MOSTYN

Richard Wathen
New Eyes Every Time
14th November 2020 - 18th April 2021

Notes for teachers and parents

How to use this pack

This pack has been produced with children aged 7+ in mind, though there is no age limit.

Please note some of the images contain moderate nudity.

All the tasks can be done from home, requiring access to the internet and some common household items.

It is helpful to follow the tasks in order.

This pack consists of the following :

Artist biography: information about the artist and his work, including glossary and key terms.

Images of Wathen's paintings.

Activity 1: Portraiture. Some tips and tricks on how to draw the features of the face, to create a portrait of yourself or of somebody else, real or imaginary.

Activity 2: What is symbolism? Look at examples of symbolism in the artist's work, and add your own symbolic item to your portrait.

Activity 3: Exquisite character. A game you can play by yourself or with somebody else in your home. Create an Exquisite Character collage using images from magazines / newspapers and coloured papers.

If you wish to get in touch, or would like to share images of your work with MOSTYN, please email engagement@mostyn.org

Richard Wathen was born in 1971 in London. He studied at the Winchester School of Art and the Chelsea School of Art. He has had a number of exhibitions showing his artworks in London, Los Angeles, New York, Paris and Berlin.

Wathen mainly paints portraits, showing people deep in thought, listening at walls, pretending to be asleep or moon bathing. He creates a sense of emotion using small details, distortions and symbolic motifs.

Take a look at Richard Wathen's work, using the links below.

https://www.mostyn.org/exhibition/richard-wathen-new-eyes-every-time

http://www.richardwathen.com/seriesone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82qof35nJPs

Glossary

Portrait: a painting, drawing, or photograph of a person, especially one showing the face or head and shoulders.
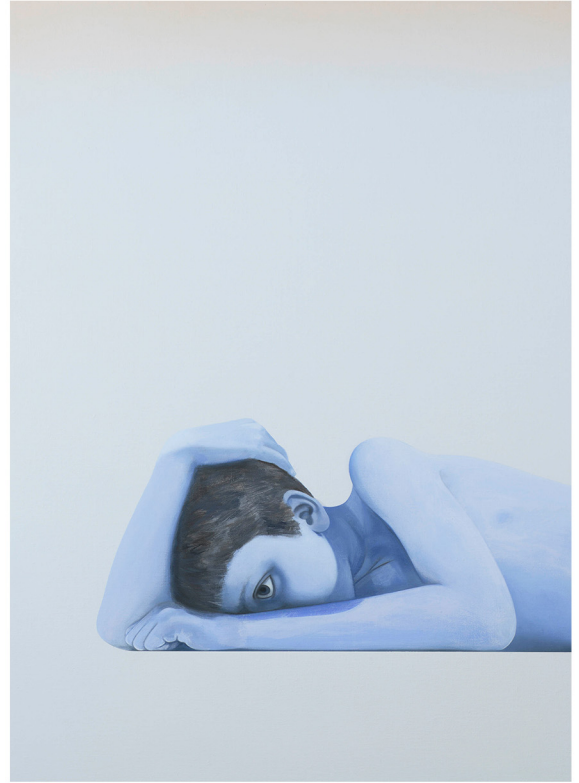
Symbolism: the practice of using an object, image, shape, sign or word to express an idea.

Distort: to pull or twist out of shape; to change the original shape of an image or an object.
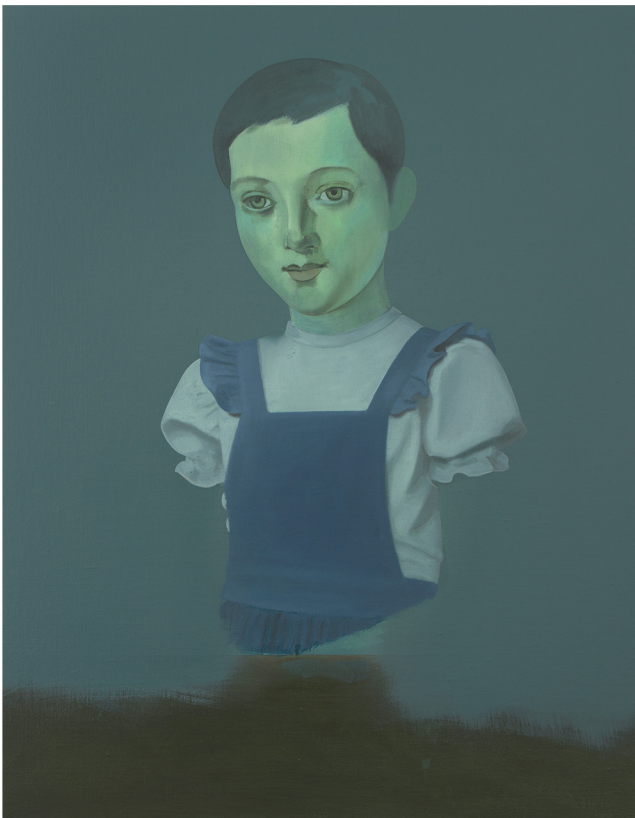
Motif: a decorative image, design or visual idea which appears many times in an artistic work.

