

## Contemporary Resource Box

## Introduction

Welcome to the Contemporary resource box. This resource is for teachers and group leaders working with children with Special Educational Needs. This box contains resources to support your self-directed visit to the Contemporary Galleries.

The resource box contains:

- Information about five sets of portraits.
- Questions to discuss with your group.
- Cross-curricular activities to try in the gallery or after your visit.
- Activity sheets for your group to complete and take away.
- Handling objects to use with your group in the gallery as you explore the portraits.
- Magnifiers, pencil grips and Makaton symbols to use in the gallery.



NPG 5845



NPG 6252



NPG 4467



NPG 5882(1)



NPG 6562



NPG 6593 (1)



NPG 6593 (2)



NPG 6593 (3)



NPG 6593 (4)

Please note, portraits in the gallery can go off display at very short notice. Please check in the IT Gallery to see if these portraits are on display or look for alternatives to use.

## Resources



### Sir Peter Thomas Blake 1932–

By Clive Barker

Collage, 1983

NPG 5845

The 'Peter Blake Box' is a witty portrait of this leading figure of the Pop Art Movement of the 1950's and 60's. This portrait was from a series of portraits of artists that included things about them. The daisies in Blake's hair and the two American 'Liberty' stamps allude to the sitter's daughters Daisy and Liberty.

In 1969, Blake co-founded the Brotherhood of Ruraliss and was elected a Royal Academician in 1980.

### Questions

Teachers/group leaders may wish to refer to these questions:

- What is his name? How can you tell?
- How old do you think he is?
- Is the portrait full face or profile?
- What materials has the artist used to make the portrait?
- How do you think the artist made the portrait? What did he do first?
- What do you think Peter Blake is thinking about? Find the stamps and the flowers from the picture in the resource box. Which girl's names do they remind you of?

### Resources

#### Suggested Activities: In the Gallery



Can you find?

- Peter Blake is an artist. Are there any clues in the picture that show us this is his job?



Can you find?

- Can you find some keys in the picture? What are they for? Why have they been included in the picture? Use the sardine tin in the resource box to help you discuss what the sardine tin keys represent. (Like the keys this portrait allows us to 'see inside,' revealing more about Peter Blake).



Look and discuss

- Who are the special people in your life? How could you include their names in a picture?



Art activity

- Think about how you can use objects in a portrait to show what is special to you. Use the 'inside my head' worksheet to show what you are thinking about and things that are important to you.

### Resources

#### Follow-up Activities: Back at school



##### Art activity

- Using the 'inside my head' worksheet as a starting point, make a collage that tells people about yourself and the things you are interested in. Use your own drawings, pictures cut from magazines and other materials.



##### Art activity

- Make a list of all the people who are important to you. Think of an object or a place that reminds you of each person. Make a picture that includes these places and objects. It could be a drawing, a painting, a collage or a mixture of these.



##### Art activity

- Using your ideas for objects and places that remind you of important people, make badges for those people to wear.

## Resources



### Blur portrait set

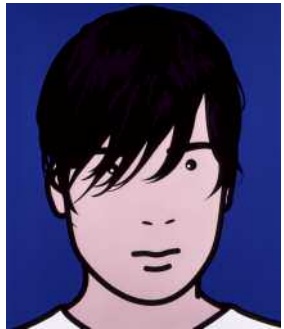
By Julian Opie

C-type colour print on paper laid on panel, 2000

NPG 6593 (1); NPG 6593 (2); NPG 6593 (3); NPG 6593 (4)

This is a set of four portraits depicting Damon Albarn, Graham Coxon, Alex James and Dave Rowntree from the pop group Blur (Damon Albarn is the lead singer). Blur won five Brit Awards in 1995. These portraits were commissioned for the cover of their album *Blur: the best of in 2000*.

Julian Opie was one of the youngest New British Sculptors in the early 1980s and he went on to work in a variety of media. These prints were created by drawing digitally onto photographs of the band.



### Questions

Teachers/group leaders may wish to refer to these questions:

- How many people can you see?
- Compare the pictures. What is the same? What is different? (Look in the resource box to find images.)
- Do the portraits look life like? Why or why not?
- Can you see any shadows in the pictures?
- How has the artist shown their eyes, noses and mouths?
- They are musicians. Can you guess what type of music they make? (Rap? Classical? Heavy Metal? Pop?)
- How do you think this portrait was made? (Is it a photo? A print? A painting?)
- Which one is your favourite? Why?

### Resources

#### Suggested Activities: In the Gallery



Look and discuss

- Compare the portraits to the photo of Blur in the resource box. Can you match the photos to the portraits? How do you recognise them?

