?
- How amazing is the journey from conception to birth?
- What kinds of artists do you like best?
- What questions would you like to ask Damien Hirst?

## Spelling

- art stnsianoiltal
- from npccceoinot to birth
- the egg producing an yebrmo
- a fetus in a giant ombw
- very detailed ixshbeti
- women's alrtehach
- They are very rsoneticorvla
- art ielicaspst
- they are meant to create saetdeb
- it reflects the hospital's ossimni
- It's very eavbr
- this extraordinary human pscose  
art stnsianoiltal

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. h	8. e	9. a	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Bronze

You think bronze is the best art material. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their materials. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): clay, food or oil paint.

### Role B – Clay

You think clay is the best art material. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their materials. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bronze, food or oil paint.

### Role C – Food

You think food is the best art material. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their materials. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): clay, bronze or oil paint.

### Role D – Oil Paint

You think oil paint is the best art material. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their materials. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): clay, food or bronze.

## Speaking – Art Materials

Rank these with your partner. Put the best art materials at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| • clay         | • bronze     |
| • dead animals | • oil paints |
| • people       | • wood       |
| • food         | • stone      |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.