

Monarchy Mayhem: Multimedia Portraits

Key Facts

Holbein was a painter, printmaker and designer, best known for creating characterful and realistic portraits.

Born in Augsburg, Germany, he learnt painting from his father, Hans Holbein the Elder and worked in Basel, Switzerland, before coming to England in 1526–8. He returned in 1531-2 and remained here until his death.

Hans Holbein the Younger is famous for having created a unique and memorable image of Henry VIII long before the invention of camera technology. Holbein also made numerous paintings and drawings of the people who populated Henry's court.

In addition to his role as a portraitist, he designed temporary structures for festivities, interior designs including murals, decorative panels, metalwork and jewellery.

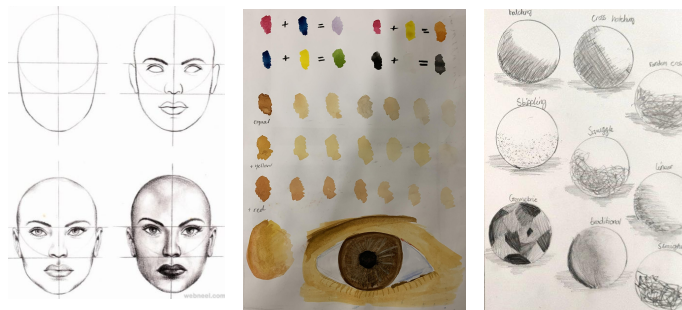
In 1536, Holbein was referred to as the 'Kings painter' and in 1537 his first salary was documented at £30 per annum, approximately double what a soldier would have earned in 1553.

Holbein's portraits, like those by painter and printmaker Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528) appear to us like real people displaying credible facial features. Because we lack photographic records of the sixteenth century, visual evidence such as Holbein's work is relied upon for evidence about the past.



Key Skills

<b>Discuss an artist's work</b>	Begin to think critically about the work of an artist. Be able to talk about choices made in art, likes and dislikes, and how these relate to the work of Hans Holbein.
<b>Drawing</b>	Draw accurately from observation - using and talking about tone, pattern and texture, line and shape.
<b>Painting</b>	Experiment with and show evidence of understanding how colours work; including the effects of cold, hot and contrasting colours.
<b>Collage</b>	Use collage to add colour and decoration to create a 3-dimensional effect.
<b>Developing ideas</b>	Use sketchbooks to record ideas, try things out and develop ideas. Work on art pieces over several sessions, being able to describe why a piece of work is finished. Evaluate work and suggest or make improvements based on peer and self assessment ideas.



Key Vocabulary

<b>multimedia</b>	To use more than one medium of expression or communication.
<b>authentic</b>	Real, not false or copied; accurate or based in fact; traditional or original.
<b>ornate</b>	Heavily decorated, very elaborate or showy such as a costume covered in diamonds, glitter, feathers and pieces of silver.
<b>frame</b>	The outside border that holds something in place on all sides for example the enclosed wooden structure that holds a picture hanging on a wall.
<b>embellish</b>	To make something more beautiful by adding something to it.



What else was going on in the World?

<b>1485 - 1603</b>	Europe emerged from the Middle Ages, and Europeans sailed across the oceans, reaching the East, discovering the New World of America, establishing colonies, and circumnavigating the world for the first time (Ferdinand Magellan in 1517, and Francis Drake in 1577-80).
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