

# AAC at home

## Portrait sketching

In Afternoon Art Club, we get children making art.

### **Goulburn Bustle 2021**

Our current Gallery 1 exhibition *Goulburn Bustle 2021* features 27 works of art from our permanent collection including new acquisitions, hidden gems, and favourites from exhibitions past. The exhibition has been curated by the Gallery team who each created a wish list of works for consideration. One of the works chosen by Hannah Gee, Programs and Exhibitions Coordinator, is David Fairbairn's *V.H NO6, 2009*. This work is a small etching and aquatint measuring 32.5 x 24cm. Hannah Gee says:

“When I started at the Gallery, Fairbairn’s work was hanging in the office where I sit. Because it’s a portrait it became like a friend, so I was never alone. Although the work is a print, the line work reminds me a lot of the marks in my own line drawings. I employed this technique when I was in Athens on an artist on residency program as it allows me to build form quickly while retaining energy.

This work came down for the rebuild at the end of 2019 and I didn't see it for a while. In the couple of years since I would occasionally see it on the racks in the collection store. It was always like seeing an old friend you haven't seen in ages!”



Image left: Hannah Gee, Programs and Exhibitions Coordinator. Photography by Nexus Photography.

Image right: David Fairbairn, *V.H. NO. 6, 2009*, zinc plate etching and aquatint, 32.5 x 24 cm, Donated by the artist, 2013.

Create a portrait sketch of someone you know.

You will need:

- Paper
- dry drawing material that makes a solid mark like a pen or texta
- A friend or family member
- Mirror (if no one is available to sit for you)



- Ask a family member or friend to sit for a portrait for you
- Set up your working area so your sitter is directly in front of you. If you have no one to draw you could sit in front of a mirror to create a self portrait
- Using a texta or pen (something that makes a solid line), create a sketch of your sitter
- Like Fairbairn, you will need to build up layers of marks to create areas of light and dark

### Extension activities

Did you enjoy portrait sketching? Here are some ideas to extend this activity:

- After you complete your sketch, swap with your sitter so they can have a turn sketching. Try drawing the figure and not just the portrait
- Create a series of sketches of members of your family or friends. Have a display or turn them into presents
- Foam trays (like those you sometimes get for catering or meat trays) make great etching plates! Use a pencil to etch your marks into the foam tray. Roll paint onto the and print onto paper



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