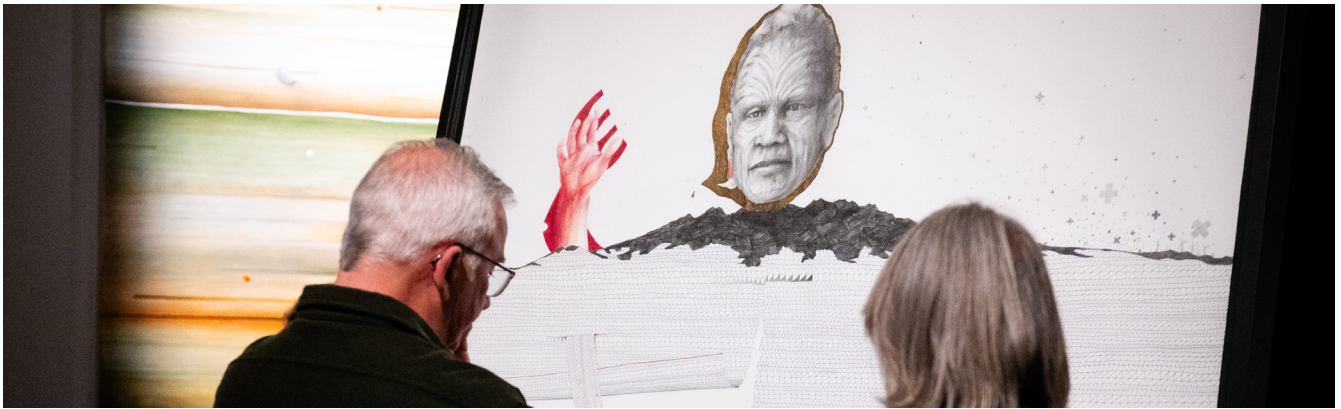


Strange Friends

TEACHER RESOURCE



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition explores the painted figure. There are ten artists' works on display showing a variety of painting mediums and materials. Each artist has captured their own cast of characters and the environments they inhabit.

Every day we come across the familiar faces of strangers, it could be the people you walk by on the street or catch the bus with everyday! This sense of unknowing recognition is one of the reasons we are so drawn to paintings of people. This is not an exhibition of formal portraits but a diverse celebration of ourselves reflected back at us in extraordinary ways. Leaving us wondering are we the strange friends? Or are they?

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ALAN IBELL paints characters as if they're on a stage, exploring the depths of human emotions such as loneliness, existential life questions and his work shown is influenced by greek and roman tragedies like orpheus and eurydice

ANDREW MCLEOD's work is informed by art history and a deep understanding of visual language which he applies to have a commentary on modern issues.

HANNAH IRELAND's work offers multiple views of the self and this is expressed through the way she uses her medium and the fluidity of the paint and how it flows and bleeds.

JAMES ORMSBY is of Tangata Whenua and Scottish descent, his work tells stories of his whakapapa and uses symbols and motifs that show these personal histories and narratives.

JOHN WARD KNOX practice includes sculpture and painting on silk screens. He layers his silk painting on top of each other and the transparent material lets both images exist together in an eerily beautiful way.

KATE SMALL's work blurs the line between domestic and public spaces and the erasing and building up of people and places through layers of paint.

LORENE TAUREREWA's watercolors have characters who have repeat visits throughout her paintings that make them feel like family members in a photo album or characters from a novel.

NEPHI TUPAEA's artwork in this show tells purakau about her whakapapa through translating kowhaiwhai patterns onto land and body.

SAM MITCHELL explores identity and the impact pop culture has on our individual psyche. She paints on perspex to reinforce this idea of the outer character and their inner life.

URSULA BRADLEY's paintings at first look think they are telling an everyday story, they are largely domestic scenes. However look closer and things seem not quite right, there is an element of escapism making the scene feel otherworldly.



ART TERMS

Figurative- any form of art that shows a strong likeness to the real world and particularly to the human

Abstract- art that does not look like real life but instead uses shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect.

Surrealism- an art movement where imagery is based in fantasy and the world of dreams.

Realism- art that depicts accurate and detailed imagery from life.

Surface- the base of an artwork e.g. wood, silk, canvas, paper etc

Portraiture- artistic representations of people.

Layers- letting one application of medium dry before adding another.

Symbolism- the representation of ideas through a mark or motif.

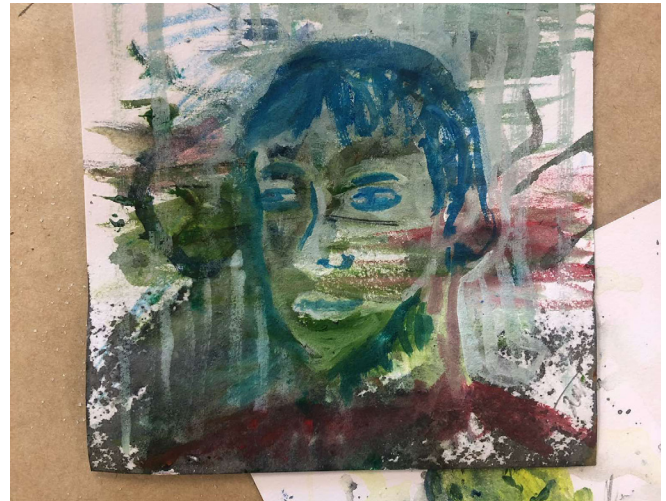
Setting- the place where something is, or something happens.

