



BP PORTRAIT AWARD 2020



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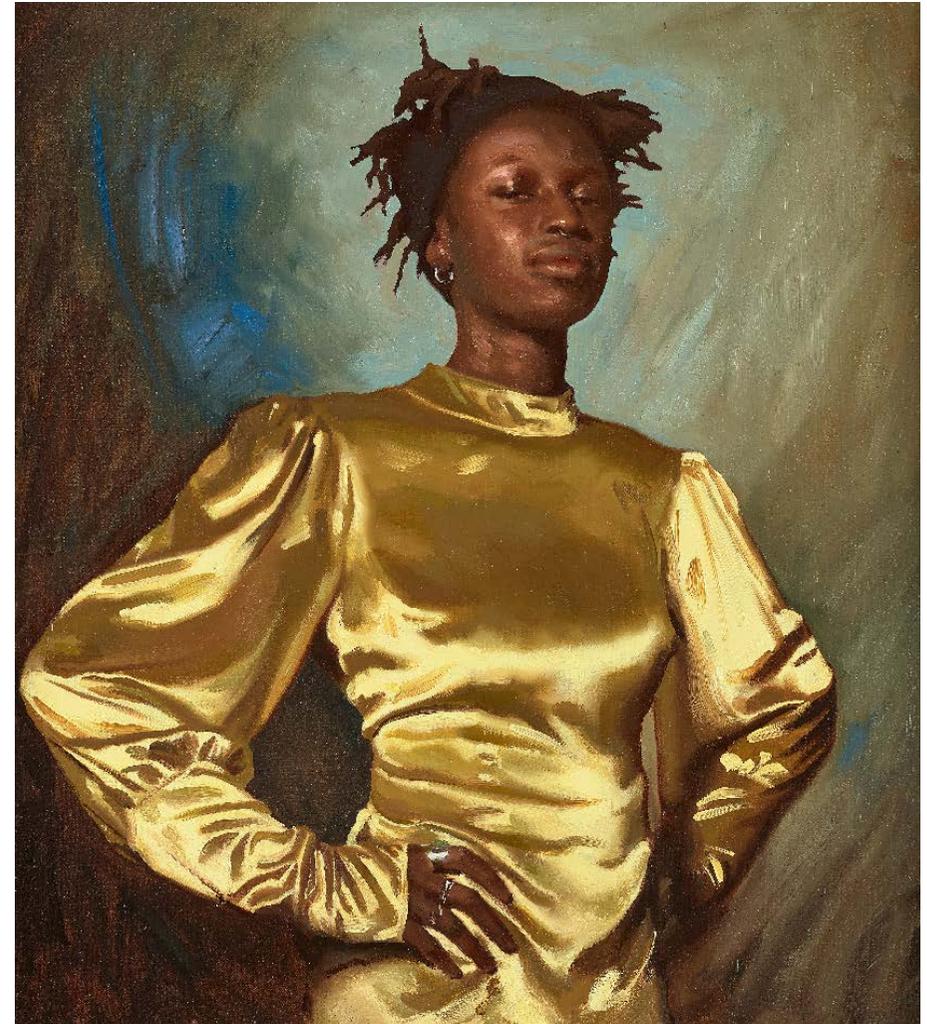
ASN LEARNERS | TEACHER'S NOTES

BP PORTRAIT AWARD 2020



You can access this resource via Google Classroom using this code: n3umpgg

The BP Portrait Award is one of the most prestigious portrait painting competitions in the world and Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums is delighted to host the exhibition this year. The exhibition displays portrait paintings by professionals and amateurs from around the world. The artists' names and even the titles of their paintings were kept secret from the selection panel ensuring that all entries were judged on artistic merit alone. The quality and diversity of the 2020 finalists represent the very best in contemporary portrait painting. The 48 finalists in the 2020 exhibition were selected from a staggering 1,981 entries by artists from 69 countries around the world.



