

Windrush: Portraits of a Pioneering Generation

Texture

Feeling

Shapes

Making Portraits

Observe

Mark-making

Variety

Self-portrait

Exercise I: A Single Line Portrait

- a) Choose a spot on your reflection or sitter, like the bridge of the nose or the corner of the mouth.
- b) Now put your pencil onto your paper and start drawing from that spot.
- c) Keep your pencil always attached to the paper so that your drawing is made in one single line. A bit like a snail leaving a trail!
- d) You can go back and forth. Don't worry about drawing lines that you can't see, this is part of the process.



Exercise 2: A Self Portrait Made Using Touch

a) First, use your less dominant hand to begin feeling your face, head, hair, neck and shoulders. Once you have done that, use your dominant hand to write a list of words describing what your other hand can feel for a few minutes.

Example Words:

bony, soft, hairy, sharp,
curvy, blocky, rough,
bouncy, spongy,
hollow, wiry, hard,
sloping, curly, smooth



Soft, Hairy, Wiry



Rough, Scratchy



Bouncy, Spongy, Curly



Blocky, Curved

b) Next, fold a piece of paper into 8 sections and write one of your words in each section.

c) Starting with your favourite word, try to describe it through **mark-making**.

d) Your aim is to recreate the *feeling* of your word, using charcoal or graphite.

Questions to consider:

- How heavy will you press when making a mark?
- Think of combining light and heavier marks. What variety of shapes can you create?
- Consider the speed you make a mark and what happens when you make quick and slow marks?

Exercise 3: Portrait Exchange

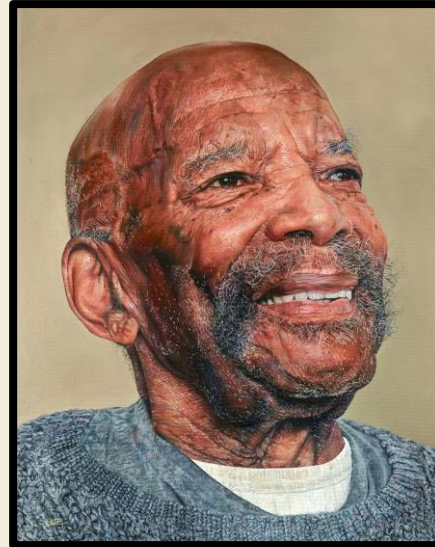
Get to know a sitter from your favourite portrait!

a) Spend some time looking at the portraits commissioned for the Windrush 75 commemoration.

Consider these questions:

- Which of the paintings speaks to you?
- Who do you want to know more about?

Alford Gardner



Oil Paint on Canvas
Artist: Chloe Cox

Jessie Stephens



Oil on linen
Artist: Sahara Longe

Linda Haye



Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas
Artist: Shannon Bono

Exercise 3: Portrait Exchange

b) Choose one portrait to interview and imagine what the artwork would say.

c) Ask the sitter one of the following questions, then make up your own question to ask:

- What are you thinking?
- What are your hopes and dreams?
- What matters to you?
- What would you like to tell me?



