

Art Sets.

Archibald Prize 2016 education resource

By the Art Gallery of NSW

This education resource was produced for the Archibald Prize 2016. This is Australia's favourite art award, and one of its most prestigious. Awarded to the best portrait painting, it is judged by the trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW. This year they chose *Barry* by Louise Hearman as the winner.

Especially designed for school students, this education resource presents children's labels from the exhibition along with ideas for thinking about and making art inspired by some chosen finalists.

For more information and the artist statement, click on an image and view the work in the Art Gallery of NSW prizes database.

Enjoy exploring this year's exhibition!



AGNSW prizes Louise Hearman *Barry*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29709/>

Meet the subject of this year's winning portrait.

Louise Hearman has painted the entertainer Barry Humphries. Barry is well known for playing different characters such as Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson. He often wears outrageous costumes, but here he is simply dressed in white.

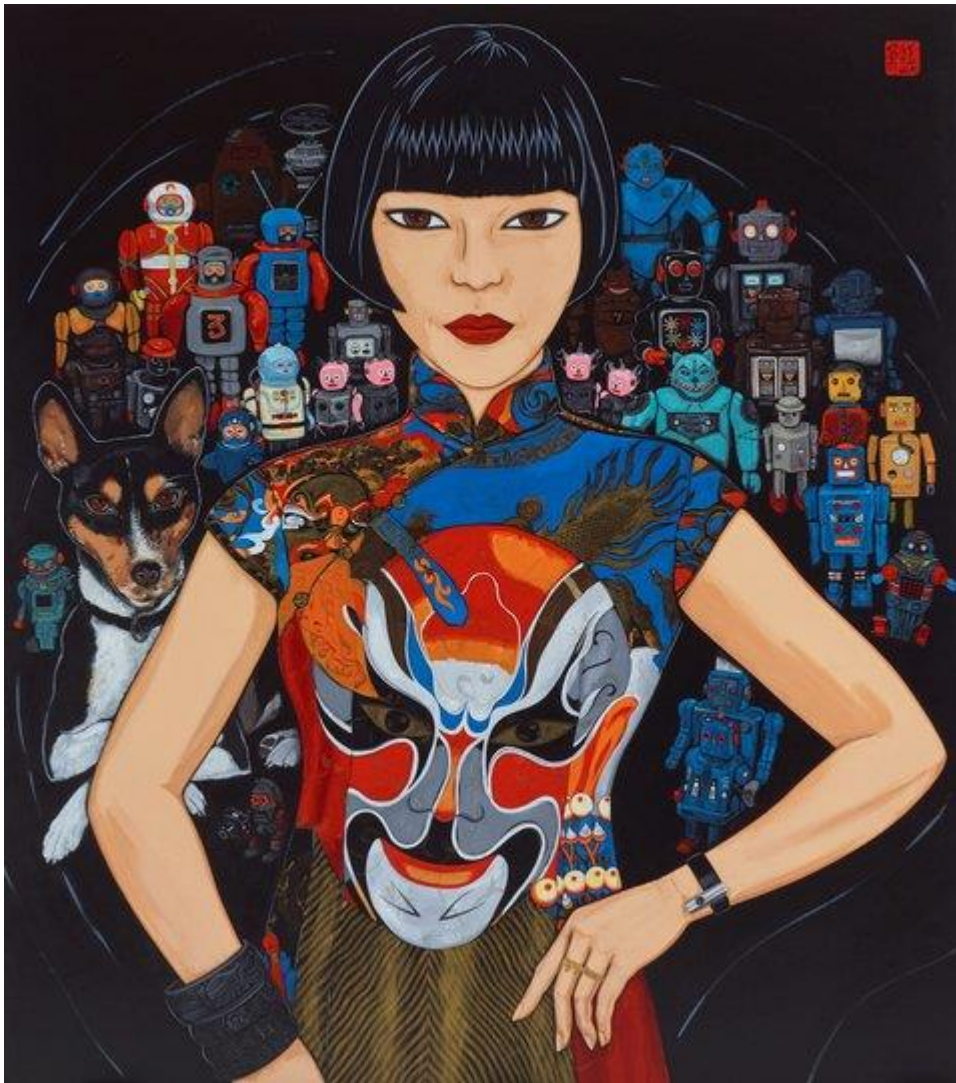
What type of personality do you think he has?

