

Lesson Plan 2: Pop Art profiles



Man Playing Snooker and Thinking of Other Things by Derek Boshier, 1961 © Derek Boshier

Introduction

In this activity students will look at a Pop Art portrait and create their own collage. Using *Man Playing Snooker and Thinking of Other Things* by Derek Boshier, 1961, as a starting point, students will make their own portrait using visual material that reflects their own thoughts, feelings, desires and ideas.

Activity steps:



1. The group will focus on *Man Playing Snooker and Thinking of Other Things* by Derek Boshier, 1961. Students will look at the visual style and symbolic meanings behind this portrait.
2. The artists will ask students to think about all the objects, images and ideas that live within their imagination and how they will depict them. Will some dreams and ideas appear bigger, some smaller? Will images be realistic or cartoon-like?
3. Students will then create their own symbolic portrait in profile. With assistance from an artist, students will have a photograph taken of their profile, and this will then be printed so that they can draw their profile on to A3 coloured card.
4. Students will design, draw and collage their ideas on to their profile head. They can design different 'compartments' of their brain or imagination like the portrait by Derek Boshier, including cartoon thought bubbles, comic strip characters and cut-out figures.
5. Boshier's complex 'character' is framed by a snooker table. Students will frame their work using a mount; they can decorate

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their mount to depict their interests. At the end of the session the artists and students will discuss and 'exhibit' their work within the group.

Primary follow-up idea:

Collect a range of self-portrait images that show a variety of techniques and styles. Ask the students to think about how the artists made them. Students could be encouraged to discuss what feelings and emotions are communicated through these artworks. Do certain colours or techniques express particular emotions? What techniques could they use from this artwork to create their own portraits?

Secondary extension ideas:

1. Ask students to make observational studies of themselves using a mirror and drawing media. Encourage them to consider incorporating objects or representations of activities that symbolise their own interests. They can select and combine line, tone, images and text to create an objective view of themselves.

2. Derek Boshier has depicted the Union Jack in his portrait. Ask students to find out about flags. What are they for? How do countries identify themselves with colours and shapes on flags? Now ask students to design their own personal flag or logo.

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Materials:

Photocopies of artwork

A3 colour/white card

Furby colour pencils

HB pencils

Berol fine felt pens

Pritt stick

Scissors

Magazine images/stamps/stickers etc

Mirrors