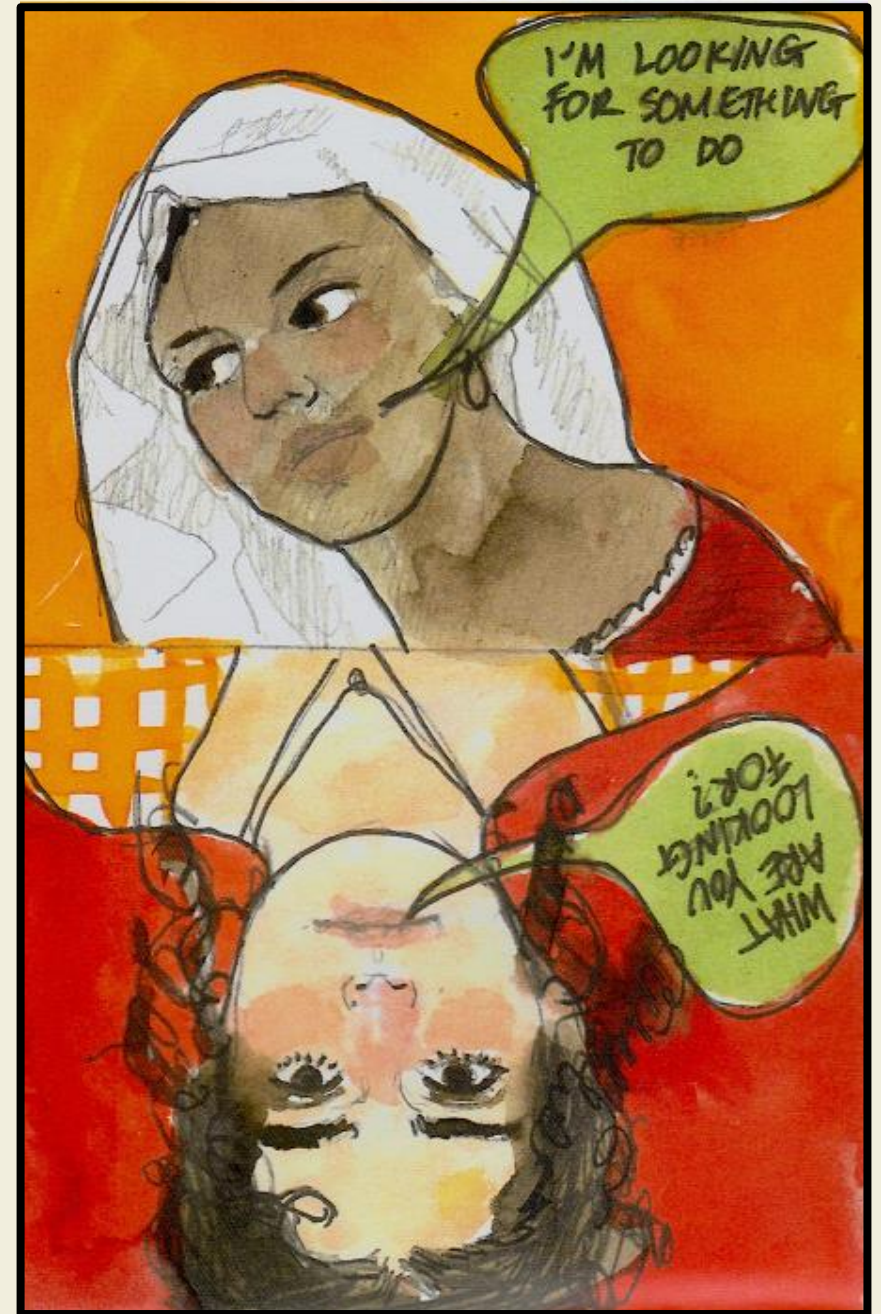
Exercise 3: Portrait Exchange

d) Fold a piece of paper in half.

Spend as much time as you can drawing your sitter's head and shoulders from the folder line. Once you have done this flip the paper upside down and draw yourself on the other half so that your shoulders are touching. Use a mirror to draw your self-portrait.

e) Finally write your question around your self-portrait and the answer around the sitter. You could put the words in speech bubbles or a creative idea of your own!

TIP: Spend as much time looking into the mirror as you do at your drawings. It is very important to look to ensure you get the most of you in the portrait!



Exercise 4: Travel Suitcase Workshop

Imagine you are going to be going on a long journey like the first Windrush Generation did and think about an object - something that you could not live without - that you would like to take in your suitcase. It could be an everyday object that could be very special to you for example a favourite piece of clothing, a book, toy or something else that is only precious to you!

a) Make a list of what you would pack in your suitcase and try making small drawings of the objects next to each word as you go. Don't worry if they are not exact, use your imagination and memory!

b) Once you have done this, find one of these objects and set it down on a flat surface and make a sustained drawing, spending time to carefully observe the object, looking at the textures you can see and variety of shapes it might have.

IDEA: If you have a desk lamp you could experiment with how you light this object to focus the tones and shadows in the drawing. Try to clear a space around the object so you can focus on it whilst you draw.