Things to make and think about.

What do you think it was about this portrait painting that caught the trustees' eyes?

Describe the mood of this portrait. What elements has the artist used to create this mood? What do you think Barry is thinking about?

Experiment with drawing or painting yourself against a dark background. What impact does the dark space have? Think about the mood and emotional impact of your painting.



AGNSW prizes Kate Beynon *Claudia, Spartacus and the robots*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29757/>

Do you collect something special?

Kate Beynon has created a bright portrait of fashion designer and collector Claudia Shan Shaw. Claudia's Chinese-style dress is covered with colourful mask designs, and she is surrounded by her collection of vintage toy robots and her pet dog, Spartacus.

Can you spot the robot that has an animal-like head?

Things to make and think about.

Imagine an army of robots coming your way. Write a story about what happens next.

What does this painting tell us about Claudia and her world?

Create a portrait of someone you know who collects things. Think about the objects you will include as well as the elements and painting style you use which will best suit your subject.



AGNSW prizes Michael McWilliams *The usurpers (self-portrait)*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29733/>

Do you have a favourite pet or animal?

Michael McWilliams has painted a self-portrait using animals and plants to build up the shape of his body and his facial features. All of these animals and plants have been introduced to Australia from other countries and have affected the environment in different ways.

Which animal or plant do you think has caused the most damage to the environment?

Things to make and think about.

Look twice and once again. How has the artist revealed his concerns for the Australian environment?

Read the artist statement and research the paintings of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Can you see similarities with this self-portrait?

Think about an issue that is important to you and create a self-portrait that reflects your ideas. How can you use colour, texture, symbols and other elements to give viewers an insight into how you are feeling?



AGNSW prizes Abdul Abdullah *The cost*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29735/>

Notice the gloss on this large, round portrait.

Abdul Abdullah has painted Craig Campbell, a retired police officer. Abdullah has used many layers of paint and resin to build up the surface of this painting and has used tones of red, brown and maroon to build up the features of Craig's face.

How does the use of limited colour add to the mood of this portrait?

Things to make and think about.

What cost do you think Craig Campbell has paid?

Consider his body language, facial expression and gaze. What do these things tell you about him? How do they make you feel as the viewer?

Make a portrait of a person you know. What choices can you make about composition, colour, scale, surface quality, materials and techniques to enhance the viewers' understanding of this person?



AGNSW prizes Marc Etherington *King Ken (Ken Done in his studio)*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29731/>

Do you have a special place where you make art?

Marc Etherington has painted the artist Ken Done reclining on a rug in Ken's art studio. Ken is surrounded by some of his artworks, a very neat painting table with paintbrushes and jars on it and many objects on the wall. Through the window we can see a beautiful beach landscape.

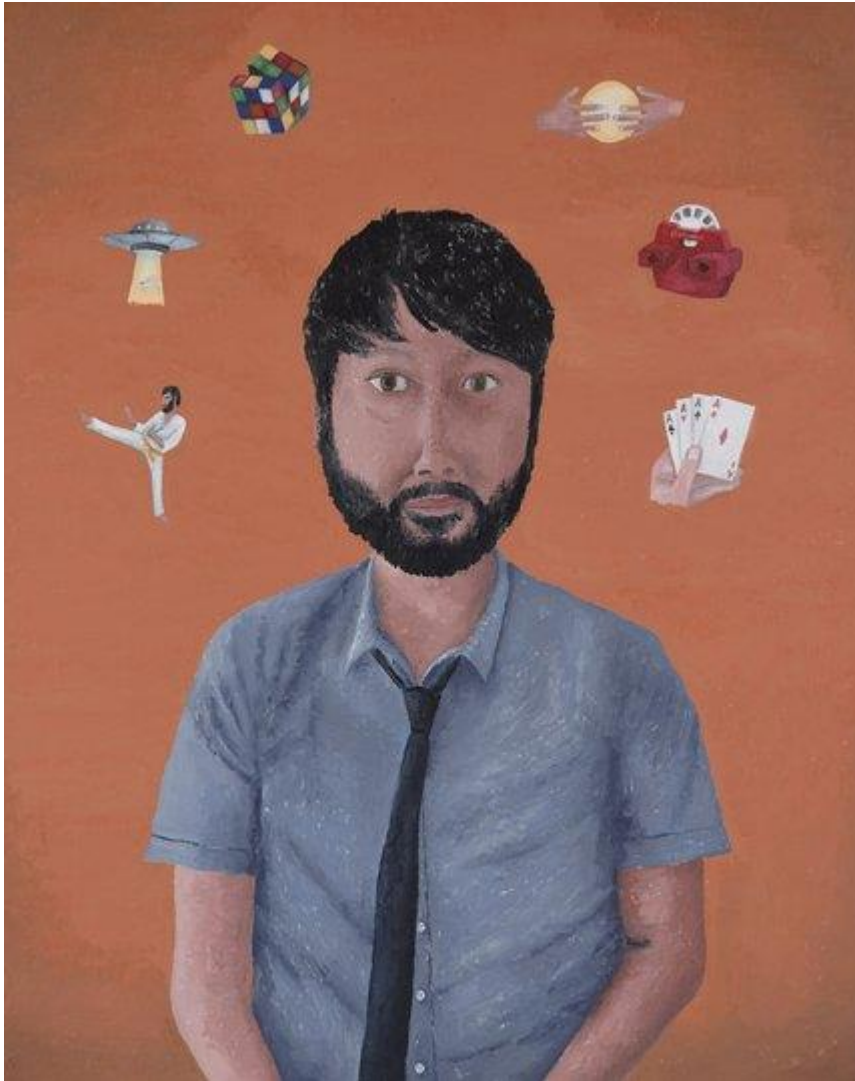
What kind of art would you make in a studio like this?

