

David Mach

Audio Guide transcript

The Gallery commissioned this portrait of the entrepreneur and adventurer Richard Branson from David Mach. In what follows, Mach explains how he used a postcard reproduction of our self-portrait of Dame Laura Knight as the basis for his composition.

‘You can see the portrait is made of postcards - or about three thousand postcards, and actually that postcard is of one of the paintings in the collection in the National Portrait Gallery - Dame Laura Knight.

It has three women in there, two nudes and one lady with a red jersey cardigan on. You know, when I thought of doing Richard Branson, I wondered what kind of card to use, and I was really keen to use something from the Gallery’s own collection, so I’m looking for a connection with this man. But in the end it’s a colour thing, you’re looking for something red, you associate this guy with this Virgin red. This is what I like about him, this particular kind of work most of all, is that is moves...all the time, all the time you’re making this thing, all the time you’re making the...combining the photograph of Richard Branson with the postcard, it’s not fixed: it’s a moveable, malleable thing, it’s like wet paint, it’s the nearest I’ll ever get to painting.’