

# WORKSHOP ACTIVITY PORTRAIT MASK MAKING

Recommended age group: 3+

## What is a portrait?

A portrait is an artwork that captures a person. It can be a photograph, a video, a painting, a sculpture or many other forms.

*The Other Portrait* is an exhibition about portraiture, and how artists draw on their lives, families and cultures to create artworks about themselves and other people. The exhibition is curated by two artists – Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap – and includes work by eight other artists. This workshop activity invites kids to think about a person or character they'd like to depict and make a fantastical portrait mask.



### **A note from curator and artist, Cherine Fahd**

Playing with identity is central to child's play. Imagining we are a scary monster, a firefighter, a fairy or a superhero heralds the beginning of our creative lives.

In this activity we play with these ideas. Against the backdrop of the exhibition *The Other Portrait* we will make masks of ourselves and our friends that are playful and fantastical.

Using everyday items such as paper plates, pencils, feathers, and pipe cleaners we can wear a face that is both ours and not ours. We can talk about who we are and how we imagine our other selves to be in the world of make-believe.



### Materials

Paper plates, or cardboard cut into circles

Elastic, twine or string

Scissors

Pencils, crayons and/or pens

Glue stick or sticky tape

Feathers, pipe cleaners, buttons, googly eyes, sequins, scrap fabric or any other crafty bits and pieces. You could even raid your recycling bin for bottle lids and colourful paper scraps.

### Steps

1. Think about a person or character you'd like to play. It could be a parent or friend, a character from a book or movie, or maybe a creature of your own creation! Look at family photos, a favourite book or take inspiration from an artist in *The Other Portrait* – the artist Ronnie van Hout made a giant mask of his own face!
2. Sketch out your character design on your paper plate, and have a grown-up help to cut out some eye holes.
3. Decorate! Use your glue stick or sticky tape to attach your materials, thinking about your portrait.
4. Ask a grown-up to help measure a length of elastic to sit comfortably on the face, and secure with staples or by piercing a hole in either side of the mask and tying a knot.
5. Take a photo wearing your creation!

