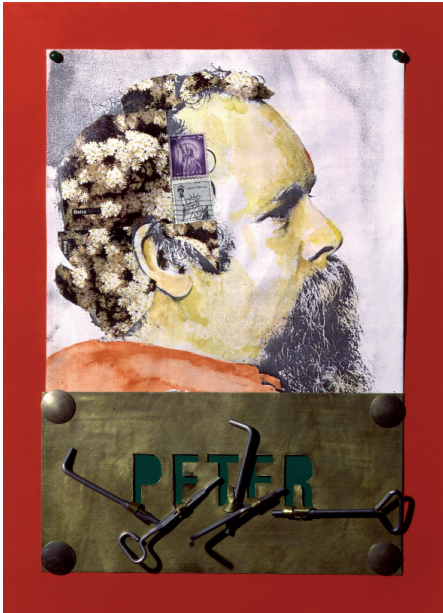


Lesson Plan 1: Introduction to Pop Art, Symbolic Sitters



Sir Peter Thomas Blake by Clive Barker, 1983
© National Portrait Gallery, London



Self-portrait with Badges by Peter Blake, 1961 © Peter Blake. All rights reserved, DACS 2011. Tate, London 2007

Introduction

This activity provides students with an introduction to the theme of the project and the artists who will be working with them. Using a number of Pop Art portraits as a starting point, students will look at the visual style and symbolic meanings within the artworks, to create their own symbolic portrait.

Activity steps:



1. An introduction to each other (using a warm-up name game activity), the project (brief introduction to the National Portrait Gallery and the *Pop Art Portraits* exhibition), and why the artists have come to work at the Hospital School.
2. What is Pop Art and what does it look like? The artists will introduce the artworks from the exhibition and explain to students that they will be creating their own artwork inspired by the *Pop Art Portraits* exhibition.
3. The group will focus on *Sir Peter Thomas Blake* by Clive Barker, 1983, and *Self-portrait with Badges* by Peter Blake, 1961. The artists will develop the students' visual literacy skills by exploring different elements of the portraits such as profile and full-length. They will also highlight the differences between the portraits – one is a self-portrait, whereas the other work is a portrait of Peter Blake made by another artist. The artist will explore how Peter Blake is represented in both portraits and the choice of objects used to convey his character.

POP ART PORTRAITS: TEACHERS' NOTES

4. The artists will encourage students to discuss what is important to them, and how they can symbolise these elements to create their own portrait. For example, they could think about their favourite colour, music, animal, and object.

5. Once their designs are chosen they will create their own symbolic portrait using Furby colour pencils on card/paper. Students will use collage materials such as magazine images, stamps and stickers to add to their portraits (like the stamps and images of daisies in the portrait *Sir Peter Thomas Blake* by Clive Barker).

6. Finally, the students will frame their work using a mount supplied. At the end of the session the artists and students will discuss and 'exhibit' their work within the group.

Primary follow-up idea:

Students can expand on their ideas and create portraits of family and friends using the same techniques. Teachers can encourage students to experiment with mark-making to create textured hair, smooth skin, etc.

Secondary extension idea:

Students can make a collage portrait head using numerous images of heads cut out of newspapers and magazines. They could use cut-out eyes to make up the eyes, and other features for the other specific facial parts.

POP ART PORTRAITS: TEACHERS' NOTES

Materials:

Photocopies of artwork

A4 white card/quality paper

Furby colour pencils

HB pencils

Berol fine felt pens

Pritt stick

Scissors

Magazine images/stamps/stickers etc

Mirrors

Frames or mounts