

Still Life

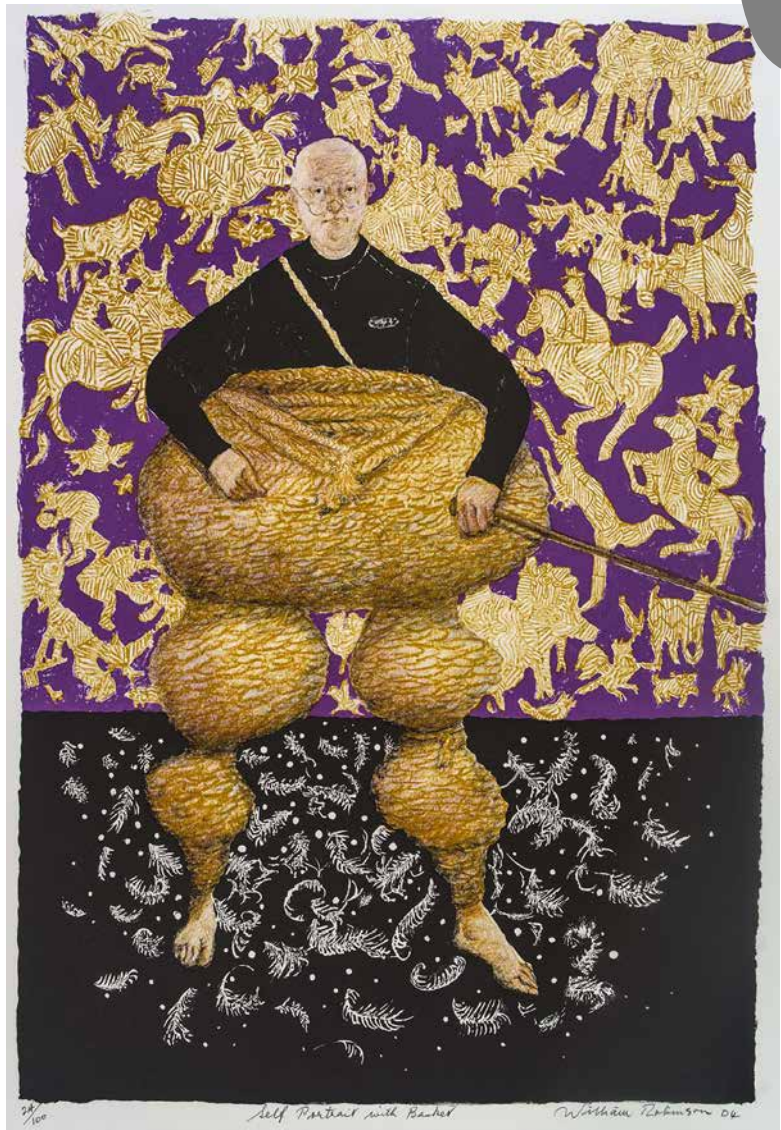
Meet the artist

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.

This is a self portrait of the artist William (Bill) Robinson wearing imaginary basket trousers



William ROBINSON. *Self portrait with basket* 2004, colour lithograph, printer: Franck Bordas. QUT Art Collection. Gift of the artist under the Cultural Gifts Program, 2008.

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 objects Bill likes to use in his artworks

"I like common, sometimes 'odd' utilitarian things...nothing too ostentatious"¹

1. William Robinson: *Still life and landscape paintings 2010–2012* [Exhibition catalogue]. (2012). Sydney and Melbourne: Australian Galleries, p. 5.

Let's look at **ART!**

A still life is an art genre that shows an arrangement of everyday items that don't move. They are often a combination of artificial and natural objects.

In this artwork Bill has created a pastel drawing of some of his kitchen items and a glass jug filled with cheerful flowers on top of a dresser. What else can you see?

Bill collects his objects from places including second hand shops and they are all items that he uses in his home. He likes to create arrangements that are interesting and beautiful to look at.



William ROBINSON *Coffee and croissants* 2015, pastel on paper.
QUT Art Collection. Purchased through the William Robinson Art Collection Fund, 2016.

What do these items make you think of?

Let's make ART!



CREATE

Make your own still life arrangement using collage!

Choose a group of objects and find a blank surface to arrange them on. Try selecting objects that are different in form, texture, pattern, size and colour like fruits, dishes, toys and fabrics. Re-create your still life through collage by cutting out and arranging pieces of paper and other materials and gluing them down on a sheet of paper or cardboard. You can also add drawing and painting.

PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS: Glue, scissors, a sheet of paper or cardboard, and collage items like old newspapers, magazines and coloured paper, with any drawing or painting materials.



LOOK

Create what you see, what you remember, and what you imagine!

Look at the objects and the way you have placed them. Try different arrangements, like stacking items on top of each other, and viewing your still life from different angles.



REMEMBER

Where did these objects come from? What meaning do they have to you?



IMAGINE

What do you think a still life artwork will look like 1000 years from now? Will it be the same or different? Think of some futuristic objects that might be included!

EXTRA IDEAS!

- Try a combination of cutting, tearing and peeling back your paper or card into different shapes and thicknesses and layering or overlapping them
- Use a restricted colour scheme (e.g. only pastel colours, or monochromatic, which means variations of only one colour)
- Make your collage using only little pieces of paper that you have ripped into similar shapes.
- Make your collage out of household items (e.g. aluminum foil, baking paper, tissue paper, bottle tops, bread bag tags, fabrics, bark and leaves)

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QUT William Robinson
Gallery

www.wrgallery.qut.edu.au