

Assignment Sheet 1

Introducing the Portrait Project

In this activity, you will plan and create a portrait in oil pastels on canvas. This project will be marked according to two important criteria: how well you convey your impression of the portrait subject, and the implementation of oil pastel techniques.

The first element of this assignment is to conduct some online research about one Indigenous Australian leader or activist — active in the past or present. You will need to choose the person you'd like to be your subject. To do this, read through the following list of activists. You can find some preliminary information about each of these activists in *The Little Red Yellow Black Book — an introduction to Indigenous Australia* pp. 142 to 176.

Activists from the early days of the colonial invasion

- Pemulwuy — a Bidjigal warrior active at the turn of the 18th century. *Note: there is only one known image of Pemulwuy*
- Tarenorerer — (or Walyer) a Tasmanian Aboriginal woman who engaged in guerilla warfare against her oppressors

Activists from last century

- Fred Maynard — founder of the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association (1924)
- Faith Bandler — NSW campaign director for the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement
- William Cooper — founder of the Australian Aborigines' League (1920s)
- John Patten — a leader of the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association (1930s)
- William Ferguson — a leader of the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association (1930s)
- Charles Perkins — Freedom Rides activist (1965)
- Eddie Mabo — Mer Islander plaintiff in the historic *Mabo* Native Title case against the Crown (1980s)

Indigenous Australian leaders and politicians working in recent times and/or today

- Professor Mick Dodson — Yawuru man, former Chair of the AIATSIS Council and Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University
- Jackie Huggins — Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- Noel Pearson — lawyer, academic, land rights activist and founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership
- Neville Bonner - former Liberal Senator for Queensland and Australia's first Indigenous Member of Parliament
- Ken Wyatt — the first Indigenous Australian parliamentarian to hold office as a Minister of the Cabinet
- Linda Burney — the first Indigenous Australian female member of the House of Representatives
- Nova Peris - the first Indigenous Australian female Senator

After you have chosen the person who will be your portrait's subject, you will need to find out about the person's life and accomplishments. You will conduct online research to achieve this. You may choose to focus on a certain event or just on the feelings evoked when you look at images of that person. The important thing is that you should create a work of art that represents that individual to you. In order to achieve this, you will need to know quite a bit about your subject.

