

BURNABY ART GALLERY

B.A.G in a Box : Cultural Portraits

Teachers Information

In a Nutshell

The **focus** of the box is on exploring culture and identity through portraits. Culture is approached as ethnic groups but also as social, religious or other groups that share values and practices. (Examples: the culture of elementary students, the culture of Indo Canadians, the culture of soccer players.) Students draw or paint portraits that express emotion, identity and culture (of self and others) through realistic, symbolic or abstract styles.

Pick-Up and Return

Box: Box has one wheeled case and a portfolio. Fits easily in trunk or back seat of a car.

Pick-Up: During gallery hours, any day after 12:00 noon on first Saturday.

Return: During gallery hours, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday return date.

★ See confirmation or booking information sheet for specific details.

Box Contents

Artists

- Original images by local artists Lyle Wilson and Amir Ali Alibhai.
- Reproduction images from the City of Burnaby Permanent Collection by Maxwell Bates, Rita Briansky, Donna Ellison, Jaques Hnizdovsky, Ernest Lumsden, Gordon Smith, and Pierre-Leon Tetrault.

Activities

- Five activity ideas are included. We suggest choosing one activity and the introductory lesson, as best suits your class. You may have more time or wish to photocopy an activity to complete after the box is returned.
- Activities are broken down into lessons. Lesson plans are detailed and clear so that teachers who are unfamiliar with concepts or processes should be able to easily understand each step. Most activities are flexible enough to suit grades K-7, although end results and time spent may vary. Some steps may be left out and age related variations are suggested in some cases. See page two for details.

Background Information

- Artist biographies and information on working methods or inspirations.
- Vocabulary, information on drawing realistic portraits and a brief history of portraiture.

Resource Materials

- Facial proportions chart, 'face' pictures, and cultural pattern samples.
- Chalk pastels and graphite sticks.
- Worksheets for photocopying, pin tools, mirrors, project examples, vocabulary cards, template for display labels.



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Activity Ideas, Key Concepts & Classroom Materials

Activity One: Introduction and Contour Line Drawings

Students begin looking at the artwork to gain an understanding of what a portrait is. They have an introduction to the concepts of culture and identity through discussion and a circle game. They portray emotions by sketching a partner using contour lines, and practicing their observation skills.

Key Concepts

- Drawing techniques (*contour lines, observation*)
- Expressing emotions
- Culture and identity

Classroom Materials:

- Plain paper

Activity Two: Portraits and Proportions

This activity is included to help students develop some skills for drawing realistic portraits. Simple rules of thumb for proportions help students feel more satisfied with their drawings. This activity is not necessary for later portrait activities, but can provide some useful skills.

Key Concepts

- Facial proportions and measurement
- Drawing techniques (*shading, observation*)
- Tonal values

Classroom Materials:

- Basic drawing paper, pencils, erasers
- Tempera paint (optional)

Activity Three: Symbolic Self Portraits

Based on several of the artists' use of symbols to portray personal identity and culture, this activity uses oil pastels with a tempera paint coating. Students use pin tools to create a scratch drawing. An old favourite with a new twist.

Key Concepts

- Symbols
- Pattern
- Drawing techniques (*cross hatching, observation*)
- Expression of culture (*personal identity*)

Classroom Materials:

- Thick paper (Bristol or cardstock)
- Oil pastels
- Black tempera paint and brushes

Activity Four: Painted People

Using Amir Ali Alibhai's painting and working style as a starting point, students create a portrait (self or family member) incorporating symbols, colours and patterns that reflect their culture (s) and identity.

Key Concepts

- Symbols
- Expression of culture (*using colour, symbols, patterns*)
- Composition
- Painting techniques (*layering*)

Classroom Materials:

- Thick paper (Bristol, construction or cardstock)
- Acrylic paint or Tempera paint with glue
- Brushes

Activity Five: Cultural Stories

Using Lyle Wilson's print as a starting point, students use stylized shapes and faces to portray a myth or story their family has often told to them. Glue lines and chalk pastel blends help students focus on abstracted shapes and composition.

Key Concepts

- Symbols
- Narrative
- Expression of culture (*symbols, shapes, patterns*)
- Composition
- Shape

Classroom Materials:

- Dark coloured paper (*construction, Bristol or other thick paper*)
- Glue in containers with nozzles (*for squeezing lines*)
- Pencils, erasers
- Tissue or paper towels

Questions? Please call the Education Programmer at 604.297.4858 or email galleries@burnaby.ca

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Artists and Artworks

General information about two artists is below. Detailed information about the artists and their work is included in the box. Original artworks are from the City of Burnaby Art Education Collection and reproductions included are from the City of Burnaby Permanent Art Collection.