Richard Wathen
Futures and Pasts, 2019.
Oil on linen over aluminium panel.
Courtesy the artist.

Richard Wathen
Sleeping after P.G., 2019.
Oil on linen over aluminium panel.
Courtesy the artist.

Richard Wathen
Floating in Still Water, 2019.
Oil on linen over aluminium panel.
Courtesy the artist.

Richard Wathen
Gerda, 2010.
Oil on linen.
Courtesy the artist.

Creating a Portrait

Richard Wathen paints **portraits**. A portrait can tell us a lot about a person.

Take a few minutes to look carefully at his paintings on the previous page.

What do you think these people are thinking about? Who do you think they are, and what do they do? Are they real or imaginary? What details stand out to you?
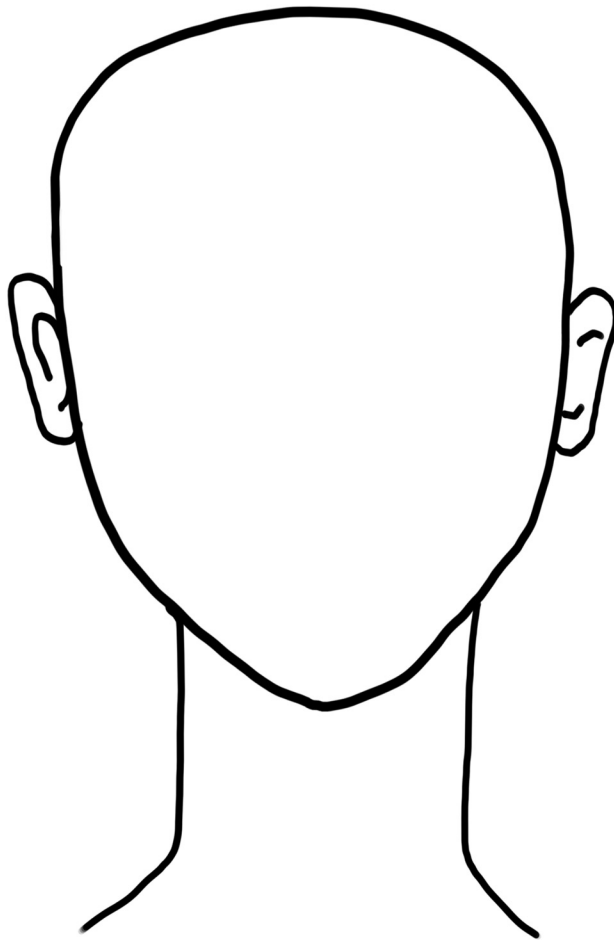
For this activity you will need a sheet of paper and a pencil.

Draw your own portrait, starting with the **eyes** (see our guide on the next page). You can use the template above to help you, if you like.

If you want to draw a self-portrait, you will need a mirror. If not, you can ask your grown-up to be your model, or just use your imagination!
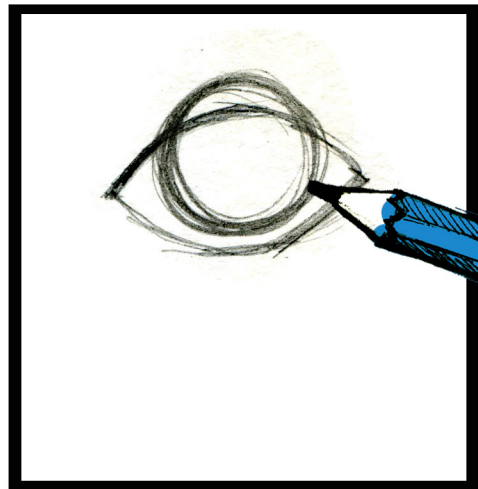
Start by sketching lightly and add more detail as you go. Think about the person you are drawing. What do you want to show about them?
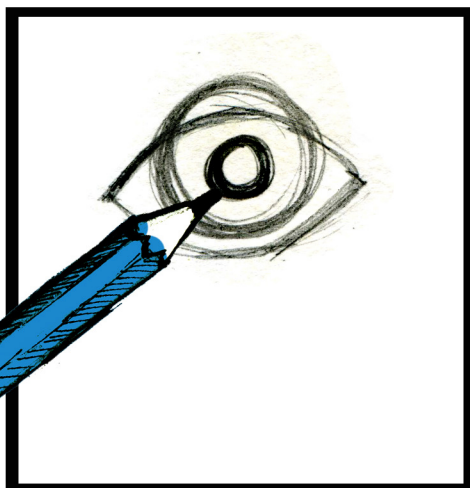
Drawing Eyes

