

Start at home

Play with portraiture



“It seems natural to me to try and understand the life around me with a pencil or paintbrush in hand”

Robert Hannaford

About the Artist

Robert Hannaford

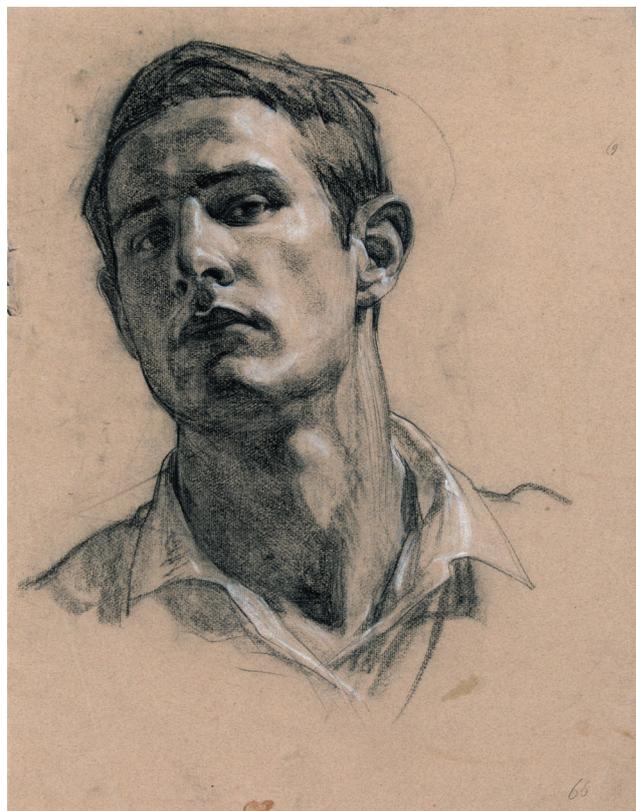
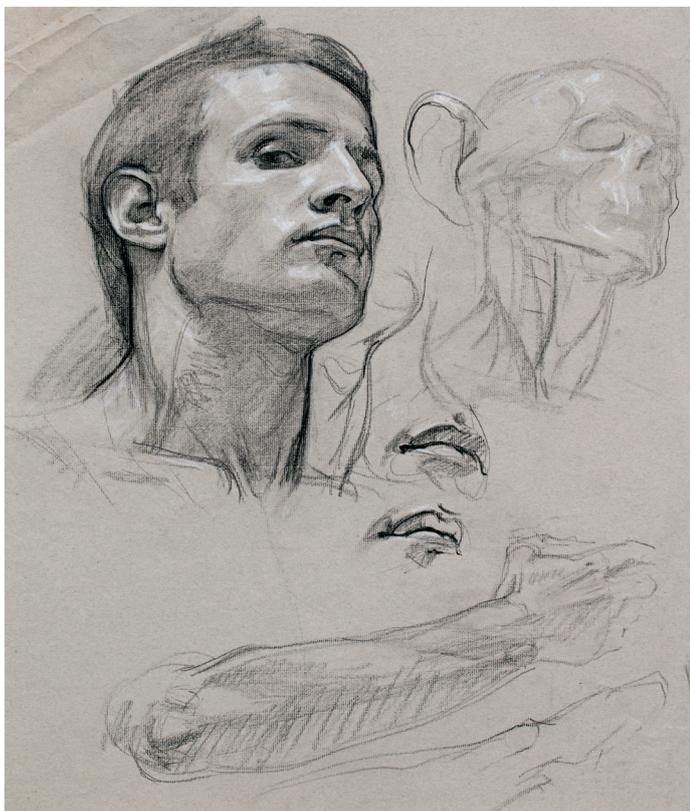
Artist Robert Hannaford (b.1944) grew up on a farm in Riverton, South Australia, an area that he still lives. Hannaford started his career working as a political cartoonist for newspaper, the Adelaide Advertiser in the mid 60's, since then he has become one of South Australia's most celebrated artists; creating work in both 2D and 3D, he is best known for his portraits using pencil, charcoal, or oil paint. Over the years he has received many important commissions and awards and a finalist in the Archibald Prize twenty-five times and winner three times of the People's Choice.

About the work

Tsering, day 4 (1987)

Hannaford's portrait of his new baby daughter, Tsering, was drawn in pencil on paper and portrays the sleeping face of baby as she was on day 4 of her life. Hannaford's subjects range from famous people, friends, and family.

Hannaford's daughter Tsering Hannaford is also an artist. In 2012 Tsering and her father Robert Hannaford were the “first father and daughter to show concurrently in Salon des Refusés, an exhibition of Archibald entries”, and in 2015 they were the first father and daughter selected as finalists for the Archibald Prize and again in 2022. Hannaford is famous for his excellent technical skills, understanding of the human form and ability to capture the essence of the people he painted.



Materials

- Lead pencil
- White chalk/charcoal
- Brown kitchen paper

Take it further

Robert Hannaford is interested in drawing human emotions. This is a quick and fun exercise in sketching your own self-portrait making various facial expressions. All you need is a mirror, a pencil and your sketchbook. Look at yourself in the mirror and make a happy, angry, or sad face, look at yourself for a while like you are taking a photo. Then put the mirror down and quickly sketch yourself. Do this for one minute; you can even set a timer if you like. This is a great way to test your memory and to have fun experimenting with different drawing techniques.

The Activity

Capture a person in a portrait

Most portraits include a person's head, neck, shoulders and sometimes their torso. Robert Hannaford is an observant portrait artist who spends a great deal of time looking at people in his drawings and paintings. Most of his portraits show the person's true nature, their spirit or essence. Ask a friend or family member to pose for you so you can create a portrait of them.

- 1 Lightly sketch your person on paper
- 2 What are the special features of the person you are drawing? Their nose, lips, eyes, jawline or hair? On the same page, draw these features that make them special.
- 3 Leave the light lines underneath and draw over the top with darker lines to detail their special features to capture the essence of the person you are drawing.

Robert Hannaford's works in the collection can be viewed online <https://bit.ly/3vC4xOE>

image left Robert Hannaford, born Riverton, South Australia 1944, *Self-portrait with arm and skull study*, c.1969, Adelaide, charcoal, white chalk, pencil on paper, 57.0 x 50.0 cm (sheet); Gift of Tiffany and Co. 2016, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide,

image right Robert Hannaford, born Riverton, South Australia 1944, *Self-portrait*, 1966, Adelaide, charcoal, white chalk on paper, 54.1 x 42.7 cm (sheet); Gift of the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation through the Robert Hannaford Appeal 2017, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, © Robert Hannaford.

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

@agsa.adelaide #agsastart