

JULIAN OPIE STUDIO FOR KIDS

ARTWORK LABELS

© COPYRIGHT

This document remains the property of the National Gallery of Victoria and must be returned upon request.
Reproduction in part or in whole is prohibited without written authorisation.

JULIAN OPIE: STUDIO FOR KIDS

Julian Opie is one of Britain's leading contemporary artists and has been making portraits since the 1990s. Inspired by the world around him, Julian uses a bold style to record the people he sees, often reducing faces into simple shapes. Circles become symbols for eyes and heads, and oblong shapes replace shoulders and hair, showing how humans can recognise faces even in their simplest form.

In his London studio, Julian is surrounded by his collection of art from the past, which influences his approach to making portraits. His collection includes Japanese prints, portraits of British nobles and aristocrats from the eighteenth century, and even portraits of Egyptian mummies. Instead of using traditional art materials such as marble or oil paint, Julian prefers working with industrial products often found in cities and towns. He has created pictures of people using the same LED lighting that we see when we stop at traffic lights; lenticular prints, which give postcards the illusion that they change or move; as well as artificial resin and 3D scanning technology.

In this studio, Julian invites you to create a portrait in a new way. You can try constructing a head using felt shapes or create a digital self-portrait using only line and colour. Let's get started!

Ali.

2012

synthetic polymer paint on resin

Loti & Victor
Smorgon Fund, 2012

2012.316

This bust is of a man named Ali. A 'bust' is usually a sculpture of a person's head, neck and shoulders. Instead of making the bust in the traditional way, using wood, metal or stone, Julian used technologies we have all around us now and created *Ali* from an artificial material called resin, which he printed from a 3D scanner.

Look closely at *Ali*. Can you see how Julian has used colour to make it look like there are shadows on his face? Julian studied how European painters from the 1800s and Japanese manga artists used shadows to make their pictures look realistic. Julian says, 'I don't invent or imagine things, just notice and record them'.

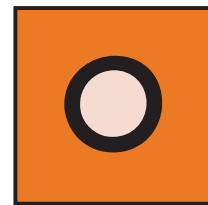
Look at the many different colours Julian has used to create shadows across Ali's face.

HEADS

With basic shapes for features, like circles for heads, Julian's abstract portraits show how a few elements can come together to make a picture of a person. Julian says that even though he has drawn hundreds of faces, he still looks at people on the train and wants to draw their faces using the systems he has developed. You can see portraits like these created by Julian in his *Beach heads* and *Town heads* series inside the *Julian Opie* exhibition on Ground Level.

Let's get started.

1. Choose a circle for the head.



2. Next, add a hairstyle.



3. Add shoulders and accessories to complete your portrait.



4. Take a photo of your felt portrait and share it using the hashtag #NGVKids



This activity contains small parts and is not suitable for children aged three years and under.

Please supervise children in your care at all times.

Imogen smiling.

2015

lenticular inkjet print on transparent synthetic polymer resin

ed. 19/30

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2016

2016.214

Do you feel like someone is watching you? Look at how these two portraits change when you walk back and forth in front of them. See how Elena rolls her eyes and Imogen's smile grows bigger? With the changing facial expressions, Julian shows how movement can reveal someone's personality and connect you with the person in the picture as though you have just met them. Julian made these portraits using a technique called lenticular printing, which is sometimes used for spooky pictures where the eyes seem to move, or for 3D postcards you might find in tourist shops.

Does it feel like magic? Julian says magic is an important part of art and allows the picture to break away from normal life.

Elena rolling her eyes.

2015

lenticular inkjet print on transparent synthetic polymer resin

ed. 19/30

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2016

2016.215

Maria in the garden.

2009

acrylic lenticular in aluminium frame

ed. 1/4

Look at this work of art and watch as birds fly overhead, and Maria's dress blows lightly in the breeze. In her hand she holds some flowers as she looks out into the distance.

What things can we learn about Maria by looking at her clothing and the home in the background behind her?

Julian says that every work of art has a story. What do you think happens next in this story?

Waheed in Lord's robes.

2009

inkjet on canvas with aluminium frame

This is a portrait of Waheed Alli, a successful media businessman and politician in the United Kingdom. In this portrait, Waheed is wearing his 'Lord's robes', a coat made of scarlet wool and white fur. Since medieval times, these long robes have been worn by important people to celebrate big events, like the coronation of a new king or queen.

This picture may remind you of historical paintings on display here at the NGV, but instead of making Waheed pose for hours in his studio, Julian used a computer to make this picture.

Would you dress up for your portrait? What would you wear?

JULIAN OPIE + ME

When Julian began drawing portraits, he used to look at himself in the mirror, close one eye and carefully trace his reflection using a felt-tip pen. Julian noticed that the traced lines on the mirror created a portrait that felt more real than the usual way of drawing. Julian also became interested in public signs and symbols depicting people, such as the male and female figures on toilet doors. He liked the idea that he could use these basic elements to create a portrait of an individual person.

Now it's your turn to trace a portrait of yourself or a friend using line and colour.

Your child is your focus.

The Gallery is a public space. Please supervise children in your care at all times.

NGV Kids

NGV Kids exhibitions and events reflect the National Gallery of Victoria's commitment to providing creative experiences especially for children, teenagers and families.

Through collaborating with contemporary artists and designers, the NGV connects children with art and cultures from all over the world, enabling them to experience the diverse and creative ways artists approach their work and to have access to new worlds and ideas.

LEAD GIFT

THE TRUBY AND FLORENCE
WILLIAMS CHARITABLE TRUST
MANAGED BY EQUITY TRUSTEES



SUPPORTED BY



PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
NGV KIDS AND NGV LEARN



NGV Family Membership

Family Members experience the best of the NGV, with:

- A free NGV Kids book and complimentary subscription to *NGV Magazine*
- Access to the Members Lounge, a place to relax and take a break
- Members events for children and families
- NGV dining, retail and event discounts
- Plus many more benefits

Speak with our team to join today.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

分享您的体验



**TAG #NGVKIDS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
BE FEATURED ON @NGVMELBOURNE**