Portrait of Fatima by Jamie Coreth

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The exhibition will be on show at Aberdeen Art Gallery from 10th October 2020 until 23rd January 2021. Although we are not accepting school bookings at the present time you can access all the artworks via this virtual tour:

<https://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/bp-portrait-award-2020/tour/virtual-exhibition>

You can see all the finalist portraits at the same time by using this link:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM/whats-aberdeen-art-galleries-and-museums/bp-portrait-award-2020/bp-portrait-award-2020-visitors-choice>

Click on the portrait you like to learn more about the artist.



What is a Portrait?

A portrait is an artistic representation or likeness of a person which can take many forms including painting, sculpture, drawing, photograph, or print. A self-portrait is a portrait of the artist by the artist. The subject of a portrait is usually called a sitter because traditionally people would sit in front of the artist to have their portrait painted.

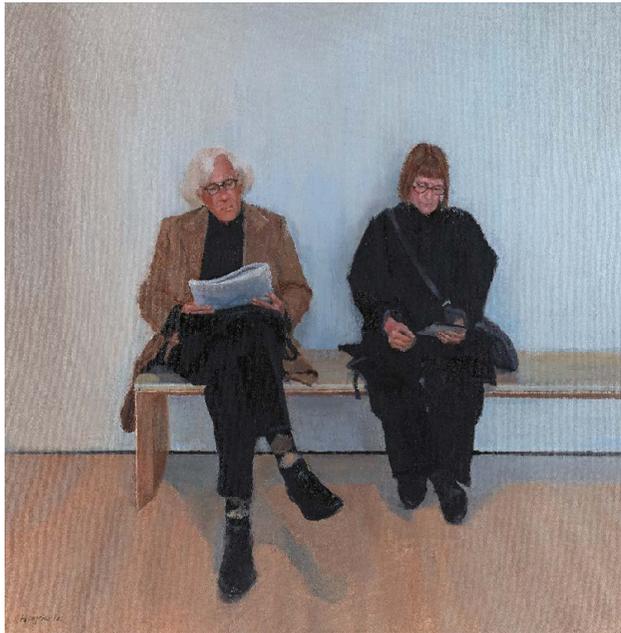
Representation

Historically museums and galleries have reinforced inequalities in society and maintained a tradition of exclusivity, in their displays and collections. Cultures have been objectified and some artworks have been unjustly acquired. Many institutions are now working to overcome this past. They are displaying art created by and featuring people who have previously been ignored. They are beginning to repatriate, re-interpret and re-contextualize their collections.

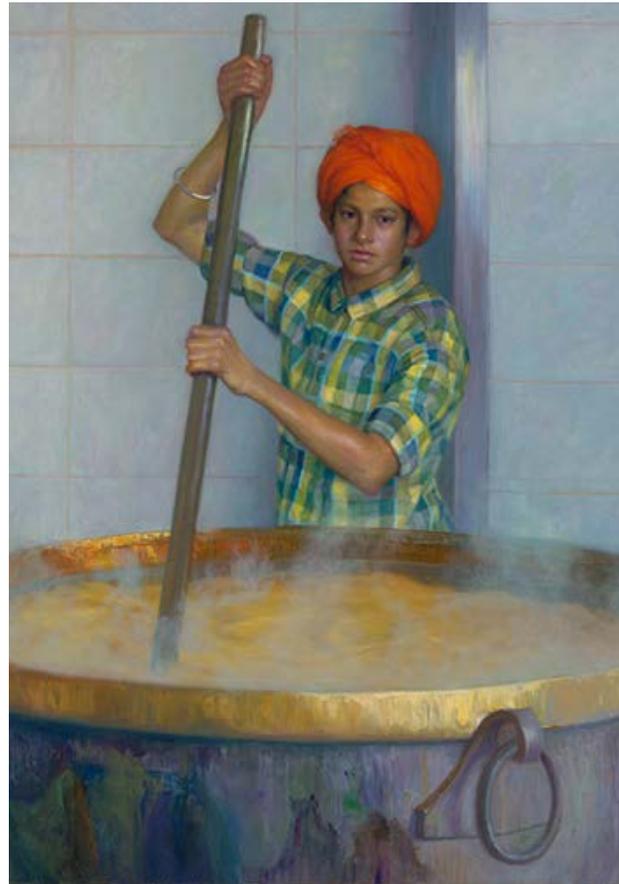
The artist gives a voice to the figures in the portraits. In the past some of these people would have been invisible simply because of their gender, race, age, or identity. The audience is now getting the chance to meet and celebrate them, and every one of them has their own story. We learn something about the artist and the sitter from the description alongside each painting, but we can imagine more of their story.