Found objects- an object that already is made that an artist repurposes into their own artwork.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

EXPLORE the question: Does a portrait have to have a human face in it?

THINK about how shapes and symbols could represent you.



STUDENT ARTWORK, WATERCOLOUR, 2023.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

EXPERIMENT with a range of paint techniques - resistance painting, masking tape painting.

EXPERIMENT with painting on a range of surfaces- wood, perspex, a round ball.

DRAW symbols like James Ormsby to tell story about yourself

CREATE environments like Kate Small. Paint a space that is meaningful to you i.e. your bedroom. Or combine two spaces together.

PAINT a class wall of family characters.

PLAY with how to display your art- can you come up with an interesting way to hang or show your art? Install your own exhibition!

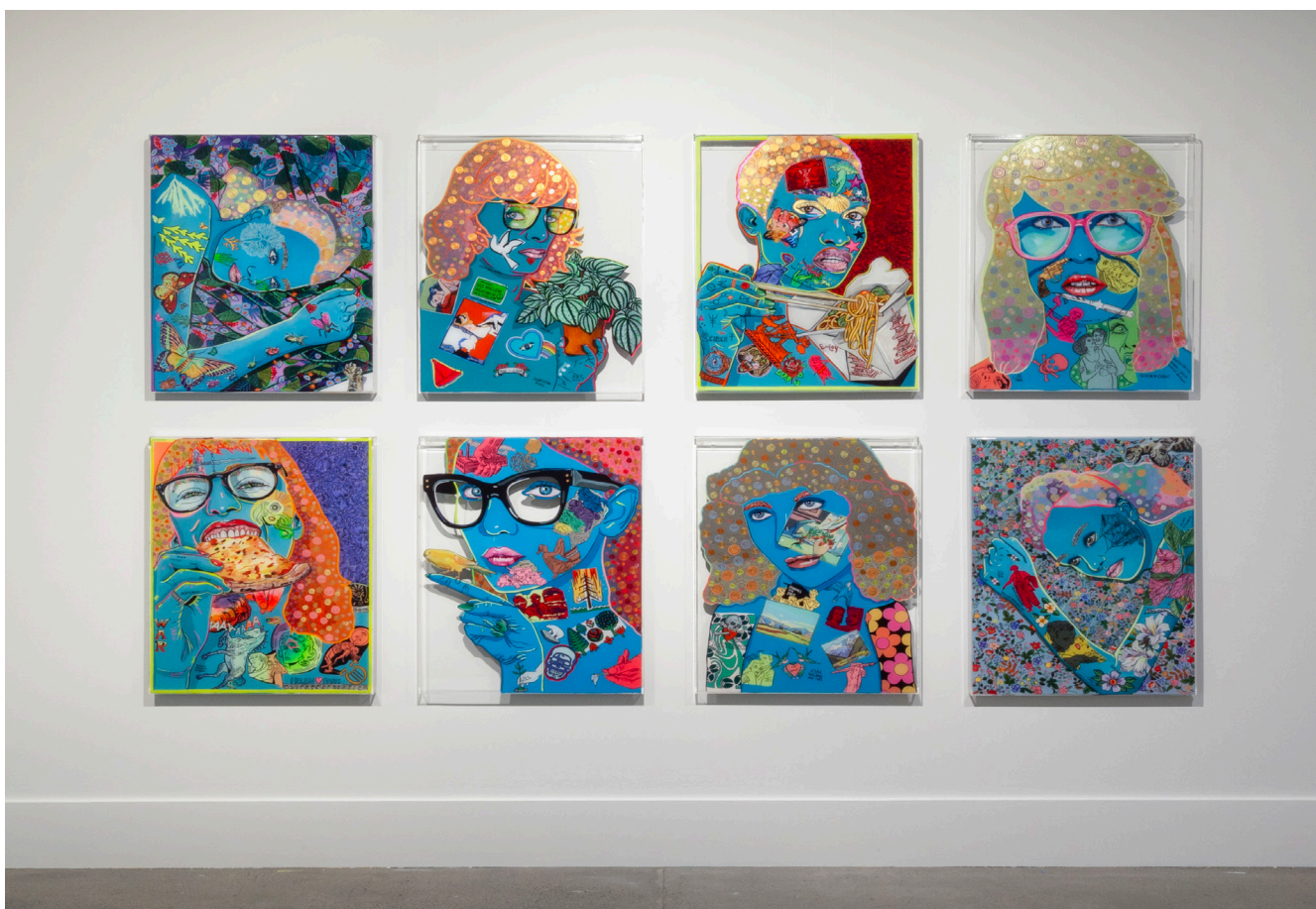
FURTHER READING:

- <https://www.thepost.co.nz/culture/350080075/artists-capture-own-cast-characters>

JAMES ORMSBY, A (TE A) LD #26, 2018. GRAPHITE, POLYCHROMOS PENCIL, SILVER, GOLD ON PAPER. PRIVATE COLLCECTION.

NEPHI TUPAEA, GOLDEN QUEEN, 2023. ACRYLIC ON CANVAS. PRIVATE COLLECTION.

SAM MITCHEL,, 2021-2023. ACRYLIC ON PERSPEX. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.



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