Amir Ali Alibhai
Self Portrait (in BC)
Mixed Media on Canvas
50cm x 50cm
2006

Amir Ali Alibhai

Amir Ali Alibhai is a painter and multi media installation artist. He is also an independent curator and writer, and has been an arts programmer at the Roundhouse Community Centre in Vancouver since 1997. Alibhai's paintings incorporate symbols from his Muslim, Ismaili identity, and he explores the borders between cultures, disciplines and aesthetic traditions. He has recently been inspired by the Indian rangoli tradition (women's ritual art created on walls and the ground) and has been creating rangoli with participation by visiting members of the general public. Alibhai has completed his MA, focusing on cross cultural collaboration, and is a board member of the Canada Council for the Arts.



Lyle Wilson
Shaman's World
Serigraph
57cm x 38cm
1980

Lyle Wilson

Lyle Wilson is a Haisla artist from Kitimaat Village, near Kitimat BC. Wilson's first artistic influence was his uncle, Sam Robinson, a full time carver. Wilson began his career in the arts at UBC where he studied art education, and continued at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design where he pursued his own artistic talents. "Weegit and the Tricksters" was created during his time at UBC. Wilson's artistic style is based in graphics and printmaking, and also includes extensive three dimensional works. He has been an artist in residence at the Museum of Anthropology.

Installing the Artworks at School

The artworks can be set on a secure ledge, such as a chalk ledge or large music stand. Choose a safe spot for the pieces, out of the way of **traffic**, and preferably in an area students can **sit in front** of the work.

Please ensure students do not touch the artwork. Artworks are all framed in plexiglass which is easily scratched. Please also ensure artworks are stored in a secure location such as an office or locked room when not being used. Thank you!

BURNABY ART GALLERY

B.A.G. in a Box :

Booking Information

Booking Information

To Book	Please call 604.297.4422 or email galler@burnaby.ca with your name, contact information, and preferred month and box.
Available	September - June
Loan Period	Three weeks, Saturday-Thursday. Not renewable.
Pick-up	During gallery hours, any day on or after first loan day.
Return	During gallery hours, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday due date.
Deposit	A refundable deposit of \$20.00 must be received at time of booking. Credit card preferred. Deposit refunded upon box return, unless returned late, damaged, or late cancellation.
Fee	An additional fee of \$30.00 is due two weeks in advance of your loan date.
Cancellations	Require 14 days notice. Deposit will not be refunded for cancellations with less than 14 days notice.
Request Guidelines	Bookings made on a first-come first-serve basis. Bookings limited to three per school unless space permits. We recommend booking as early in the year as possible.
Transporting the Boxes	Boxes have one or two sizeable cases. Larger kits have wheels. Fits in the back seat of most cars.

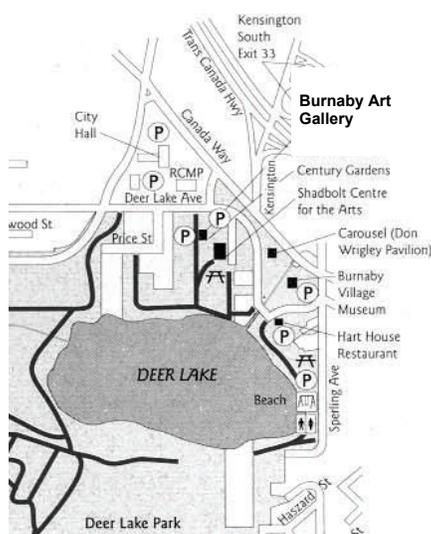
Location and Hours

Location 6344 Deer Lake Avenue,
Burnaby BC V5G 2J3
T. 604.297.4422
F. 604.205.7339
Email: galler@burnaby.ca
Internet: www.burnabyartgallery.ca

Hours Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m.
Mondays, CLOSED

Please note: No pick-up or return outside gallery hours. Late returns will not have deposit refunded.

Driving Directions From HWY #1:



Take the Kensington/Canada Way exit, heading south toward

Canada Way. Turn right (west) on Canada Way.

Turn left on Deer Lake Parkway/Norland Way.

Turn left on Deer Lake Avenue.

Just over the hill, turn right into the Burnaby Art Gallery parking lot.

