

## LOOK. ASK. DISCUSS. // TORBJØRN RØDLAND: *CANDY SKEWERS*

Torbjørn Rødland, *Candy Skewers*, 2017. Chromogenic print on Kodak Endura paper. 43 3/8 x 55 1/8 inches. Edition 3 of 3, 1 AP. Artwork © Torbjørn Rødland. The Mohn Family Trust. Image courtesy the artist.



### STRANGE SCENERY

Torbjørn Rødland is an internationally recognized artist based in Los Angeles, California. In his studio practice, Rødland uses analog photographic processes, meaning he shoots on film instead of using digital cameras. He describes that this process makes it impossible to see the picture he has created until later when the film is developed. Photographers experiment with lighting, composition, and textures. Rødland's works of art often feature contrasting textures or surfaces. Check out more about the artist and his exhibition at The Contemporary Austin Jones Center here: *Torbjørn Rødland: Bible Eye* <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/torbjorn-rodland/>

**LOOK:** Spend time looking at *Candy Skewers* by Torbjørn Rødland, a work of art installed on the second floor of The Contemporary Austin Jones Center. What do you notice? What colors, shapes, and textures do you see? What is familiar? What is surprising?

**ASK:** When creating a work of art, artists make choices about what to include in their compositions or scenes. This artist sets up scenes that have visual contrast, compositions that feature elements that do not normally go together. What did Torbjørn Rødland include in *Candy Skewers*? How do these candies contrast with these nails? How would you describe their physical characteristics? What connections do you have to candy? What connections do you have to nails?

**DISCUSS:** Photography can be an exciting way to document reality, but artists also use this medium to challenge or enhance how we see the world around us. Discuss how photographs can show the truth and analyze ways that photographers can distort reality. Explore how photography is a unique art form. How does it compare or contrast to painting, drawing, or sculpture? Why might an artist choose photography over some other form of creating?

**BONUS ROUND:** Torbjørn Rødland's works of art often include objects, textures, or materials that are enjoyable while at the same time gross or repulsive. With *Candy Skewers*, soft, spongy, sugary candy is pierced by metal nails. Imagine sticking a candy with a nail. Come up with a few more combinations that might be enjoyable, strange, gross, or more. Need inspiration? Check out more of Rødland's photographs here: <http://thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/torbjorn-rodland/>