

Art Time!

Your task: To create a surrealist pencil portrait

What you will need:

- A piece of paper
- A pencil
- A friend or relative!

What is Surrealism?

Surrealism was an art movement which was really popular in the early twentieth century. Surrealist artists were really interested in depicting what was above or beyond real life.

One surrealist technique was called automatism. Here, you just start drawing or painting without a plan and let your unconscious thoughts guide you.

Watch this video to find out more about Surrealism: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism>

Artists such as Salvador Dali, Joan Miró and Dorothea Tanning are known for their surrealist work.



What to do:

- 1) Ask your friend or relative if they would mind sitting for a portrait. This could be a fun way to connect with a friend you currently can't see – why not facetime them for the activity?
- 2) Look closely at your model's face for one minute. You may like to time this. Looking closely doesn't mean getting really close to their face! It means looking carefully – what shapes, textures and tones do you notice? Are there any distinguishing features?
- 3) Now it is time to start your drawing. Position your paper on a flat surface in front of you (a large book or a table) and make sure your pencil is comfortable in your hand.
- 4) Look back at your model and start to draw their face. There is one key rule: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LOOK DOWN AT YOUR PAPER. Without looking at your work, try and include everything you notice – features, hair, texture, shading etc.
- 5) When you think you have drawn everything that you have noticed, you may stop, look at, admire and share your Surrealist automatism portrait!