INTRODUCTION

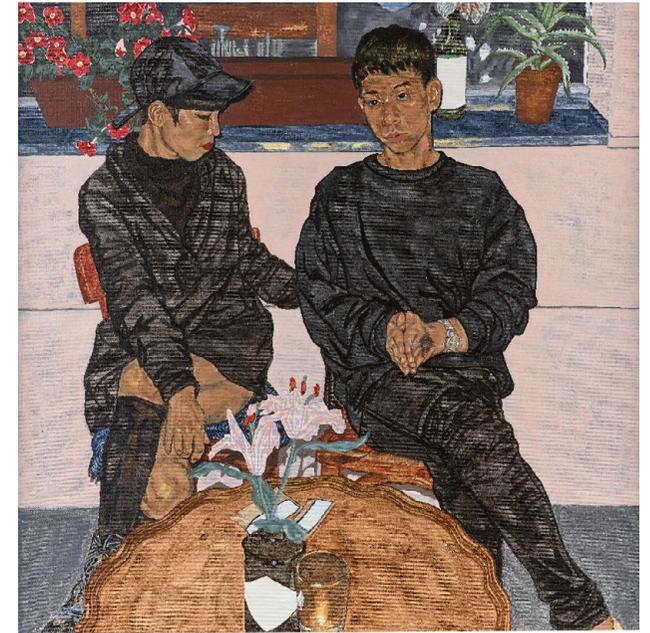
Most of the portraits in the exhibition feature one sitter, but there are a few paintings that have more than one. Often the sitters are painted within their own worlds, like a café, a waiting room, or a studio. Some people are sitting quietly like in *Relationship* by Hongshu Lei, or are busy at work such as in *A Lever Long Enough* by Manu Saluja. In *Night Talk* by Jiab Prachakul, the portrait that won first prize, the sitters create a balance to the composition.



Relationship by Hongshu Lei



A Lever Long Enough by Manu Saluja



Night Talk by Jiab Prachakul

DISCUSSION

Choose a portrait from the exhibition that you really like or catches your eye.

What is the sitter wearing?

Does their clothing give you any clues about their personality?



COSTUME COLLAGE CHALLENGE

Clothes are important in portraiture as the choice of clothing tells us something about the sitter. Sometimes clothing is plain and subdued, other times it is bright and colourful. If you were the sitter, what clothes or outfit would you choose to wear in a portrait?

Activity:

