



BENDIGO
ART GALLERY

Ben Quilty
Primary – Painting texture



Year Levels

F - 6

Learning objectives

- Enjoy the playful nature of paint
- Learn about terms such as Rorschach; a method of sandwiching one side of a painting onto another to produce an almost-mirror image
- Experiment with materials such as acrylic paint and palette knives safely
- Use Ben Quilty's *Kuta Rorschach No.2* and other paintings, as an inspiration for experiments with paint
- Learn about colour theory and how colours mix and contrast with each other

Create

Materials

- Acrylic paint in various colours
- Palette knives or plastic disposable knives
- Graphite pencils
- A4 or A3 size white cartridge paper
- Palette or flat piece of plastic e.g. ice cream container lid

Art elements

- Colour, texture, shape, form
- You can view some of Ben Quilty's artwork from his commercial gallery's website: [Ben Quilty Portraits](#) and [Ben Quilty Portraits and Kuta Rorschach 2](#) and also from [Bendigo Art Ben Quilty exhibition archive](#) and Ben Quilty [Education Resource](#) and this short [video](#) explaining how he made his portrait *Self Portrait Smashed*.

Discuss

Ben Quilty draws inspiration for his paintings from the world around him and the new things he learns. Some of the subjects of his paintings are people, landscapes, including trees and mountains and things he remembers from his childhood and youth such as his Torana car and a pet budgerigar.

- What subjects do you find interesting in your house, backyard or maybe it's a pet?

Create

- Choose three colours and squeeze a little bit of each colour onto your palette or lid; make sure to have a plastic knife or palette knife handy (or a flat rectangular piece of cardboard)
- Lightly fold your piece of paper down the centre and flatten it out so that it looks like a book
- Draw the shape of your chosen personal object lightly in pencil onto the left side of the paper lightly with the graphite pencil.
- Now use the palette knife to put some globs of paint into the object, then move the paint around a little so that it resembles the object
- Carefully fold the paper so that the wet side engages with the right side.
- Then, open out your painting and look at the images you have created. Leave it somewhere to dry
- You could try another one with different coloured paper such as black for a different result

Evaluate

- Discuss how the paint changed when pressed onto the other side of the paper (The Rorschach). What happened to the original colours? Did they change? What do you think of the texture of the Rorschach version?
- Discuss how the technique changed the original image; is this a good thing? Discuss what you like about your finished images
- Discuss how the use of analogous colours created a certain mood (aesthetic quality)
- Discuss how the technique changed the original image; is this a good thing? Discuss what you like about your finished images

View Ben Quilty's [Education Resource](#) and this short [video](#) explaining how he made his portrait *Self Portrait Smashed*.

Front cover and page 2 image:

Ben Quilty
Australia, 1973
Kuta Rorschach No.2
2013
oil on canvas
220 x 520cm
Bendigo Art Gallery, R H S Abbott Bequest Fund 2014.
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