

Start at home

Pet Portrait



About the Artist

Barbara Hanrahan

Born in Adelaide, Barbara Hanrahan was an Australian writer and printmaker. Hanrahan learnt printmaking at the South Australian School of Art and went on to continue her studies in London. For many years she lived between Adelaide and London studying, working, teaching, and exhibiting. Her printmaking style is unique and throughout her thirty year career she made hundreds of prints and wrote fifteen novels. Much of Hanrahan's work told a story about relationships between humans, home, and nature. She was very inspired by folk art and the bold style of the German expressionists woodcut prints.

About the work

Girl, cat, bird (1989)

Barbara Hanrahan's *Girl, cat, bird* (1989) is a wood engraving print on paper of young girl in a dress with a bird on her head. The characters in this print are cartoon like, but also very detailed. She used a woodblock printing method to create solid dark shapes and outlines. The girl is holding a cat and is surrounded by decorative floral designs and expresses Hanrahan's playfulness, joy, wonder and connection with the natural world.

The Activity

Pet Portrait

- 1 Draw your pet onto paper using a lead pencil.
- 2 Add floral designs or patterns around your pet, like a border.
- 3 With a black marker, trace these lines using a mix of thick and thin lines.
- 4 Tape your pet portrait (face up) to a tree or piece of wood.
- 5 Use a rubbing technique with the side of the crayon to carefully rub it on the paper. The crayon will pick up the pattern on the bark and create the textured look of a woodcut print.
- 6 Take your drawing off the tree. Touch up a few areas with black marker.
- 7 Add some colour to your drawing using your favourite water colour or poster paint.



Fanta is my fluffy ginger cat, but he sure can be a spoilt brat!
Fanta is so lovely and sweet, especially when he wants a treat.
Fanta snuggles up to me in bed, before he walks all over my head.
Fanta makes me chuckle when he's playing, but his meow can be so irritating.
Fanta is sometimes calm and mellow, at other times he's a strange little fellow.
I love my cat Fanta Pants with all my heart, even when he scratches, claws and pulls the place apart.

Materials

- Photo of your pet or picture of your favourite animal
- Lead pencil
- Black markers of varying thickness
- Black crayon
- White A3 paper
- Masking tape
- Tree, wood or bark
- Watercolour/poster paint
- Brushes

Take it further

Hanrahan would often write a rhyme about the characters in her work. Use your creative writing skills to come up with a poem or short story about your pet.

This could be about what they look like, what they do, and their favourite things. Write it out in black marker on a piece of paper and draw a border around it, then attach it to your pet portrait.

[Girl, cat, bird can be viewed online](http://bitly.ws/vBxp)

<http://bitly.ws/vBxp>

[The dog will come... can be viewed online](http://bitly.ws/vBsC)

<http://bitly.ws/vBsC>



image top Lauren Herriman, *Fanta*, 2022

image right Barbara Hanrahan, born Adelaide 1939, died Adelaide 1991, *The dog will come... 1962*, Adelaide, linocut, hand coloured with coloured inks on paper 42.5 x 47.0 cm (image irreg.), 47.0 x 54.0 cm (sheet) Gift of Barbara Hanrahan 1990, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Courtesy estate of the artist.

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