



The Archibald Prize 2016



What is a portrait/self-portrait?

Historical definition “a painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders.”

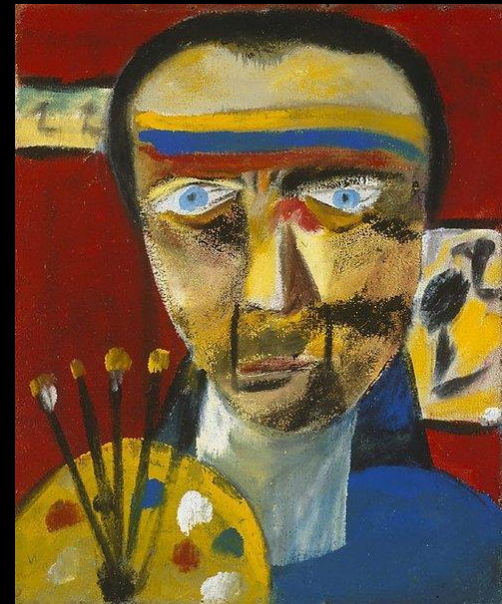
(Source: [Oxford English Dictionary](#).)



Agnolo Bronzino
Cosimo 1 de' Medici in armour circa 1545



Margaret Preston *Self Portrait* 1930



Sidney Nolan *Self Portrait* 1943

Is portrait painting still relevant in 2016?



Archibald Prize 1944

Impact of the Archibald Prize

Why are there lines outside the door?

Why is there so much Media attention?

Why do artists enter the Archibald Prize?



The prize will be awarded, in the terms of the will of the late JF Archibald dated 15 March 1916, to the best portrait 'preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics, painted by any artist resident in Australasia during the 12 months preceding the date fixed by the Trustees for sending in the pictures'.



Florence Rodway *J.F. Archibald*, 1921
Born 1856, died 1919

The Work

Must be a painting.

Must be a portrait painted from life, with the subject known to the artist, aware of the artist's intention and having at least one live sitting with the artist.

Del Kathryn Barton - a truly great portrait hinges on the bond between painter and subject. 'there has to be a tangible, palpable connection between you and the sitter. The best portraits are about sincerity and connection.

Must NOT exceed the size limit of 90,000 square cm (eg 3 × 3 m, 1.5 × 6 m). Dimensions apply to the actual work of art, not the mounting or framing. Exhibition wall height is 3.4 m, floor to ceiling.

May be a multi-panel work as long as the overall dimensions do not exceed the size limit above.

May be painted in any medium (eg oil, acrylic, watercolour, mixed media).

THE PRIZES

The Archibald Prize

Value \$100,000 (400 pounds in 1921)

Judged by the Trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales

Packing Room Prize – value \$1500

People's Choice – value \$3500

The Wynne Prize

Awarded annually for 'the best landscape painting of Australian scenery in oils or watercolours or for the best example of figure sculpture by Australian artists'.

Value \$50,000

Judged by the Trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales

The Sulman Prize

Awarded for the best subject painting, genre painting or mural project by an Australian artist.

A genre painting is normally a composition representing some aspect or aspects of everyday life, and may feature figurative, still-life, interior or figure-in-landscape themes. A subject painting, in contrast, is idealised or dramatised. Typically, a subject painting takes its theme from history, poetry, mythology or religion. In both cases, however, the style may be figurative, representative, abstract or semi-abstract.

A mural is a picture fixed directly to a wall or ceiling as part of an architectural and/or decorative scheme.

Value \$40,000

Judged by an invited artist – 2016 Judy Watson

Controversy and debate



Art students (John Olsen at left) protest, 1952



W. B. McInnes, *H. Desbrowe Annear* 1921



John Longstaff, *A.B. ('Banjo') Paterson* 1935



William Dargie *Sir James Elder, KBE*, 1941



William Dargie, *Mr Essington Lewis* 1952



Nora Heysen *Mme Elink Schuurman*
1938 Oil on canvas





William Dobell,
Portrait of an artist (Joshua Smith) 1943



Joshua Smith in the pose in which
he sat for Dobell



William Dobell *Margaret Olley* 1948



Archibald Prize 2011
Art Gallery of New South Wales
16 April - 26 June 2011

Margaret Olley
Ben Quilty

The Archibald Prize 2016



Looking at portraits

- Pose – body language
- Expression - gaze
- Clothing, dress, fashion
- Background – setting, interior/exterior
- Public or private
- Narrative, story being told
- Mood, Irony, humour
- Scale
- Media
- Composition, arrangement
- Framing
- Colour, lines, patterns, texture
- Signs and symbols
- Props, objects



Louise Hearman *Barry*
oil on masonite 69.5 x 100 cm

What do you
see ...

