



# BP PORTRAIT AWARD 2020



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PRIMARY RESOURCE | TEACHER'S NOTES

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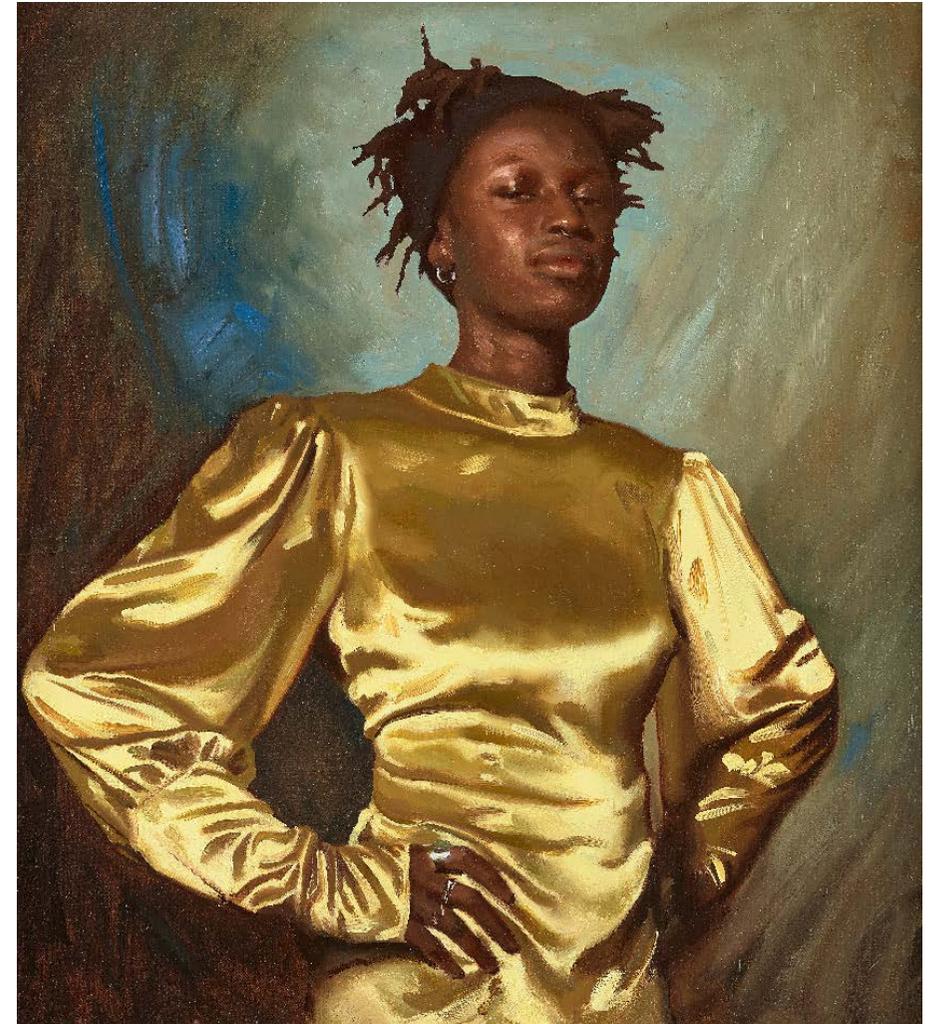


You can access this resource via Google Classroom using this code: **n3umpgg**

Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums is delighted to host the BP Portrait Award 2020. Over the course of its 41-year history the award has gone from strength to strength attracting an outstanding calibre of amateur and professional artists whose work continues to show what a vital and relevant force portraiture still is today.

Acknowledged as the most prestigious portrait painting competition in the world, it comes as no surprise that the 48 finalists in the 2020 exhibition were selected from 1,981 entries by artists from 69 countries around the world.

As with every year, 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 2020 finalists represent the very best in contemporary portrait painting, the quality and diversity of their work making it difficult to pick a favourite.



*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.

