

Who's who portrait prize

Introduce ways to explore, interpret and create portraiture

This resource is designed to assist students and educators to create, explore and interpret portraiture that connects art to history and the stories of people. Students and educators are encouraged to use these learning activities to explore important themes and ideas surrounding portraiture, and to ask questions that generate concepts and discussions in the classroom and Geelong Gallery.

Learning activities can be adapted by educators to suit all learning levels

A selection of portraits from the permanent collection of Geelong Gallery is presented as the focus of this resource. Each work reflects a different approach to the portrait genre, and reveals formal and technical aspects of painting and photography. The learning activities also support students in the preparation of their entries for Geelong Gallery's annual *Who's who portrait prize*.

About Geelong Gallery's collection

Established in 1896, Geelong Gallery is one of Australia's leading and oldest regional art galleries. The Gallery holds a magnificent collection of 19th, 20th and 21st century Australian and European painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography and decorative arts. The Gallery has important holdings of 18th and 19th century British, Irish and Welsh porcelain, and colonial Australian silver. The historical collection has been developed with a special focus on early images of the Geelong region, the exemplar of which is Eugene von Guérard's 1856 masterpiece *View of Geelong*. The Gallery's outstanding collection of over 6,000 works includes many works of national significance such as Frederick McCubbin's *A bush burial* (1890). The collection is a valuable learning resource for all students and educators.

COVER
Juan Ford
Painting, phrenology (Abstraction) 2004
oil on canvas
Geelong Gallery
Fletcher Jones art prize, 2004

The *Who's who portrait prize* aims to encourage and inspire young artists to celebrate the Geelong region's people – their identity, history, creativity and culture – through portraiture.

To honor Jules Francois Archibald's Geelong connection (born in Geelong West in 1856), Geelong Gallery presents this annual portrait prize and exhibition. Each year the prize attracts thousands of entries, with young artists submitting painting, drawing and mixed media likenesses of their local heroes. Approximately 1,500 will be exhibited in locations across Geelong including Geelong Gallery, Geelong Regional Libraries and Westfield Geelong and more. The exhibition will be presented at the same time as Geelong Gallery's hosting of the Art Gallery of New South Wales *Archibald Prize* from 22 September to 18 November 2018.

Prizes are awarded in five categories—Kinder to Foundation, Level 1 to 3, Level 4 to 6, Level 7 to 9, and Level 10 to VCE. A prize is also awarded to the artist whose portrait is nominated best in the *People's choice* category and will be announced on 20 November 2018.

Links to the curriculum

- Students learn as artist and viewer
- Students learn through making and responding

Explore and express ideas

Students investigate ways in which artists explore, develop and express ideas, concepts and themes in portraiture and their visual arts practices.

Visual arts practices

Students explore and manipulate different materials, techniques, visual conventions and processes used by artists in creating portraits. Students develop their own individual artistic intention when creating a portrait.

Present and preform

Students plan their own artworks, exploring different ideas and visual conventions as part of their response to portraiture. They will create works that manipulate different materials and techniques.

Respond and interpret

Students analyse, evaluate and interpret portraits created in different historical and cultural contexts.

Pre-discussion

Discuss with your students the techniques and effects of portraiture. Explore how the following features contribute to our understanding of a portrait:

- Pose
- Expression
- The sitter's gaze
- Fashion
- Composition or framing
- Colour
- Symbols or props

Geelong Gallery

Little Malop Street
Geelong 3220
T +61 3 5229 3645

geelonggallery.org.au/learn

Who's who
portrait prize
[learning resource](#)



Robert Dowling
Mrs Margaret McArthur of Meningoort 1856–57
oil on canvas
Geelong Gallery
Purchased with the generous assistance of the Trustees of the Howard Hitchcock Bequest, and with additional support from the Friends of the Geelong Gallery, 2001

Robert Dowling was born in Britain on 4 July 1827. In 1834 he migrated to Australia with his family. He completed an apprenticeship in saddlery in 1850, however, he soon left this career and advertised his services as a professional portrait painter. Dowling became one of Australia's foremost portrait and figure painters of the late colonial period. His practice also specialised in popular genre subjects, religious and orientalist imagery. Dowling moved to Victoria to set up a practice in Geelong as proprietor of a commercial art gallery specialising in photography, painting oil portraits and tinting photographs. He secured commissions from Western District pastoralists and extended his portraiture to the Aborigines of the region, documenting their social interaction with European settlers. Robert Dowling and his family left Australia for Britain in April 1857, where Dowling furthered his training and career as a painter. From the 1860s, he exhibited at the Royal Academy, London, and with the Royal Society of British Artists. In 1884 he returned to Australia, settling in Melbourne where he opened a studio. In 1886 he returned to London once again and died three months later.