Who ...

Where ...

When ...

How ...

Why ...



Marc Etherington *King Ken (Ken Done in his studio)*
acrylic on canvas 155.5 x 201 cm

What do you
see ...

Who ...

Where ...

When ...

How ...

Why ...



Michael McWilliams *The usurpers (self-portrait)*
acrylic on linen 200 x 160 cm

What do you
see ...

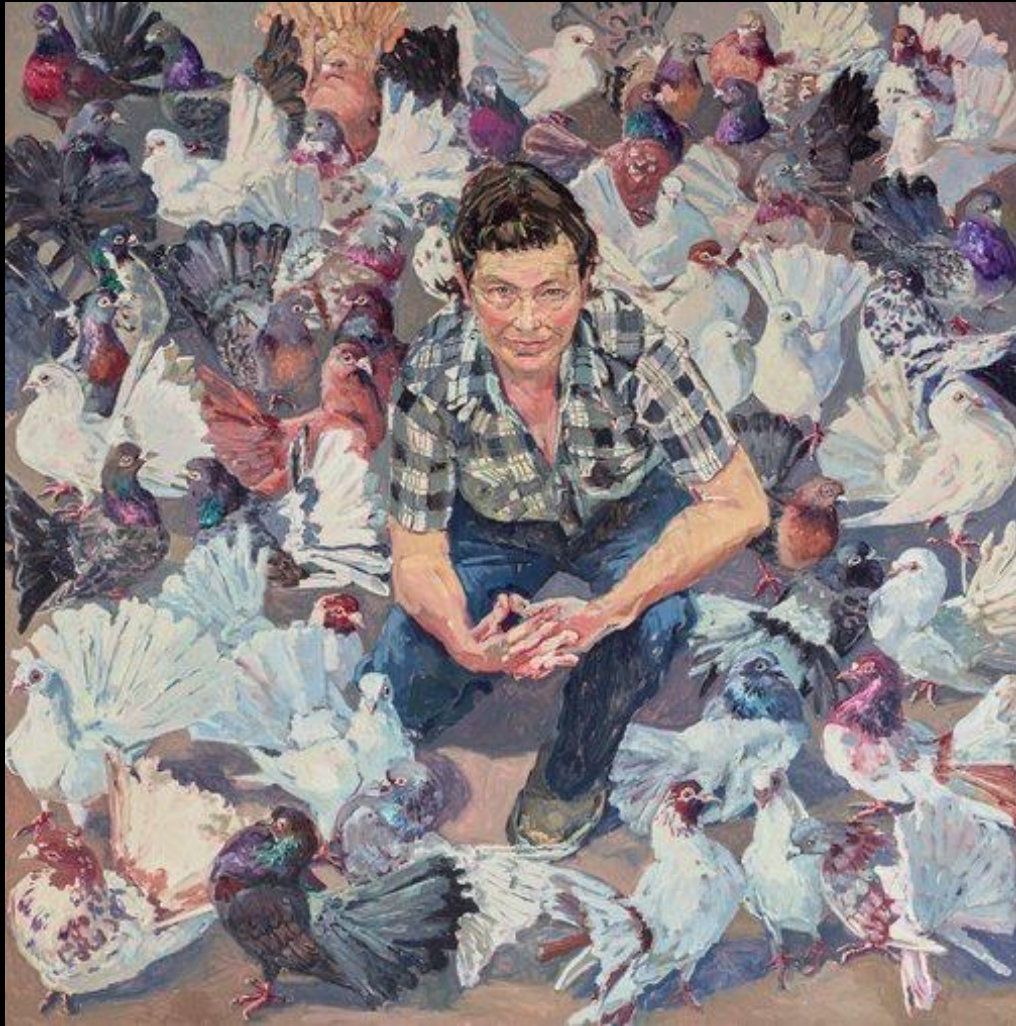
Who ...

Where ...

When ...

How ...

Why ...



Lucy Culliton *Lucy and fans*
oil on canvas 170.5 x 170 cm

What do you
see ...

Who ...

Where ...

When ...

How ...

Why ...



Zoe Young *Sam Harris*
acrylic on canvas 196.5 x 321 cm

What do you
see ...

Who ...

Where ...

When ...

How ...

Why ...



Natasha Bieniek *Wendy Whiteley*
oil on wood 13.5 x 18.5 cm

What do you
see ...

Who ...

Where ...

When ...

How ...

Why ...