

Laing Portrait Challenge

Part of



National
Portrait
Gallery

LAINING
ART GALLERY



"29:04:37" (Sir Ridley Scott) by Nina Mae Fowler. © National Portrait Gallery, London. Photo: Douglas Atfield.



A portrait of acclaimed film director Sir Ridley Scott is going on show at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne. The portrait is on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, London as part of its COMING HOME project, which sees portraits of iconic individuals being loaned to places across the UK with which they are most closely associated.

Nina Mae Fowler Photographed by Dan Glasser



For the commission, the artist, Nina Mae Fowler, invited the directors to choose a film of particular significance to them. Intriguingly the directors' film choices are not revealed. During the sittings, the film was then projected and Fowler recorded their reactions to the film on camera and through loose sketches, with their faces lit only by the light of the screen in an otherwise darkened space. The title of the drawings refers to the exact film frame the director was watching when Fowler captured their portrait.

Ridley Scott Bafta Speech

In his 2017 BAFTA lifetime achievement award speech, Sir Ridley Scott, who was born in South Shields, agreed that “teaching is the most important of all professions. Sort that out and social problems will get sorted out.” He also spoke about film and narrative: “...all the best stories tend to come from the truth, even fiction.”



Portrait Challenge



At Home – look closer;

Nina Mae Fowler's portrait of Sir Ridley Scott shows us the famous director quietly watching a film. Think about the people you are spending time with during lockdown. What things have you enjoyed doing together during this time? Are there hobbies or quiet moments which could inspire a portrait of them?



Coming Home – look out;

How do you know when you are home? Are there certain landmarks, noises, smells, people or pets that you associate with being at home? Look out of your window or open the door; does your view change at different times of the day? Is home a wider view; is it a town or a country; coming home to Newcastle and seeing the Bridges? Make a portrait about the place you call home.



Thinking of Home – look in;

Sometimes our thoughts and feelings are more abstract and difficult to express. Our senses and emotions connect us to the idea of home; can you create an artwork which shows your feelings towards your home?

Starting points

Try sketching them in real life; you can also take a photo's and draw from these if you like! Why not do multiple sketches like Nina and bringing your best bits together for the final piece.

Collage maps and images of landmarks as a background; you could try drawing or painting an image of yourself onto these, or use the to create a portrait.

Try using different colours, materials and techniques to create an abstract self portrait.

Inspiration



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT_UmBHMZg

Ridley Scott was executive producer for this film. Have a look at the clip for some ideas for your work.

Full film: PG 13+



Creole Girl

[Matthew Arnold Bracy Smith \(1879–1959\)](#)



Dolly Peel (1782–1857)

[J. Evans](#)



Gideon
[Naomi Alexander \(b.1938\)](#)



Self Portrait
[Ralph Hedley \(1848–1913\)](#)



The Seamstress
[Harold Knight \(1874–1961\)](#)



Going Home

[Ralph Hedley \(1848–1913\)](#)



Woodman in a Clearing
[John Keith Vaughan \(1912–1977\)](#)



Dancing Figures
[unknown artist](#)



Time Out
[Sylbert Bolton \(b.1959\)](#)



Interaction, 1962

[Fenwick Lawson \(b.1932\)](#)



Regarding Guardian 3
[Dhruva Mistry \(b.1957\)](#)

Conditions

Group leader or school teacher to register interest and forward works to: lainglearning@twmuseums.org.uk

Please use school/group name and first name, nothing that can identify your personal contact details.

Contributions must be by young people 12-18years old at the time of submission and must be the artists own work.

Please do not send original artworks and only send one artwork per person.

Contributions must not contain any offensive content, including offensive language or images, sexual content or imagery or text which is deemed offensive by moderator.

We will accept jpegs and pdf format, scanned or photographed.

Digitising your artwork

We want to see the best version of your work so here are some hints and tips for making an image of your art.

2D – a good way to take a picture of 2D artwork is to pin it to a wall, this will be easier to get a ‘flat’ image. Crop right into your art work – this is the most important thing, not the wallpaper! Make sure there is an even light source i.e. there are no shadows across your work. I would try without flash first, flash can bleach out areas of your work or leave shiny spots in the photograph. If you try with flash stand a good step back from your work.

3D – place your object on a plain surface, again it is your art work we are interested in so we don’t want background distractions. Try using white paper on the floor / table and pinning it to the wall behind to get a plain background. Think about lighting, flash will give you shadows; find a space where the light looks even and make sure you don’t cast a shadow on your work!

Video/moving image - Unfortunately we are not accepting video content but please feel free to send film stills representative of your video content should you wish to work with moving image.