

# At Home

## Meet the artist

**William Robinson is an Australian artist. He was born in Brisbane in 1936. He creates artwork about his life including the places he has lived, his wife Shirley and their children and animals.**

Before he became a full-time artist in 1989, he was an art teacher at university and a farmer, with goats, cows, chickens and lots of other animals.

He has won major art prizes and his artworks are shown by galleries all around the world. There is a gallery named in his honour, the William Robinson Gallery, at QUT Gardens Point Campus, which is dedicated to exhibiting his artwork.



*37/45 - Pug Self Portrait - William Robinson 91*

This is a self portrait of the artist William (Bill) Robinson with one of his pet pug dogs.

William ROBINSON, *Pug self portrait* 1991, etching, printer: Louise Taylor. QUT Art Collection. Gift of the Artist under the Cultural Gifts Program, 2002.

## HOW BILL MAKES ART

Artists all have different ways of working.

For Bill, he often starts with a sketch that is based on what he observes around him, what he remembers, and what he imagines! A sketch is a rough drawing often done quickly to capture important information or an idea.

He then uses his sketches to create artworks through drawing, painting, sculpting or printmaking.

He wants to create artworks that express not just what something looks like but how it makes him feel.

What art meant to Bill when he was a kid

“Well, it was the only way that I could express myself... I used to actually draw on the dirt in the lunch hour and that sort of thing. I seemed to be the only one that did that.”<sup>1</sup>

1. Robinson, W., & Van Ooyen, V. (2016). Interview with William Robinson [James C. Sourris Artist Interview Series, State Library of Queensland]. <https://www.wrgallery.qut.edu.au/learn/resources>

# Let's look at **ART!**

In this artwork by Bill we are in his home, looking at his family in the reflection of the mirror on his dressing table.

Can you see his wife Shirley dressed in red and their young child? What are they doing? Their pet dog is in the centre of the room—who is the dog looking at?



William ROBINSON, *Interior with black dog* 1970, oil on canvas.  
QUT Art Collection. Purchased through the William Robinson Art Collection Fund, 2013.

What is your favourite room in your house?

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# Let's make ART!



**DRAW**

Go to your favourite room and draw it in the space below.

No printer? Not enough space? No worries! You can use any piece of blank paper or a page in your notebook to do this activity, and keep adding paper if you need more room.

You can draw what you see, what you remember, and what you imagine!



**LOOK**

Look around. What stands out to you in this room?

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**REMEMBER**

Describe a happy memory of something that happened in this room.

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**IMAGINE**

What is something impossible that you would like to see or do in this room?

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#QUTArtAnywhere

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