



LESSON PLAN

JUNIOR / SENIOR PRIMARY ART INCURSION

DICKERSON STYLE PORTRAITS BOOKLET



Newcastle
Art Gallery

Title: EXAGGERATED PORTRAITS

Ages: Junior / Senior Primary

Duration: 1 Hour

LEARNING GOALS

In this lesson, students will explore artworks by Robert Dickerson and understand his style of portraiture. Students will learn how to create an exaggerated portrait to represent personality and feelings. Students will develop skills in using paint sticks.

SKILLS

Visual Arts learning connects to these **Australian Curriculum content descriptions:**

- **ACAVAM110** – Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times, to use as inspiration for their own representations.
- **ACAVAM111** – Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks.
- **ACAVAM114** – Explore ideas and practices used by artists, to represent different views, beliefs and opinions.
- **ACAVAM115** – Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks.

MATERIALS

- Art booklets with artist's work
- Art paper or canvas boards
- Paint sticks
- Pencils

ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

Students will be given an art booklet to view the artworks by Robert Dickerson.

The Gallery educator will:

- Discuss Dickerson's style and what inspired him.
- Explain the variations in abstract, exaggerated, and realistic portraits.
- Explore the idea of personality in each of Dickerson's artworks and the important features of a face.
- Focus on the many ways of depicting a personality. It can be done through association with objects, other people, events, and belongings.
- Ask students to think about their family members and their various personalities.

The Gallery educator will model and demonstrate to students how to draw a Dickerson style portrait. To begin, students select three different coloured paint sticks. They can choose colours that they like or colours that represent how they are feeling. The Gallery educator will ask students to start their exaggerated portrait by drawing a head shape using one of their coloured paint sticks onto paper. Then the Gallery educator will prompt students to add the important features of a face including eyes, eyebrows, ears, nose and mouth. Students may wish to exaggerate the features which are most characteristic of their personality. The Gallery educator will show students how to experiment with blending layers of paint stick and applying colour to the background and foreground of their artwork. Students may wish to add in some small details and patterns to complete their portraits.

REFLECTION / EXTENSION

Reflection: Invite students to think, pair, and share with a partner. Each student talks about their exaggerated portrait. Describe how they have used colour in their work and how this may portray emotion within the artwork.

Extension: There are lots of art making activities you can do in the classroom or encourage students to explore at home! Check out our ideas in the printed art booklets.