Things to make and think about.

What type of artist do you think you might be? Imagine what your studio would look like.

Describe the way this portrait has been painted? Do you think this image is influenced by cartoons and caricatures? Research Ken Done's own practice. Can you see a connection to this portrait?

Create a portrait of someone in their favourite environment. Think about how you will communicate ideas. What clues will you give the viewers?



AGNSW prizes Dean Manning *Maximum Lawrence*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29740/>

Do you have any special hobbies or interests?

Dean Manning has painted a portrait of comedian Lawrence Leung surrounded by images that tell us about his hobbies and interests. Lawrence can solve a Rubik's cube puzzle really quickly and has even made a 'how to' video about it.

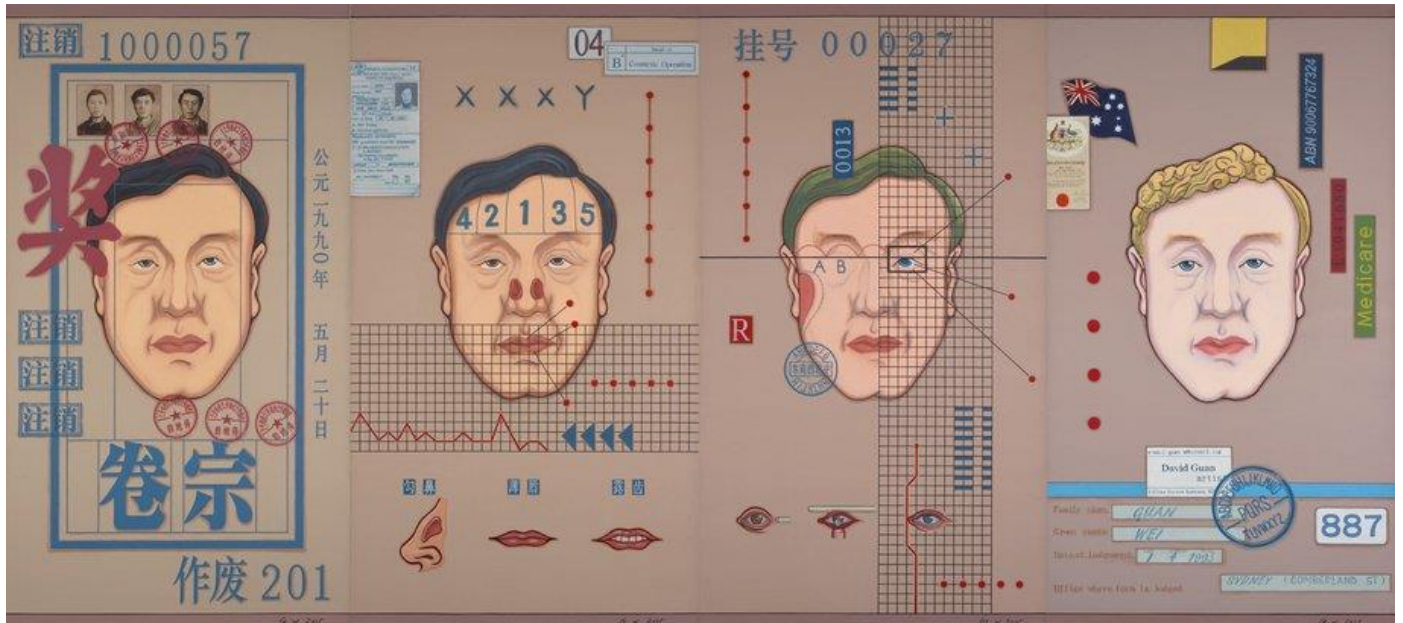
What special talent do you have that you could teach to others?

