



SM&AG SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

MINDFUL MUSEUMS

JOHN NAPPER SELF PORTRAIT

Written by Lindsey Kennedy

JOHN NAPPER SELF PORTRAIT

Art Activity – how do you respond to this object from the collection of Shropshire Museums? Start by watching the Mindful Museum video about the [John Napper Self Portrait](#), dated 1953.

Think of some words that are prompted by looking at the self portrait by John Napper. Here are some to start with – **person, body, face, expression, mood.**

Standing still



The one model you know you can always use for drawing or painting practice is yourself. Artists have often represented themselves, sometimes in a flattering light, sometimes revealing more about their personalities.



Try different poses sitting or standing in front of a mirror. Think about whether you want to stand straight-on to the mirror, or turned partly away? Do you want to see all of you or just part, as John

Napper did in his self-portrait? What will you wear that reflects your personality?

Take some photographs for a record to compare which pose you think works best and work out why. Once you have selected a pose, then have a go at drawing yourself. Remember to draw what you see, not what you think you can see.

What makes you, you?

We each have very distinct features that other people easily recognise. Look at the colour, style and length of your hair, shape of your face and body, maybe glasses or a particular colouring. Consider these features for your self-portrait. If you are not sure then try asking family or friends for their ideas.



John Napper Self Portrait', dated 1953

Colouring in

A portrait can tell us about the sitter's personality. You could include some props that reflect yours. What sort of image are you showing people who look at your artwork? Are there certain colours that reflect you. Look what happens when we change the colours in John Napper's portrait.



Copy-cat

Try looking at the self-portraits painted by other artists and have a go at copying those paintings. With simple props and clothes from around your home you can have fun trying out some different looks and poses. Take a look at 'The Girl with the Pearl Earring' by Vermeer, or self-portraits by Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Picasso or Rembrandt.

We'd love to see your work.

Post your response to our social media channels
#museumsathome
#smagathome