

# ALLEN JONES



Allen Jones was born in 1937 in Southampton. He studied at Hornsey College of Art and at the Royal College of Art. He became famous for his Pop Art paintings such as *Soft tread* in the 1960s and his furniture sculptures: *Table sculpture* and *Hat Stand* in 1969.

The Duke of Devonshire commissioned him to create the sculpture the *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* in 2008, after the artist stayed at Chatsworth. Jones was inspired to create this work by the famous french artist Édouard Manet and his controversial **voyeuristic** painting of the same name. It took a while to decide upon a suitable site to install the metal sculpture. The artist wanted somewhere like the scene in Manet's painting, which was quiet, secluded and close to the river.

## Voyeuristic:

The practice of spying on people engaged in intimate behaviours, such as undressing, without the subject being aware they are being observed.

In today's society this concept has been used in reality television programmes to capture unscripted, unrehearsed events. The viewer is spying on a subject group, although often the individuals are aware that they are being filmed.



*Déjeuner sur l'herbe* (2008)

*Le déjeuner sur l'herbe*  
(1863)



*Le déjeuner sur l'herbe* (The luncheon on the grass) is a large oil on canvas by Édouard Manet created in 1863. The painting is quite photographic in its lighting and depicts a female nude and a scantily dressed female bather on a picnic with two fully clothed men, in a rural setting. It sparked huge controversy at the time, due to the intimate nature of the subject matter making the viewing public uncomfortable. It was rejected by the Paris Salon in 1863, but is now in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

Why do you think an artist would choose a controversial subject for his work?

## DISCUSS

What subject matters for works of art in today's society, might cause controversy or make the viewing public uncomfortable?

Jones was part of a celebrated group of artists including Peter Phillips and David Hockney who were instrumental in the birth of British Pop Art.



Create a four stage storyboard of the events leading up to "The luncheon on the grass".  
Use the Pop Art style of Allen Jones for your drawings.

1



*Se prépare* (getting ready)

2



*Quitter la maison* (leaving the house)

3



*Sur le trajet* (on the journey)

4



*Arrivée à bois* (arriving at the wood)

5

*Le déjeuner sur l'herbe*



Add shadows and shading to the scene for atmosphere. What are they thinking or talking about?