Draw or collage a portrait of yourself or someone else wearing an outfit

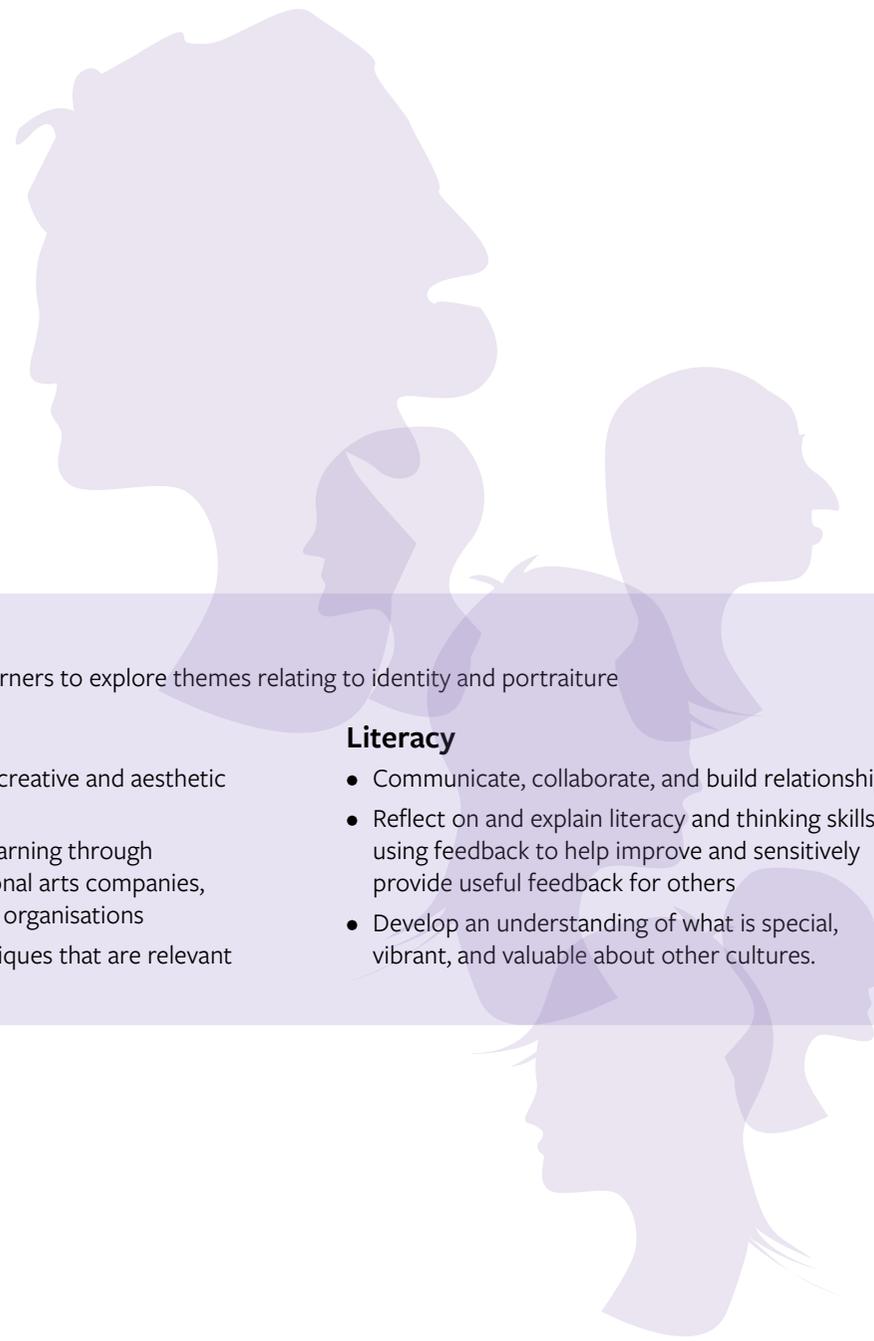
- You can trace a person from a magazine or, if you want to work big, lie down on a large sheet of paper and ask someone to loosely draw round you, then draw in the clothes onto the life-size body shape. Lining paper or wallpaper works well for this.
- Your outfit can be real or imaginary. Remember that shoes, socks, hats, bags and accessories can all be part of the outfit
- Use pens, pencils, or magazine cut outs to create your outfit
- Pay attention to colour, shape and pattern like in *Heavy(weight)*, *Portrait of Benjamin Gasinga Gaspard - Rwanda* by Papay Solomon.
- Experiment and be as imaginative as you want!

You may want to create a portrait made entirely of collaged shapes and colours. Here is a great video from Tate Kids to show you how

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivekOXuRxZE>



Heavy(weight), *Portrait of Benjamin Gasinga Gaspard - Rwanda* by Papay Solomon



Curriculum Links:

This resource will support learners to explore themes relating to identity and portraiture

