**Ode on a Grayson Perry Urn**

**Title:** Play on Keats’ ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn’ however includes ‘Grayson Perry’ (a famous contemporary artist and cross-dresser known for commenting on British prejudices and fashion. Turnbull uses Perry’s observations to negatively comment on society through his witty **narration** of the modern-day youth from the perspective of someone who is not interested in understanding them so much as the bigger picture.

**Time:** All in a single moment looking at a piece of contemporary art whilst considering time on a much larger scale.

**Imagery:**

* Rough imagery of ‘the urban gyratory’ and ‘dead suburban estates’ mixed with the sexual ‘chlamydia roulette’ creating a negative depiction of the younger generation.
* Final stanza changes tone and creates imagery of the bigger picture ‘millennia hence’ alongside a different kind of destruction from the chaos of youth of ‘galleries razed to dust.’ This creates a sense of importance about valuing our time and what we do with it – people of the future will look back in awe about our ignorance.

**Form:**

* Five stanzas.
* Each stanza is ten lines long.
* In Iambic pentameter – steady rhythm (same as Keats’ Ode on a Grecian Urn).
* Frequent use of enjambment creates fluidity throughout the poem – perhaps referencing the fluidity of beauty. Enjambment and end-stopped lines also diverge from the traditional structure of the poem adding a sense of freedom.
* Rigidity of stanzas and consistency of rhyme reflects the satirical nature and **tone** of the poem – indicates a traditional poem however is very modern.

**Key Themes:**

* **Materialism** – our obsession with material possessions such as being ‘Burberry clout’ or ‘Calvin’s’. ‘When all context is lost’ (a metaphor for life after we die ‘we’re long in the box’) these possessions will no longer matter to us nor to people of the future.
* **The Subjectivity of Beauty and Identity** – Turnbull uses our modern depictions of beauty ‘each girl is buff, each geezer toned and strong’ in contrast with time to give an outside perspective on the flaws in our society’s priorities. Structurally this is also emphasised by the end of the fifth and final stanza where he states ‘beauty’ is ‘in the gift of the beholder’.

**Language:**

* Opening the poem with ‘Hello’ immediately sets the tone of the poem as being approachable as well as feels inclusive to the reader through being greeted.
* Stereotypical language of our generation such as ‘UK garage’ or ‘crap estates’ contrasted by language clearly from a different generation such as ‘louts’ or ‘Kitschy’ – this adds to the theme of time and how things change in importance as we grow older (Turnbull purposefully separating himself from the younger generation).
* Semantic-field of both inter-generational and inter-class conflict – ‘tranquillity… is for the rich.’

There is an awareness of poetry where Turnbull states ‘will future poets look on you amazed’ referencing ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn’ where Keats tries to use the urn as a gateway to the supposedly ecstatic lived of the ancient Greeks.