Exercise 4: Travel Suitcase Workshop

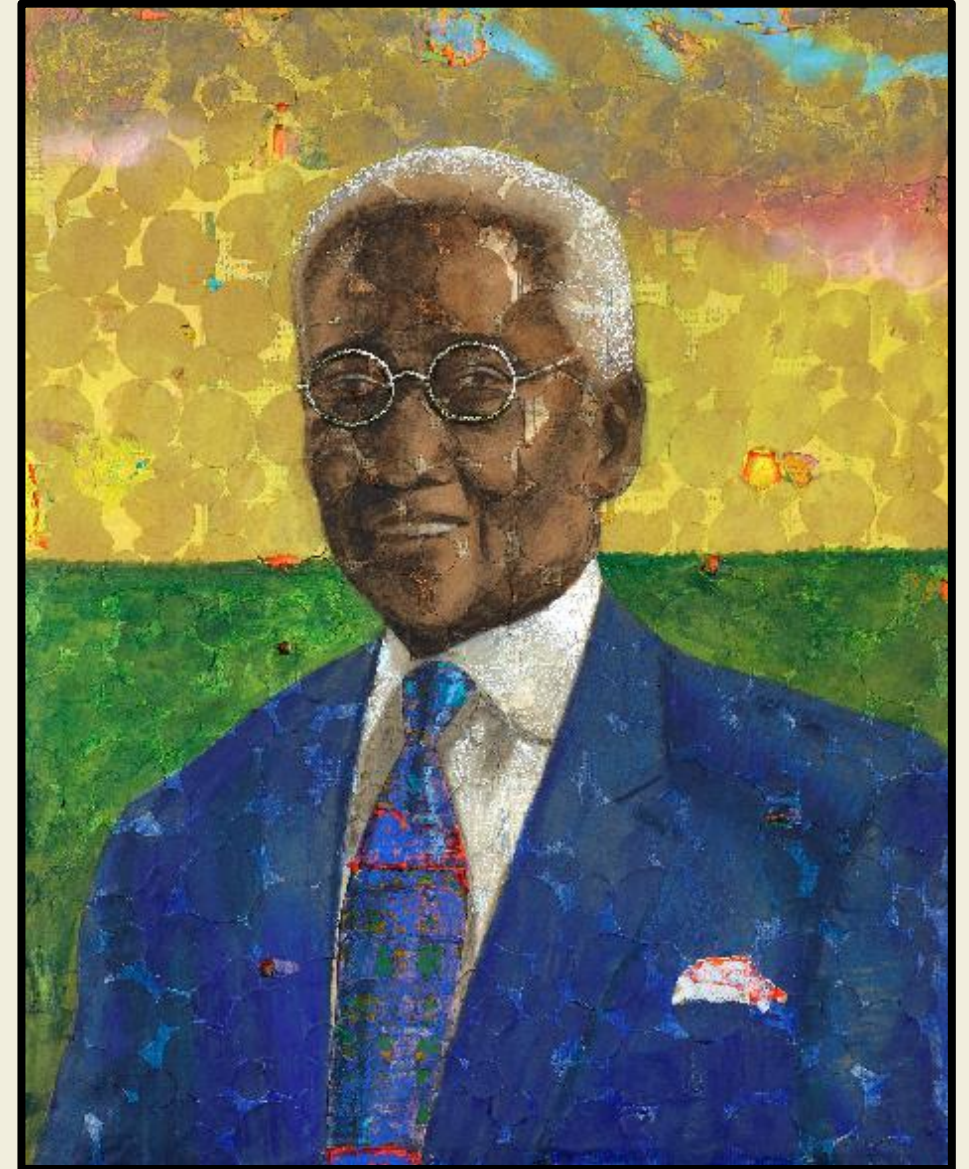
Professor Sir Godfrey (Geoff) Palmer

c) For an extra challenge try drawing a collection of objects you feel are important to you, such as your favourite pair of trainers with a football or instrument.

d) After you have made these drawings take some time to reflect and ask yourself:

- Why are these objects important to me?
- What do they say about my personality or identity?
- What or who do I think of when I look at this object?
- Do I have a favourite memory when I look at this object?

e) Are these objects a different sort of portrait of you?



Acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel and foil on newspaper
Artist: Derek Fordjour