Expressive Arts

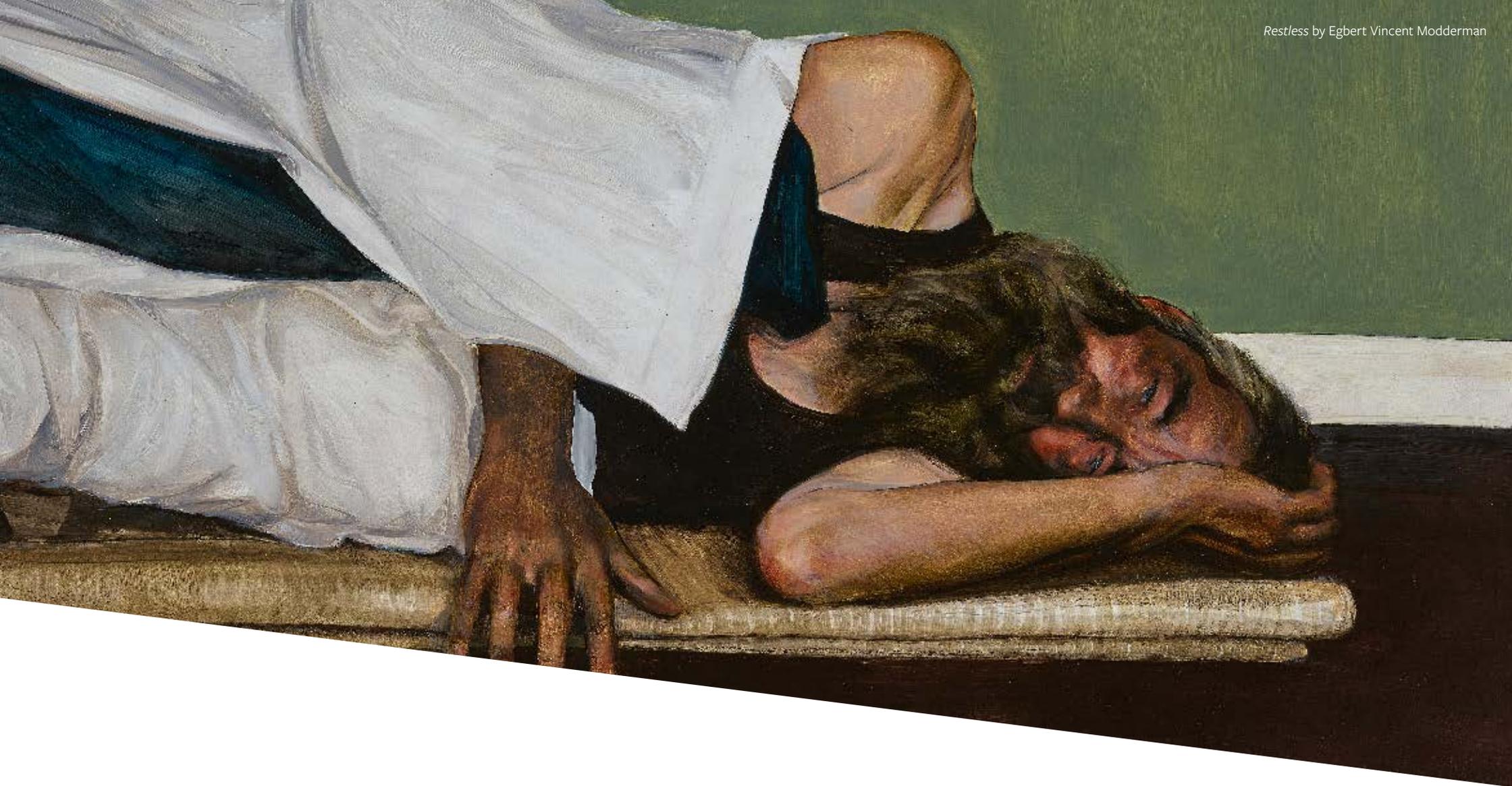
- Recognising and nurturing creative and aesthetic talents
- Enhancing and enriching learning through partnerships with professional arts companies, creative adults and cultural organisations
- Developing skills and techniques that are relevant to specific art forms.

Literacy

- Communicate, collaborate, and build relationship
- Reflect on and explain literacy and thinking skills, using feedback to help improve and sensitively provide useful feedback for others
- Develop an understanding of what is special, vibrant, and valuable about other cultures.

Social Studies

- Develop an understanding of other people's values, beliefs and cultures
- Establish firm foundations for lifelong learning and for further specialised study and careers.



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