The portrait *Mrs Margaret McArthur of Meningoort* was commissioned by Margaret's husband Peter McArthur, a wealthy pastoralist from the Western District. The painting is a fine example of a Victorian portrait of women from the colonial period in Australia. **Research the social and historical importance of portraiture in Australia during this period.**

Look carefully at the painting and consider the pose and expression of Margaret McArthur. **Discuss how the artist has used visual elements to capture the characteristics, personality and status of the sitter.**

Research other portraits by the artist Robert Dowling painted around this time and compare with the portrait *Mrs Margaret McArthur of Meningoort* (1856-57). Discuss the similarities and differences.

Select an important historical figure and research their life. **Imagine this person has commissioned you to paint their portrait.** Think about how you could represent their characteristics, personality and status. What type of clothing would the person wear? How would they be positioned? Where would they be? Think about symbols and props you could use.

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portrait prize
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4 / 16

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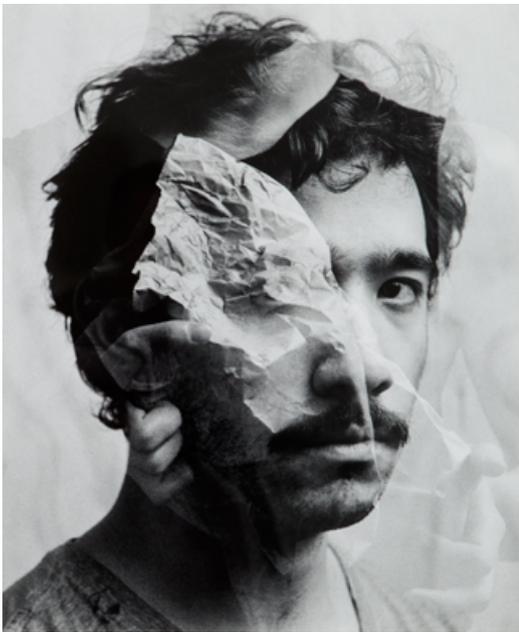
Polixeni Papapetrou
*Olympia as Lewis Carroll's Xie Kitchin
as a Chinaman (off duty)* 2003
Type C print
Geelong Gallery
Sybil Craig Bequest Fund, 2003
Courtesy Polixeni Papapetrou

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Who's who
portrait prize
[learning resource](#)



David Rosetzky
Composite portrait 4 2015
silver gelatin print
Geelong Gallery
Purchased with funds generously
provided by Geelong Contemporary, 2017
Courtesy of the artist and Sutton Gallery

David Rosetzky was born in Melbourne in 1970. Since the early 1990s he has expanded the tradition and pictorial formats of portraiture to make intimate observations of human identity, community and social behaviour; and aspects of contemporary youth and popular culture. Working predominantly in video and photography, he creates aesthetically beautiful and technically refined scenarios that explore human types, and that examine relationships between the interior psychology and external environments of people. Of his series of *Composite* works, Rosetzky has reiterated his 'interest in looking at the self and identity, and the way that's constructed'. The portraits rely on the experiment and chance of a double-exposure technique, the unpredictable results of which underscore the artist's preoccupations with unfixed and constantly evolving identity.

The title of the work *Composite portrait 4* refers to a term also known as composite photography: a technique invented by Sir Francis Galton in the 1880s. **Research the history of this technique and how it has been used to investigate the similarities of human characteristics. Can you see how Rosetzky has incorporated this technique in his own work?**

David Rosetzky uses traditional analogue darkroom processes to produce a double exposed black and white photograph of overlapping imagery. **Discuss how this process has contributed to the artist's ideas and intentions in his work. What effect does it have when viewing this work?**

Traditionally, to create a double-exposure effect in a photograph, you would expose the film twice combining two photographs during the darkroom processing. **Create your own portrait using this photographic technique either using a darkroom or by manipulating the image using Photoshop to get the same effect.** Choose an image of a person and combine it with another image. Think about how the other image could add another layer of meaning in your work or give a greater insight into the personality of the subject.



Ernest Buckmaster
Self portrait 1940
oil on canvas
Geelong Gallery
Purchased 1941

Ernest Buckmaster was born in 1897 in Melbourne. He received formal art training from the National Gallery Art School from 1918 to 1924. Buckmaster became a popular traditional portrait and landscape painter, exhibiting widely from 1919 until 1943. In 1932 he won the Art Gallery of New South Wales *Archibald Prize* for his portrait of Sir William Irvine, the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria. Between the years of 1924 and 1966 he created 72 portraits that were included in the *Archibald Prize*. In 1945, Buckmaster was appointed as an official war artist during the Second World War and spent time in Singapore. He died in 1968 in Melbourne.

Discuss how the artist has used the techniques and effects of portraiture to create his self-portrait.

Explore how the following features contribute to understanding his character:

- Pose
- Expression
- The artist's gaze
- Fashion
- Composition or framing
- Colour
- Symbols or props

Discuss what insights into the artist's personality are evident in this work. How has the artist chosen to paint himself?