Art activity



- Using the worksheet in the resource box, design a CD cover for your favourite band, in the style of Julian Opie's portraits. Use the Blur CD in the resource box to remind you what information you need to include on the CD cover.

Look and discuss



- Julian Opie makes portraits of lots of people, including other famous people. Andy Warhol, who made the portrait of Elizabeth II, was interested in fame too. Would you like to be famous? Why or why not?

Look and discuss



- What is distinctive about you? If a portrait like this was made of you, with just simple lines and dots for eyes and nostrils, how would people tell it was you? (From your hairstyle, your clothes, your jewellery, your expression?).

Art activity



- Draw a self portrait (or your favourite portrait) in the style of these portraits, using thick black lines and bright, flat colours with no shading.

## Resources

### Follow-up Activity: Back at school



#### Art activity

- Take digital photographs of each other and blow up each photograph to A4 using a photocopier. Place a sheet of acetate or tracing paper on top of your photocopy (use masking tape to keep it steady) and draw or paint your portrait using the photocopy as a guide. Keep it simple, with thick black outlines and dots for eyes. Add bright colours by colouring it in or collaging coloured paper.

Make a class display of your portraits. Can you tell who is who?

## Resources



### Maggi Hambling

By Maggi Hambling

oil on canvas, 1977-1978

NPG 6562

Maggi Hambling is a British painter, sculptor and printmaker. She was the first Artist-in-Residence at the National Gallery.

In this self-portrait, she has painted herself with three arms to hold her three things that are important in her life: a cigarette, a drink and a paintbrush. All of the items in the portrait are special to the artist who painted the portrait when her love life was 'in a muddle'

### Questions

Teachers/group leaders may wish to refer to these questions:

- How many people can you see in this picture?
- Which person is Maggi Hambling?
- What is she holding? What does this tell us about her?
- What has she got on her trousers?
- What type of room is she in?
- What is her job? How can you tell?
- What is she doing?
- What is she painting a picture of?
- How many hands and arms does she have? Do you think she really has that many?
- Why has she shown herself with lots of arms?
- Can you find the puffer fish in this painting? Use the plastic fish in the resource box to help you. Maggi Hambling was interested in these fish when she made the painting. How do you think they got their name?

### Resources

- Look at the cat's tail, the snake, the bird, the magician and the aeroplane. What are they doing? How has she shown movement in this painting?

#### Suggested Activities: In the Gallery



##### Art activity

- The portrait is filled with many different objects. Use the 'Sort it out!' worksheet to draw the objects and sort them into groups.



##### Roleplay

- Can you copy the movements in the picture with your body? (Shuffling cards, painting, flapping wings). Use the objects in the resource box to help you. Try to copy the pose of an animal or person in the picture.

### Resources

#### Follow-up Activities: Back at school



##### Art activity

- Make a portrait of yourself doing something (or lots of things) you enjoy, showing your movement by including lots of arms and legs.



##### Art activity

- Use your portrait as a starting point for making a flickbook of yourself doing something you enjoy. In a small notebook, draw a series of pictures that vary gradually from one page to the next, so that when the pages are turned rapidly, the pictures appear to move.



##### Art activity

- Make a self portrait showing three things that are important to you, or take a series of 3 photos showing important things in your life.

## Resources



### Darcey Andrea Bussell 1969-

By Allen Jones

oil on canvas, c.1994

NPG 6252

A soloist at the Royal Ballet from 1988, Bussell was promoted to Principle for the leading role in Kenneth MacMillian's *The Prince of the Pagodas* (1989). She was voted 'Dancer of the Year' in 1990.

In this portrait she is shown dancing on her points.

### Questions

Teachers/group leaders may wish to refer to these questions:

- What is her job? How can you tell?
- What is she wearing?
- What is she doing?
- Do you know what this kind of dance is called?
- What do you think she is going to do next?
- Where do you think she is? How can you tell?
- How is she feeling? How can you tell?
- Do you think she is a good dancer? Why or why not?
- Look at her shoes in the portrait and the pointe shoes in the resource box. How do you think it would feel to wear these shoes? What do you think ballerinas have to do to get ready for performances?
- Describe the colours. How has the artist shown the light and the dark? How have they used the colours to make Darcey Bussell stand out? What feelings do you think these colours show?

### Resources

#### Suggested Activities: in the Gallery



Copy her pose

- Can you stand on your tiptoes? How long can you hold this pose? Is it easy or hard? How does it feel? Try other ballet positions, use the card in the resource box to help you.



Art activity

- Use the 'what's in the background' worksheet to imagine Darcey Bussell's surroundings and draw a new background for the portrait.

