

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

How do you deal with images?

WHAT'S THIS?

Images fulfil many functions and are an indispensable part of daily life. Nonetheless, there are restrictions on depicting living beings in Christianity, Judaism or Islam. In a historical overview, it's clear that positions were held for and against figurative art at any time.



TOTAL OF 120 MINUTES



THE EXERCISE CONSISTS OF
FOUR PARTS



THREE PERSONS OR MORE



DIVERSITY, TOLERANCE,
INTERCULTURE



INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION,
SMALL GROUP WORK,
ROLE DISCUSSION

What do you use images for?

HOW IS IT DONE?

The group leader hands out action sheet A to the participants. Everyone is invited to think about how they use images in daily life. The examples on the action sheets are collected and shown to everyone. All participants in turn can briefly explain their images. Afterwards, the entire group summarises the possible meanings and functions of images together.

GOAL

Thinking about the function of images in everyday life

Personal introduction to the topic



APPROX. 30 MINUTES



THREE PERSONS OR MORE



ACTION SHEET A,
THICK COLOURED PENCILS,
PAPER, BLACKBOARD OR WALL,
ADHESIVE TAPE

How were images used in predominantly Islamic cultures?



WHAT COMES NEXT?

This is about cultural diversity in predominantly Islamic countries. Their approach to images is also diverse. After getting acquainted with the use and function of images in everyday life together, explore the diversity in the approach to images in Islamic-influenced cultures worldwide.



GOAL

Learning how diverse the approach to figurative art has been



HOW IS IT DONE?

Before starting the exercise, the group leader has already cued up the video “Dealing with Images” from the TAMAM website so that it can be shown after the presentations by the small groups. The info sheets Objects with and without Images are laid out on a table or hung on a wall. The group leader divides the group into small groups. Each small group receives action sheet B and selects 2–4 pages. Next, the participants examine the topic Dealing with Images and prepare a short presentation on it.



EVALUATION

All small groups in turn present the results of their research or discussions to the whole group. The group leader makes sure that each small group stays inside the timeframe. There are only presentations of results in the whole group and questions are answered, but there are no new discussions. Then the group watches the video Dealing with Images together.



20 MINUTES OF RESEARCH
20 MINUTES OF PRESENTATION



THREE PERSONS OR MORE



ACTION SHEET B, OBJECTS WITH AND WITHOUT IMAGES INFO SHEETS (IF THE GROUP HAS MORE THAN 10 PARTICIPANTS, PRINT MULTIPLE COPIES)

What are the different positions on using images?

WHAT COMES NEXT?

You have addressed how images are dealt with in predominantly Islamic cultures in different regions of the world and at different times. You have already found arguments for or against using images. Now you can test the different positions in a performed discussion below.

HOW IS IT DONE?

The group divides into small groups of three persons each. In each small group there are two discussing roles and one observing role. Someone starts and presents their own position with arguments. The counterpart then directly links the counter-arguments to what they have heard. The silent observer sits at some distance and takes notes. After about ten minutes, she/he gives a signal to stop and explains what was observed. Several rounds with switched roles can take place.

GOAL

Discussions about perspectives and the misunderstandings they may cause

Realising that a discussion from different perspectives makes objects interesting



EVALUATION

The entire group comes together to reflect. The group leader asks each of the participants to talk about their experiences in the “pro images” role, then the “against images” role and finally in the role of the observer.

- How did you feel in the role of ...?
- How did you experience the talk, the discussion?
- What could be recognised and reported on in the observing position?



APPROX. 40 MINUTES



THREE PERSONS OR MORE



ACTION SHEET C, ROLE CARDS,
IF NEEDED THE INFO SHEETS
OBJECTS WITH AND WITHOUT
IMAGES

How do you deal with images?

THIS IS HOW IT COMES TOGETHER

This exercise was about the diverse forms of dealing with images in predominantly Islamic countries. Research of (art) history shows: Muslims allowed different norms to coexist and also tolerated apparent contradictions. There was rarely a requirement for uniformity.

HOW IS IT DONE?

Everyone thinks individually about which path they took together today. First they considered the significance of images from a personal perspective. Then they examined a collection of historical examples and ultimately held a discussion to try to assume and understand a different position. All participants may then provide short feedback about how they experienced this path.

GOAL

Shared reflection on the exercise



APPROX. 10 MINUTES



THREE PERSONS OR MORE



NONE