

Session outline

Art inspirations: Portraits

How do artists portray the personality, power and position of a person in a single portrait?

At the Queen's House, we have a world-class collection of portraits to demonstrate this, from a historic full-size painted portrait of Anne of Denmark to contemporary photographic portraits of working fishermen and women.

This session, led by a practicing artist, encourages children to think and talk about how portraits are made and the relationship that develops between artist, sitter and audience. Children will explore the various elements which make up a portrait, starting with expression. We go on to investigate how skilled selection of pose, costume and background impact on the interpretation and meaning of portraits.

Throughout the session children explore experimental and creative ideas and approaches which develop their observational and drawing skills. For example we ask: *Is it possible to make a drawing of your face with your eyes closed?* And *how can the pose of the sitter, mirror their expression?*

Towards the end of the session children use performance activities to explore expression, pose and background, framing their ideas in relation to the magnificent Great Hall and creating photographic portraits to take back to school.

Pre-Visit Preparation and Information

Please bring cameras/tablets to the session to record your classes' activities.

Curriculum links - Art and Design

Sketching, observation skills, thinking critically, analysing works of art, sharing ideas and imagination

In the classroom

Visit our website for a variety of session-linked classroom activities to help you prepare for your visit and follow it up back at school:

[rmg.co.uk/schools](http://collections.rmg.co.uk/schools)

<http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/13989.html>

<http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/605321.html>