#### Follow-up Activities: Back at school



Art activity

- Design a costume for Darcey Bussell to dance in. You could use your imagination or use the internet to research ballets she has danced in (for example the Nutcracker, Swan Lake, The Sleeping beauty or Giselle) and find pictures of costumes she wore.



Art activity

- Make a full length portrait of yourself in an interesting pose (you could draw or take photos). Trace or cut out the portrait and use it to make a paper silhouette to stick onto a background. Choose contrasting colours that will make your silhouette stand out.

## Resources



### Queen Elizabeth II 1926–

By Andy Warhol

Silkscreen print, 1985

NPG 5882(1)

This portrait is derived from an official 1977 Jubilee photograph of the Queen by Peter Grugeon. Is it part of a series of portraits by Warhol called *Reigning Queens*, which includes portrait of Queen Margerethe of Denmark, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Queen Ntombi of Swaziland. There of four silkscreen prints of Queen Elizabeth in this series based Grugeon's photograph, each one having a separate identity through the use of colour. Warhol's Pop Art technique in this portrait has reinvigorated the traditional presentation of royalty.

### Questions

Teachers/group leaders may wish to refer to these questions:

- What is her job? How can you tell?
- Who is she?
- Was this portrait painted? Can you tell how it was made?
- Which parts of her face stand out in the picture? How has the artist drawn attention to them?
- What do you think she is like? (Is she serious, sensible, silly or mischievous?). How can you tell?
- What colours can you see? How do they make you feel? What do they remind you of?
- Do you think this portrait was made recently? Does she look young or old? Compare the portrait to the recent photo of the Queen in the resource box.

## Resources

- Can you find another person in this portrait? Who do you think it is? Why do you think he has been included in the portrait?
- Look in your pockets or your wallet (or use the objects in the resource box). How many things can you find with the Queen's face on? Compare them to this portrait. Which do you prefer? Why?

### Suggested Activities: In the Gallery



#### Look and discuss

- Can you see any other portraits of Queen Elizabeth II in the gallery? How many can you see? What is the same? What is different? Which is your favourite portrait of Queen Elizabeth II? Why?



#### Pose

- Copy Queen Elizabeth's pose. Have you ever sat this way for a portrait? How does it make you feel? Is it comfortable? (Look at her medal)



#### Art activity

- Use the 'pop art portraits' worksheet to draw portraits using simple lines and shapes, adding just a few details.

### Resources

#### Follow-up Activities: Back at school



##### Art activity

- Using the 'pop art portraits' worksheet make a set of four portraits by photocopying your portraits, scanning and repeating them using ICT or making linocuts or mono prints. Try copying the colours in this portrait and experiment by adding different colours to each portrait. Blow them up to make posters or shrink them to make a set of postage stamps.



##### Art activity

- Make portraits using photographs, like Andy Warhol did. Find photos of famous people you like in magazines and use them as a starting point for print making, or use them to make collaged portraits.

## Resources



### Thomas Stearns ('T.S.') Eliot

By Patrick Heron

oil on canvas, 1949

NPG 4467

T.S. Eliot was a poet, playwright and critic. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri and settled in England before the First World War. This portrait was painted the year after Eliot was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

### Questions

Teachers/group leaders may wish to refer to these questions:

- In this portrait can you see T.S. Eliot in profile (from the side) and full face (from the front)?
- What patterns and shapes can you see? (at top left)
- Do you think this portrait is realistic? Why or why not?
- What colours can you see in the portrait?
- What colours have been used for the outlines?
- How to the colours make you feel?
- What do you think the colours tell us about T.S. Eliot's personality?
- Why do you think the artist has shown T.S. Eliot as two people?
- What do you think this tell us about T.S. Eliot?

## Resources

### Suggested Activities: In the Gallery



Can you find?

- Can you find any portraits by the same artist in this room? How can you tell the same artist painted them?



Role play - Literacy

- Read some of the poems from *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* aloud. Add sound effects or try to behave like the cats in the poems.



Art activity

- Try to draw a portrait of T.S. Eliot (or someone in your group) without lifting your pencil off the page.



Art activity

- Use the 'Portraits' worksheet to draw profile and full face portraits.



### Follow-up Activities: Back at school

Art activity

- Use the 'Portraits' worksheet. Trace these portraits onto sheets of tracing paper or acetate. Lay your drawings on top of each other to create one portrait that shows a both portrait and full face view. Redraw your drawing and paint or colour it in, choosing colours that show the personality of the sitter.

Creative writing - Literacy

- Using T.S. Eliot's poems from *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* as a starting point, write poems about your favourite animals.

Please return after use