THE PERCIVALS

2024

22 JUNE – 1 SEPTEMBER

INTERACTIVE GUIDE

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Having begun in 2007, The *Percivals* are nationally recognised portraiture exhibitions which include the *Percival Portrait Painting Prize,* the *Percival Photographic Portrait Prize* and the *Percival Animal Portrait Prize*. Entries in both the painting and photographic exhibitions are open to all local, national, and international artists. The entries received are greatly varied, including both digital and film photography, and acrylic, oil, and watercolour paintings, which incorporate portraiture in its myriad of forms. While showcasing the outstanding and innovative work currently being produced by Australian artists, the competitions have also given many emerging artists an opportunity to engage with portraiture and share their expressions of themselves and those close to them. *The Percivals* aims to promote excellence within the genre of portraiture.

Hyperrealism vs Abstraction

Photorealism is characterised by detail, precision, and clarity, with artists striving to create artworks that look as photographic and as lifelike as possible. Born out of photorealism, hyperrealism focuses on high fidelity realism, while exploring emotion and narratives further than photorealism.

In contrast, *Abstraction* does not attempt to represent an accurate picture of reality, but instead focuses on shapes, colours, marks, movement, and forms to communicate feeling.

ACTIVITY

Find another example of an abstract work and an example of a hyperrealistic work in the exhibition.

- What does each portrait communicate about the sitter?
- How are these different techniques successful?
- Which technique do you prefer and why?

Image Top Right:

Elizabeth Barden, *All That Glitters*, [detail] 2022, oil on linen, 60 x 56 cm. Finalist in the *Percival Portrait Painting Prize* 2024. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville.

Image Bottom Right:

Thom Crowhurst, *Stand Easy (self-portrait)* 2024, oil and charcoal on canvas, 121 x 92 cm. Finalist in the *Percival Portrait Painting Prize* 2024. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville.

How to Read a Portrait

Reading a portrait can be done in many ways, including analysing visual elements as well as the context in which it was created. Here are some strategies that can be used to analyse and understand a portrait:

Setting: Where is the portrait set? Is there anything that you notice in the background? Consider how the setting communicates a narrative to the viewer.

Composition: How is the sitter positioned in the portrait? What scale has been used? How is your eye drawn around the portrait? What is the relationship between the sitter and other elements in the portrait?

Pose and Expression: What expression does the sitter have, and how are they posed? Where are they looking, and how does that make you feel as the viewer? Does the expression, body language, or pose convey a mood of the portrait, personality of the sitter, or a relationship between yourself and the sitter, or the artist and the sitter?

Objects and Symbols: Are there any objects that might symbolise anything, or provide information about the sitter?

Artistic Technique: What colours have been used? Is the portrait abstract or does it look real? Have these influenced the atmosphere of the portrait?

Context: When was the portrait made? Has this influenced the style, techniques and themes in the artwork? Who do you think was the intended audience, and do you think the portrait has a specific purpose?

ACTIVITY

Part 1: In a pair or in a group, consider the strategies detailed above and see if you can reveal the story of the sitter in the painting *Immigration- Annonciation* by Nazila Jahangir. See what you can discover about the artwork. Once you have completed this task, read the artwork statement in the exhibition catalogue and see what the artist was trying to convey.

Part 2: In a pair or in a group discuss the photographic portrait *A Portrait Within Art* by Christine Hall. Hall says of the work – 'I am endeavouring to portray Pam as part of the work – leaving a fraction of herself immersed in the art'. Considering the strategies above, how do you think the photographer has tried to portray this?

Image: Nazila Jahangir, *Immigration- Annonciation*, 2023, oil on canvas, 60 x 90 cm. Finalist in the *Percival Portrait Painting Prize* 2024. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville.

Image: Christine Hall, *A Portrait Within Art*, 2023, digital photographic print on Baryta Silk paper, 80 x 80 cm. Finalist in the *Percival Photographic Portrait Prize* 2024. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville.

Become a Judge

On your own or working together with friends, choose either a winning painting, or a winning photograph. The criteria for a painting, and the criteria for a photograph may differ. What criteria will you use to decide on the best artwork? Record your winner and justification below.

Title _____

Artist _____

Remember to have your say in the People's Choice Award! Will you vote for the artwork your group selected?

Find more information on how to vote at the end of this guide!

Criteria

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Drawing Activity 1

Ask a friend or a partner to select an artwork in the exhibition without your knowledge. Allow your partner to position you with your back to the selected artwork. Have your partner describe the artwork to you whilst you draw exactly what is described in the space below. Feel free to ask your partner questions about the artwork as you draw.