Throughout Buckmaster's career he made numerous attacks on modern art. **Research the work of modernist artist Sydney Nolan and compare his artistic style to Buckmaster's.**

The rise of the selfie has become a 21st century phenomenon. How do you believe it has changed the way we express ourselves today? **Create a series of 3 to 5 quick observational ink drawings using selfies that you have taken on your mobile phone.**

Who's who portrait prize 2018

The Geelong Gallery's *Who's who portrait prize* aims to encourage and inspire young artists to celebrate the Geelong region's people—their identity, history, creativity and culture—through portraiture.

To honor Jules Francois Archibald's Geelong connection, Geelong Gallery presents this annual portrait prize and exhibition which in 2018 coincides with the presentation of the Art Gallery of New South Wales *Archibald Prize* in Geelong.

Who was Jules Francois Archibald?

A plaque outside the Geelong West Football Oval marks the birthplace of Jules Francois Archibald, the man behind one of Australia's oldest and best known art prizes for portraiture: the Art Gallery of New South Wales *Archibald Prize*.

Who's who portrait prize

Each year the children's prize attracts a host of entries, with young artists submitting paintings, drawings and mixed media likenesses of their heroes, ranging from Geelong Football Club players, mums, dads and carers, local traders, teachers and more.

Approximately 1,500 will be exhibited in locations across Geelong including Geelong Gallery, Geelong Regional Libraries and Westfield Geelong and more. The exhibition will be presented at the same time as Geelong Gallery's hosting of the 2018 Art Gallery of New South Wales *Archibald Prize* presented from 22 September to 18 November 2018.

Prizes are awarded in five categories—Kinder to Foundation, Level 1 to 3, Level 4 to 6, Level 7 to 9, and Level 10 to VCE. Category winners will be announced in the Geelong Advertiser on Friday 14 September 2018. A prize is also awarded to the artist whose portrait is nominated best in the *People's choice* category and will be announced on 20 November 2018.

Judging criteria

1. Students expression of individual artistic intention when creating their portrait.
2. Students ability to explore and manipulate different materials and use multiple techniques when creating their portrait.
3. Students ability to capture the characteristics, personality and/or identity of the sitter.

Your submission MUST include the following:

- **NEW SIZE** All artwork MUST be presented on A3 (42.0 cm x 29.7 cm, height x width) 200gsm paper in a portrait format, no mount please. Please note, A3 format has been chosen in 2018 due to its availability and standard configuration.
- **PASTED** to the back of the artwork the *Who's who portrait prize* 2018 entry form or photocopy of the entry form. Available online geelonggallery.org.au/whoswho
- A photograph of the sitter MUST be PASTED to the back of the artwork; this image will be used in the judging process to assess the likeness to the sitter
- A photograph of the artist will be requested only if the artist is a category winner (parent/guardian/teacher/school will be contacted and asked to sign a release form to enable the image to be presented in the Geelong Advertiser announcing winners)
- Students MUST name and make a statement about why they choose the sitter
- No three-dimensional pieces will be accepted
- No late entries will be accepted

Dates for 2018 Who's who portrait prize

Entry forms available to schools online

geelonggallery.org.au/whoswho

Registrations close Friday 20 July, 5.00pm Register online geelonggallery.org.au/whoswho

Closing date for entries Friday 10 August, 5.00pm
Please deliver entries to Geelong Gallery
55 Little Malop St, Geelong

Exhibition dates: 15 September to 18 November 2018

Where: Venues throughout Geelong including Geelong Gallery, Geelong Regional Libraries and Westfield Geelong. Entrants will be informed of their submission location.

Geelong Gallery opening hours: Open daily 10am–5pm

All entries MUST be collected Friday 30 November 2018 from the Geelong Gallery, 55 Little Malop Street, Geelong
Telephone: (03) 5229 3645.
Email: learn@geelonggallery.org.au

Geelong Gallery

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Who's who
portrait prize
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Visit the Geelong Gallery

Pre-visit information

To help us conserve works in the Geelong Gallery's renowned collection for current visitors and future generations to enjoy, we recommend the following:

- Prior to your visit, educators/supervisors to brief students on appropriate behaviour in the Gallery (eg walking in the Gallery, listening to instructions and not touching the exhibits)
- Students should take care entering and leaving the building from and to the bus
- Food and drinks are not allowed inside the Gallery
- Please consider other visitors
- Educators to accompany their group at all times during their visit
- Stools and clipboards are available for student use
- Only pencils are to be used in the Gallery

Cost

Entry fees to the Art Gallery of New South Wales *Archibald Prize*
Adult \$16
Concession \$12
Child/student \$7
Members \$10
Group (over 10) \$14
Family \$40.00

Bookings

Bookings are essential for all Learn programs and group visits:
T 03 5229 3645
learn.booking@geelonggallery.org.au

Please note: cloak facilities will be limited during the *Archibald Prize*. It is requested that students do not bring bags to the Gallery at the time of their visit if it can be avoided.

Who are your program sponsors



Archibald Prize 2018

Geelong Gallery is proudly supported by a range of partners for the Archibald Prize 2018, a touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of New South Wales



Geelong presenting partners



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