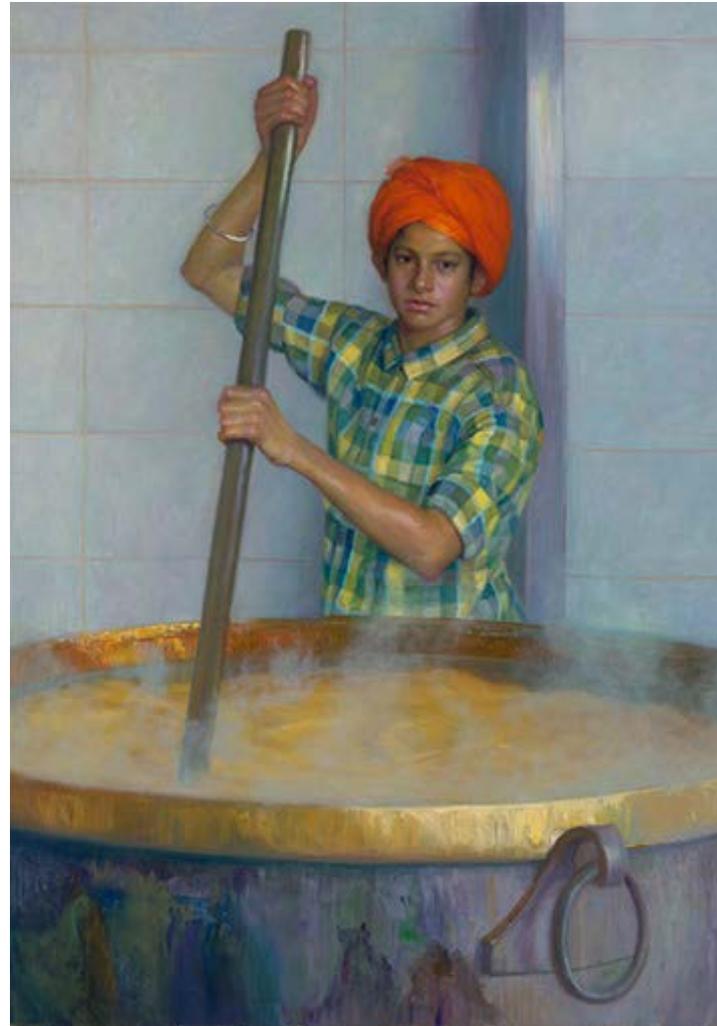
The artist gives a voice to the figures in the portraits. In the past some of these people would have been invisible simply because of their gender, race, age, or identity. The audience is now getting the chance to meet and celebrate them, and every one of them has their own story. We learn something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

# ACTIVITY

## Study the painting:

Study the painting, *A Lever Long Enough* by Manu Saluja. Think about the boy in the painting and the work he is doing, helping prepare a huge pot of food in the Temple of Amristar in India.

What do you think he is feeling, what is he thinking about? Move beyond the moment the artist has captured to imagine what the boy will be doing later that day and what his dreams for the future might be. When you have a clear storyline worked out, write a short story about the boy.



*A Lever Long Enough* by Manu Saluja

# ACTIVITY

## Portrait Poses:

As you look at the 48 paintings that make up the exhibition you will notice how different they all are. This is not simply due to the variety in the age or physical appearance of the sitters but also because they are all positioned differently.

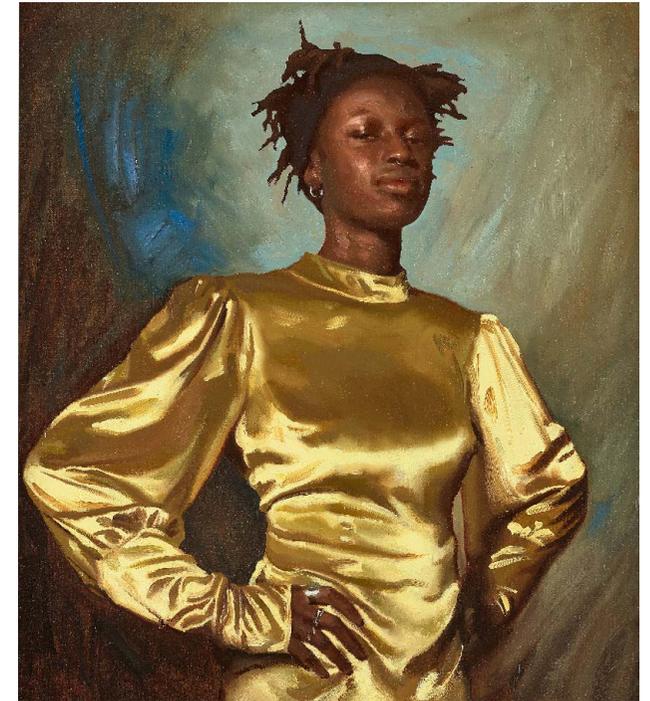


*Restless* by Egbert Vincent Modderman

Egbert Modderman, the winner of the Young Artist Award, has his sitter lying down, appearing frail in the artwork *Restless*. In *Labour of Love* by Michael Youds, the sitter is standing holding a guitar, sharing with the audience how much music means to him. The *Portrait of Fatima* has a young woman standing with her hands on her hips exuding confidence as she looks directly at us.



*Labour Of Love* by Michael Youds



*Portrait of Fatima* by Jamie Coreth

A strong portrait will reveal something about the essence of the person. It may not be completely obvious, sometimes it can be implied through a certain gesture or pose. What is the sitter doing? Are they sitting still, or standing? Are they pointing at something? The careful placement of an arm or leg can transform the sitter into appearing confident, thoughtful, shy, or even aggressive.