When finished, view the selected artwork. How is your drawing similar? How is it different? Did you find this process easy or difficult and why? Swap roles and select an artwork for your partner to draw and complete the process again.
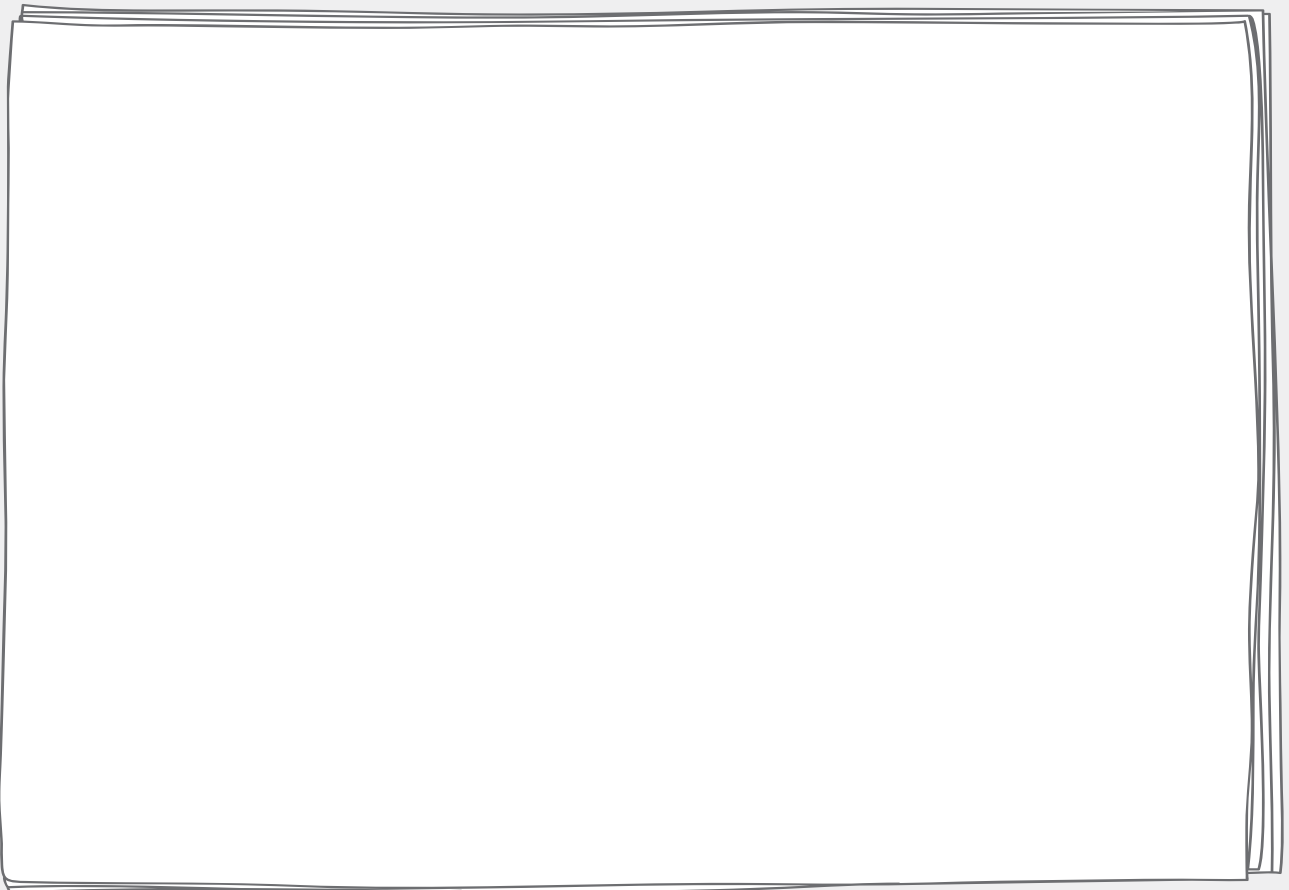
Drawing Activity 2

With a friend or partner, find a place to sit or stand facing each other at a comfortable distance. Draw each other simultaneously without looking at your paper. Focus on details and placement on the page.