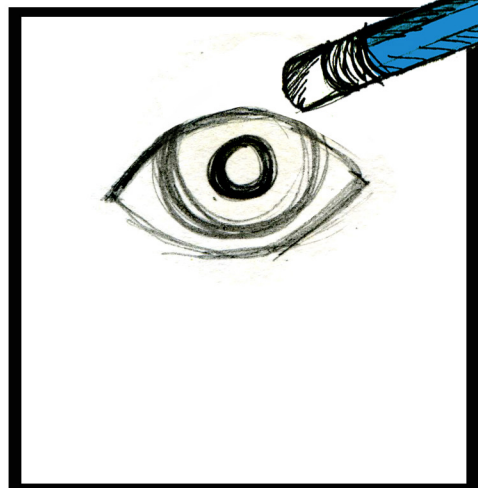Follow the step-by-step guide to draw a realistic eye.
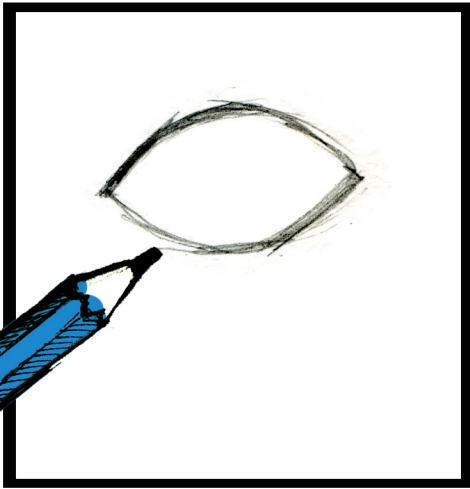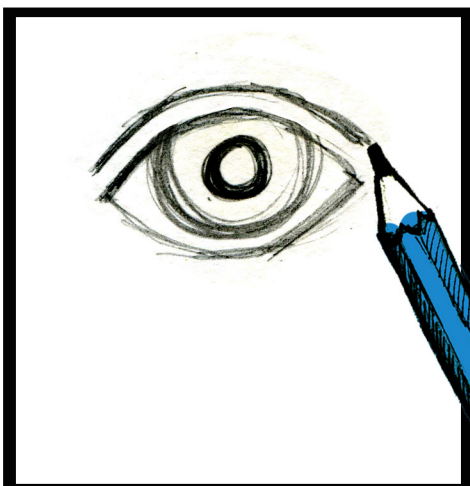
1. Draw an almond shape

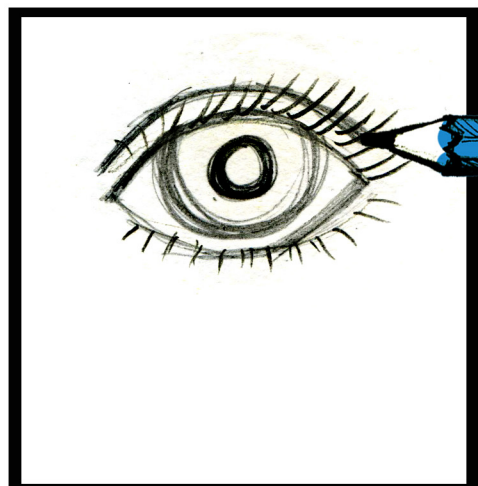2. Add a circle. Look at where the top of the circle goes

3. Add a smaller circle in the middle

4. Rub out the top of the big circle

5. Add a curved line above the eye
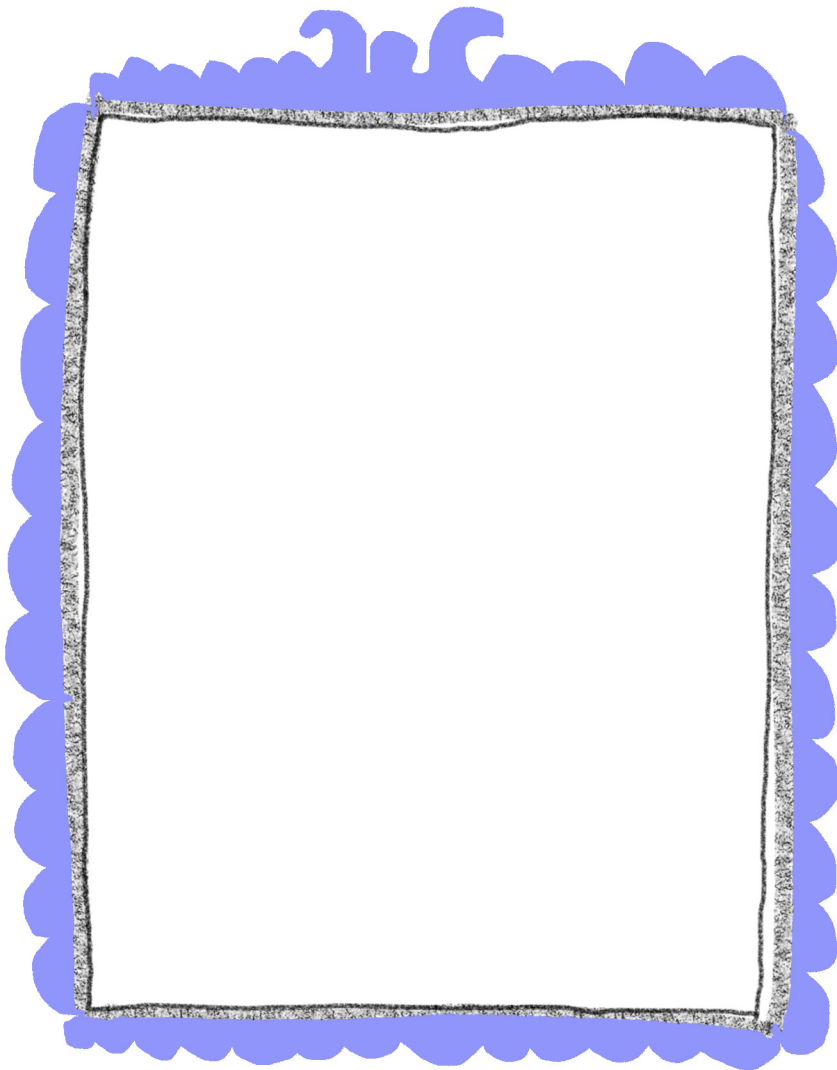
6. Add some eyelashes

Symbolism

Take another look at Wathen's work, in this pack and on his website.

Wathen often adds animals, objects or clothes to his portraits.

Why do you think he has added these things to his paintings?

In the frame below, write or draw all the different things - the **symbols** or **motifs** - you can spot in Wathen's paintings.

Now go back to your own portrait you drew earlier on.

Add something that's special to you like a pet, a favourite object, toy, book or your favourite clothes. Why is this special to you?

How does your portrait look now?

Exquisite Character game

This is a game you can play with another person at home or by yourself.

For this activity you will need:

Glue
Safety scissors
A few sheets of plain paper
Any old **newspapers, magazines** or **colourful papers (ask your grown up).**

Look through the magazines and collect **lots** of pictures of

- body parts e.g. faces, hands, feet
- objects e.g. hairbrushes, jewellery, cars, flowers, trees, doors, windows...
- animals e.g. cats, dogs, fish, lions, elephants...
- any shapes, colours or patterns you like.
- anything else that catches your eye!

Cut or rip the pictures and put them into a box or an empty bag, and swirl them around so they are all mixed up.

How to play

1. Take a picture from your box/bag at random. No peeking!

2. Look at the picture and glue it down on the piece of plain paper.

Tip: the aim of the game is to make the body of a character. If you choose a picture of a foot, you can stick it down where the feet should go. But if you choose a picture of a banana, you can choose to use this banana as a mouth or an arm, or even the other foot! Be creative and use your imagination!

3. Keep choosing pictures and sticking them down (take it in turns if you are playing with someone else) until you have the whole body.

By the end of the game, you will have a unique character made up of all different body parts and objects!

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www.mostyn.org
engagement@mostyn.org

mostyngallery   mostyn_wales_   mostyngallery