# ACTIVITY



## Strike a Pose:

This fun exercise combines the physical action of creating poses and sketching. Ask your learners to pose in five different seated positions. This can be done using a chair or on the floor. They should make a quick sketch of each pose and number them one to five. Next, they repeat this process but use standing poses.

When they have finished their ten poses and sketches get the learners to swap their drawings with a partner. Each person will then try to recreate the poses from their partners drawings.

## Extension Activity:

Young learners may find creating a portrait to be a challenging task. This article may inspire and educate them as it is about an 11-year-old girl and the processes she goes through to produce a self-portrait.

<https://www.accessart.org.uk/self-portrait-in-acrylic/>

## Curriculum Links:

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

### Expressive Arts

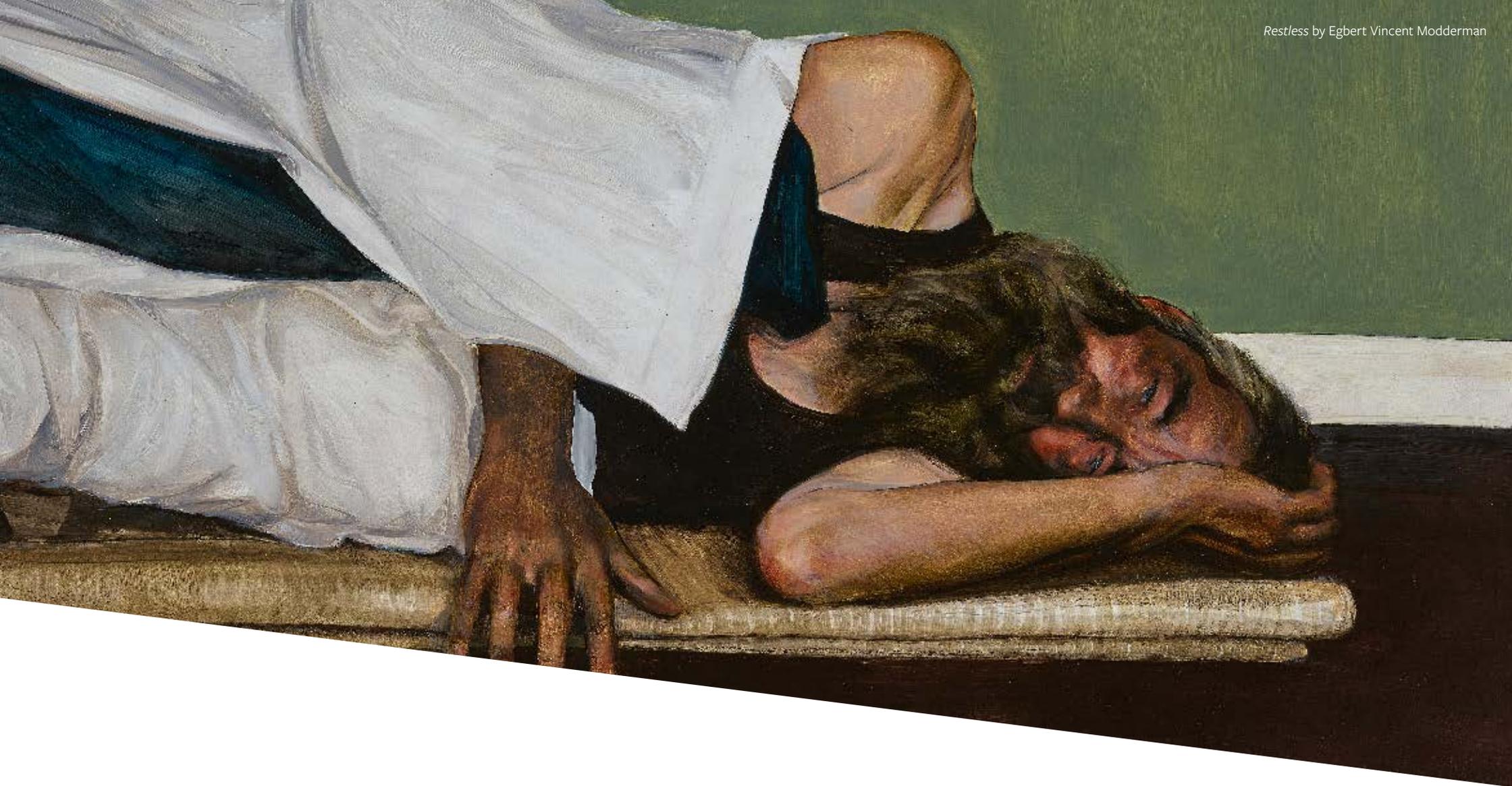
- Recognising and nurturing creative and aesthetic talents
- Enhancing and enriching learning through partnerships with professional arts companies, creative adults and cultural organisations
- Developing skills and techniques that are relevant to specific art forms.

### 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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