Things to make and think about.

What do the floating objects reveal about Lawrence? What are your special interests?

Describe the style and medium of the work. Why do you think the artist choose to represent Lawrence in this way?

Create a portrait of a person you admire that has a special talent. Make choices about their pose, expression, clothing, environment and whether to include any objects.



AGNSW prizes Guan Wei *Plastic surgery*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29727/>

How many portraits can you see here?

Guan Wei has created a graphic-style self-portrait across four panels that shows his face gradually changing. He uses humour to tell his story of growing up in China, moving to Australia and his desire to fit in.

Notice how he uses words and symbols to create the appearance of official papers such as passports and visa documents that prove identity.

Things to make and think about.

What makes this self-portrait different to other works in this year's Archibald Prize?

Read the artist's statement. Why do you think Guan Wei has used this particular painting style to convey his experiences as an immigrant?

Create a portrait of your future self in another place. Consider how you will look, what you will wear and the environment around you. Write a story about your journey and what you are doing in your life at that point.



AGNSW prizes Zoe Young *Sam Harris*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29741/>

What objects can you find in this portrait?

This painting by Zoe Young is of model Samantha Harris. Samantha is surrounded by objects and flowers that symbolise her beauty and also give us clues about her modelling career, such as the hairdryer and iron. She stares out at us as she relaxes in a classical-style pose on the couch.

See what happens when you stare into Samantha's eyes and move around the room.

Things to make and think about.

Describe all the colours, patterns and objects you can see in this painting.

Research Édouard Manet's painting *Olympia*. How does Zoe connect her portrait with this famous painting?

Place yourself in your favourite room. Photograph the space around you then draw or paint a series of sketches of this room and several items in it that are important to you. Collage these images together to create a portrait.



AGNSW prizes Belynda Henry *Louise Olsen, a beautiful summary*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29747/>

Describe the colours you can see in this portrait.

This is a painting of Louise Olsen, a jewellery and object designer who is one of the founders of Dinosaur Designs. Belynda Henry has painted her against a simplified landscape using colours similar to those of the bangles Louise is wearing, so the portrait blends with the background.

