



Newcastle  
Art Gallery

# EXPLORE AND DRAW THE COLLECTION

DICKERSON STYLE PORTRAIT



# FUN FACTS

**Robert Dickerson** is one of Australia's most recognisable artists with a distinct figurative painting style. Born in Sydney in 1924, Dickerson was a self-taught painter; he never had formal art training.

This painting is a portrait of his son, Guy Dickerson, depicted with a child's body and an old man's face. The artist painted this portrait to imagine what his son might look like when he was older.

## RESPOND

Look closely at the portraits by Robert Dickerson. Discuss the differences in each style and how art can be abstract or realistic. In your response refer to the works *Guy 1957*, *Daisy 1992* and *Study for Wynyard Station 1957*.

Draw a portrait inspired by Dickerson's *Guy 1957*. To begin, practise drawing a combination of exaggerated shapes and lines to capture a likeness. When you are happy with the likeness, add bright colours to your portrait to create a focal point. Incorporate complementary colours to achieve emphasis.

Image:

**Robert DICKERSON**

*Guy 1957*

oil on hardboard

136.4 x 90.0cm

Purchased 1959

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Courtesy the artist's estate



37/40

DAISY

*P. Jackson*

# FUN FACTS

The Newcastle Art Gallery collection holds several etchings by artist **Robert Dickerson**. Etching is a printmaking technique that uses chemical action to create lines upon a metal plate, then ink is applied to the plate to create a print. This allows the artist to create multiple copies of the one image. By looking at the numbers written on the bottom of the image, we can see this etching is the 37th copy out of 40 created by Dickerson.

## RESPOND

Create a continuous-line self portrait by drawing your reflection from a mirror without lifting your pencil from the paper.

Draw a daisy flower using simple geometric shapes and lines.

Reflect on how the mood of the etching and/or the intention of the artist might be altered if Dickerson were to use a different medium for his work *Daisy* 1992, e.g. charcoal, paint or inks.

Image:

**Robert DICKERSON**

*Daisy* 1992

etching (ed. 37/40)

30.1 x 22.7cm

Presented in 2002 by Mrs Jennifer Dickerson

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Courtesy the artist's estate



# FUN FACTS

**Robert Dickerson** liked to depict people and situations from everyday life. His charcoal drawing *Study for Wynyard Station* 1957 depicts a solitary elderly lady at a train station and captures a fleeting moment in time.

## RESPOND

Draw up a large portrait of a friend from memory and complete it using willow charcoal. Explore the same type of expressive marks used in Dickerson's work *Study for Wynyard Station* 1957. When you are happy with the likeness, practice smudging parts of your drawing with your fingers for a tonal effect.

Create a mindful drawing of your immediate surroundings onto paper. Focus on key items, textures, patterns and shapes. Immerse yourself in the sketching experience and think only about the task at hand.

Image:

**Robert DICKERSON**

*Study for Wynyard Station* 1957

charcoal drawing

56.2 x 76.8cm

Purchased 1960

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Courtesy the artist's estate

