

# Rainbows

## 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.



William ROBINSON, *Landscape 38a* 1989, watercolour on paper. QUT Art Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2018.

This is a self portrait of the artist William (Bill) Robinson and his wife Shirley riding a horse under a rainbow.

What Bill thinks about colour

“Colour fascinates me, colour is everything”<sup>1</sup>

1. Hawley, J. (1994, August 20). William Robinson's mature perspective. *The Age*, p. 33

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.

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



William ROBINSON, *Passing storm, late afternoon, Beechmont (Study)* 1993, pencil on paper. QUT Art Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2018.

**Rainbows are a spectacular multi-coloured arc in the sky that can be seen when the sun shines through water droplets.** Bill frequently uses rainbows in his artwork as a symbol. Sometimes they represent his playful sense of humour and escape from the everyday. Other times they show a sense of wonder and connection between humankind and the divine. What do rainbows represent to you?

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In this artwork the rainbow is the main focus and it is like a bridge of glowing colour, connecting the two mountains. There are vibrant colours not just on the ends of the rainbow but throughout this painting, including a dark indigo on the mountain side, and green, violet, orange and yellow on the trunks of the trees. What other colours can you see?

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William ROBINSON, *Passing storm, late afternoon, Beechmont ('Mountain' series)* 1993, oil on linen. QUT Art Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2017.

**Bill plans his artworks by doing quick sketches, which are called studies – what similarities and differences can you see between Bill's study and the final artwork?**

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## CREATE

### Make your own rainbow!

Find everyday objects to arrange into a rainbow! Your rainbow can be an arc, a line or any shape you prefer. The visible colours of the rainbow are **red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet**, but your rainbow can use any colours and in any order.

Tell a story with your choice of objects and where you place them. What does your rainbow symbolise?



Look around you, what can you use to create a rainbow? Perhaps you can use different everyday objects, or use the same type of object like fruit or books.

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## REMEMBER

Do you remember a time when you saw a rainbow? What did it look like?

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## IMAGINE

How else can you create a rainbow?

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William ROBINSON, *Rider* 1989, watercolour on paper.  
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Create what  
you see,  
what you  
remember,  
and what you  
imagine!

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