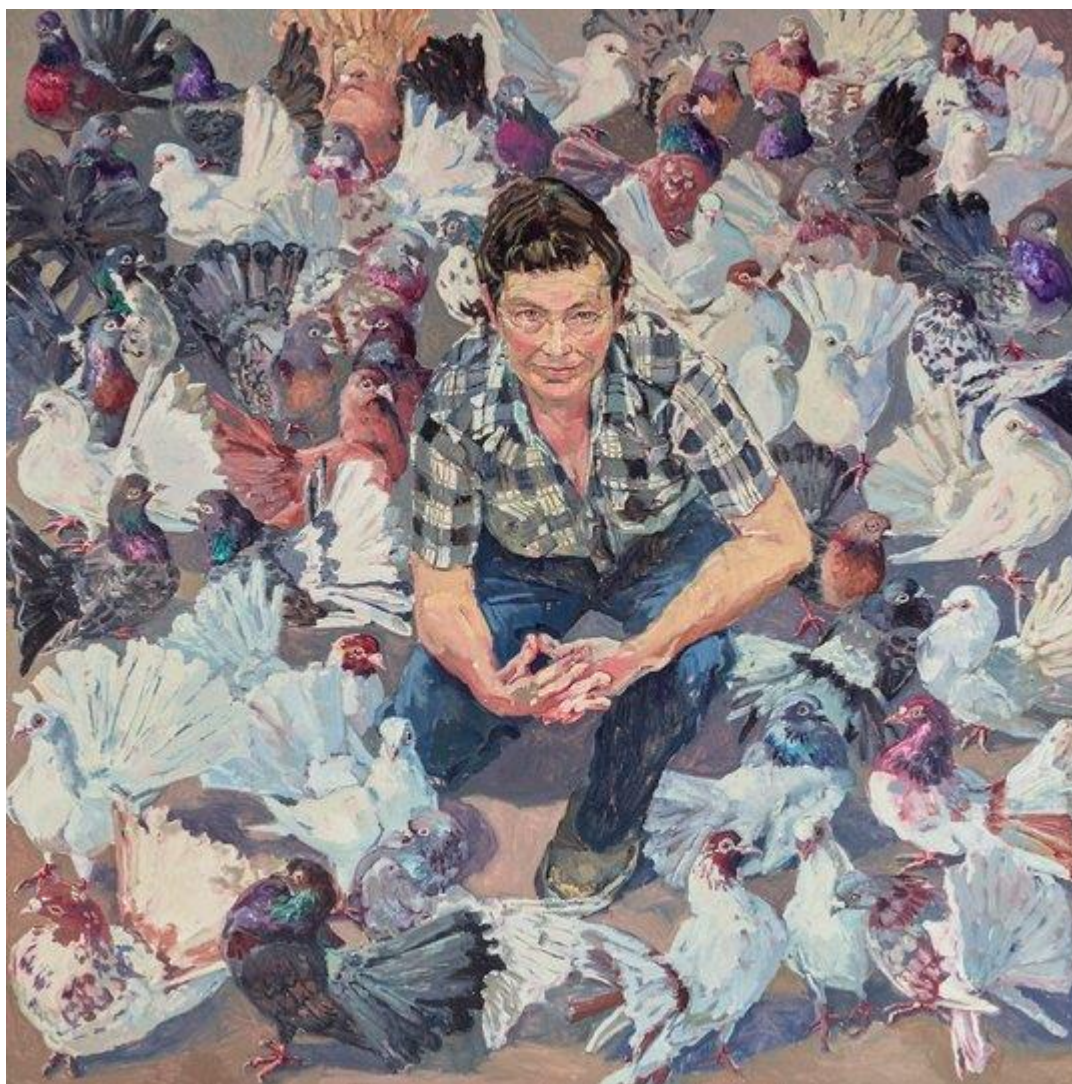
How do you think the portrait would change if different colours were used for the landscape?

Things to make and think about.

Describe the mood of this portrait. Does it remind you of someone you know?

What do these colours tell us about Louise?

Create a portrait of someone in your family, a friend or classmate. Capture the facial expressions and poses that best represent their personality. Think of a title that conveys the way you feel about them.



AGNSW prizes Lucy Culliton *Lucy and fans*, from Archibald Prize 2016

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29717/>

Imagine the sound of this lively portrait.

Lucy Culliton has painted herself amid a flurry of pigeons. Lucy loves animals and often uses them as inspiration for her art. The title of this painting is *Lucy and fans*, which could mean the fantails of the pigeons but could also be a play on words – perhaps the pigeons are big fans of Lucy's art.

What animal would you include in a self-portrait?

Things to make and think about.

Describe the surface qualities of this painting.

How has Lucy created this artwork? List the colours, patterns and textures you can see.

Think about a lively, noisy place you would love to visit. Using colour, texture, movement and sound, create a portrait that conveys your experiences.



AGNSW prizes Tony Albert *Tony Albert (after Brownie Downing)*, from Archibald Prize 2016
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2016/29737/>

In what ways does this look like an illustration from a children's book?

Tony Albert's self-portrait includes things that remind him of his childhood. As a young boy Tony loved Tinka, an Aboriginal boy from a book series. Later, the artist realised that Tinka represented Indigenous culture in a very simplified and childlike way.

What is Tinka painting?

Things to make and think about.

What do you think a self-portrait can show you about someone? How they look? How they feel?

Describe the way this painting has been created. What choices has the artist made? Why did he portray himself in this way?

Research Tony's wider art practice. What do you think he is referring to when he uses the term 'Aboriginalia'.

Create your own self-portrait using social and political imagery to explore an idea.

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<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/artsets/n9kdiy/print>