When finished, have a look at your completed portrait. Which details of your sitter did you choose to highlight? Ask your partner to view their portrait. Which details did they choose to include?
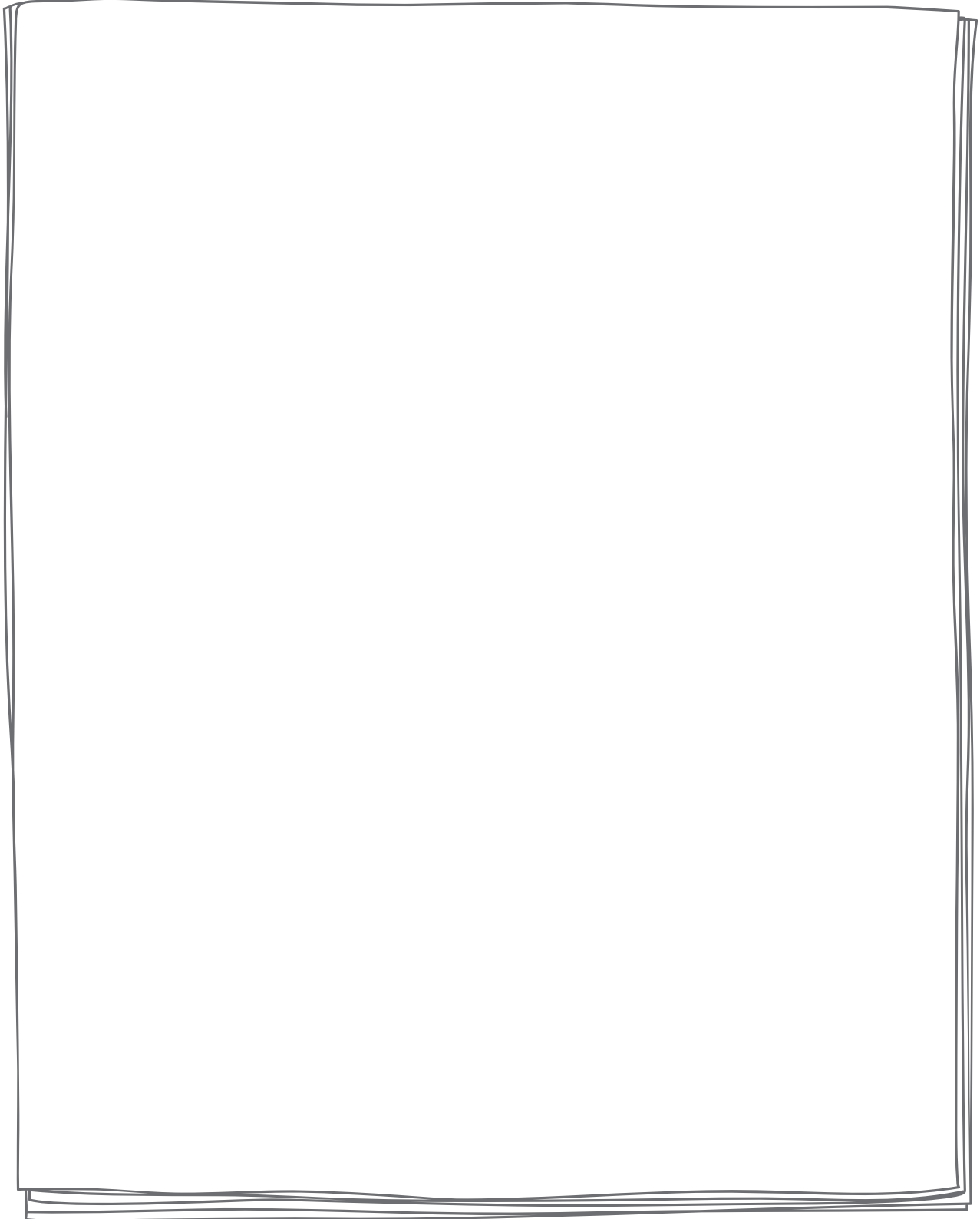
Get Involved
in The Percivals
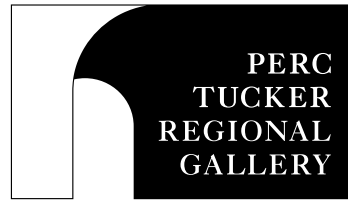
SCHOOL TOURS

Free guided tours are available for school and community groups on Tuesdays - Fridays.

To book your gallery tour please email **galleries@townsville.qld.gov.au** with contact details, number of participants and preferred date and times.

Please note: Bookings are high during this period. We will try and accommodate your preferred date but may need to offer alternative dates and times based on availability.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Make sure to vote for your favourite painting and favourite photograph in *The Percivals* 2024 People's Choice Awards.

The People's Choice Awards voting closes Sunday 25 August 11.59pm.

Cast your vote online by scanning the QR code above, or visit the Gallery to vote in person.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 @TownsvilleCityGalleries

townsville.qld.gov.au/percivals

ACTIVITY BOOK

Collect a FREE Percivals Activity Book, designed especially for kids, from Perc Tucker Regional Gallery.

Or head to our website to download a copy to print at home!

THE PERCIVALS 2024 ACTIVITY BOOK

This activity book belongs to:

WORKSHOPS

There will be a number of workshops on offer during *The Percivals*. Collect a Public Programs Guide from the Gallery or keep an eye on What's On, Facebook, or Instagram to find out more!

Image Front Cover:
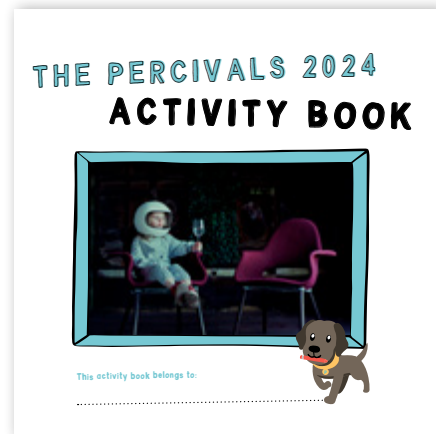Simon Brown, *Jamie* [detail], 2022, oil on linen, 122 x 91 cm. Finalist in the *Percival Portrait Painting Prize* 2024. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville.