



Teacher Resource

# Centenarian Art

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is the Centenarian Portrait Project?
2. What did Misha learn about Cecil's life?
3. Why did Misha use the photo taken after the radio interview to base her portrait on?
4. What elements of the portrait reflect Cecil's life?
5. What do you think makes a portrait interesting?

## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the Centenarian Art story as a class using the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is a portrait?
- Why do we create portraits?
- What can portraits tell us about a person?
- What makes a portrait interesting?
- What words would you use to describe the Centenarian Portrait Project? What do you think is the message of the project?



Ask students if they can think of any famous portraits. (Mona Lisa, Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Marilyn Monroe).

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Centenarian Art story. Here are some words to get them started.

|             |          |             |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| CENTENARIAN | PORTRAIT | COMPOSITION |
| BACKGROUND  | POSE     | EXPRESSION  |

### EPISODE 19

19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate artworks in the Centenarian Portrait Project. They will create a portrait of a person who is special to them.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Visual Arts – Years 3 & 4

Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times, including artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to use as inspiration for their own representations.

Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks.

##### Visual Arts – Years 5 & 6

Explore ideas and practices used by artists, including practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent different views, beliefs and opinions.

Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks.

Plan the display of artworks to enhance their meaning for an audience.

## Activity: Responding to Artwork

Students will select one of the portraits below or choose another from the [Centenarian Portrait Project](#). They will analyse and reflect on the portrait and then respond to the questions below.

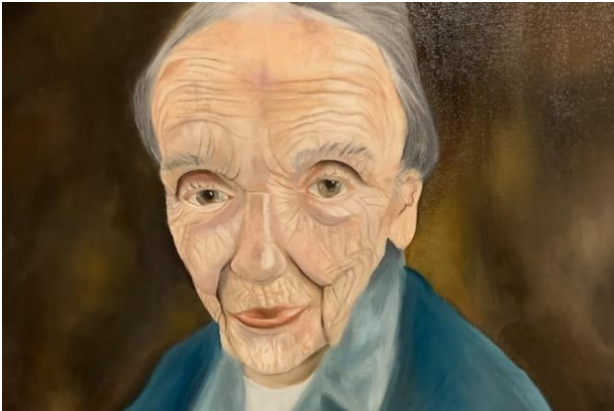
- What is your first impression of the portrait? What is the first thing you notice?
- What does the facial expression tell us about the person?
- What would you ask the person in the portrait?
- How would you describe the portrait to someone who hasn't seen it?
- What do you think the artist is trying to communicate about their subject?
- How does the portrait make you feel? What do you like about it?



[Vallerie by Neve](#)



[Catherina by Olympia](#)



[Velta by Tilda](#)



[Barbara by Skylah](#)

## Activity: Create a portrait

Students will create a portrait of a person who is special to them; it could be a grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, uncle or other family member. Use the following as a guide.

- Choose someone who is known to you and who knows you and plays a significant role in your life.
- Write 2-3 sentences explaining who the person is and why you chose them.
- What technique/s will you use to create your portrait? Think about colours to reflect mood or feelings.
- Organise a live sitting with your subject, where you and your subject are together, and you are working on their portrait. Complete your portrait using photographs of your subject as a reference. Give your portrait a title. Write 2-3 sentences about your portrait.

## Class Exhibition

Curate a class exhibition of your students' portraits and choose a title for the exhibition. Invite students from other classes at your school to attend your exhibition. Consider holding your exhibition at your local library or local council.

## Activity: Choose a project

Students choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their work to a partner, small group or the class.

### Australian Portrait Artist

Investigate the life and work of a famous Australian portrait artist. [The National Portrait Gallery](#) is a good place to start your research.

### Archibald Prize

Find out more about the Archibald Prize. Investigate the 100+ year history of the Archibald Prize and present your findings in an interesting way.

### Self Portrait

Create a self-portrait which represents you. Think about what style you will use to create your self-portrait and what colours reflect your mood or feelings. Write an artist's statement to go with it.

### Explore a Famous Portrait

Choose a well-known portrait or self-portrait. Record as much as you can about the artwork in 15 minutes. Create your own portrait inspired by the artist's style and technique.

## Useful Websites

- [South Australian teenagers celebrate centenarians through portrait project](#) – ABC News
- [The Centenarian Portrait Project by Teenagers](#) – Embraced
- [Young Archie 2021](#) - BTN
- [History of Portraits](#) - BTN