

Start at home

Fluoro Photos



First Jobs, Fruit Market 1975

“When I was a kid I always had jobs... pulling up the weeds in the yard... or working at the local green grocers. The thing about making a bit of your own cash was that you could buy your own clothes and not have to wear the clothes that your mother picked out.”

- Tracey Moffatt, 2008

About the artist

Growing up in a large adopted family, Tracey Moffatt was no stranger to work and responsibility. She often looked after her younger siblings and helped around the house. Tracey learned about her Aboriginal culture from her birth mother, who often visited their family home in the Brisbane suburbs. As a child, Tracey had a big personality and a passion for theatre and dress-ups. She was often told she was too loud, or too weird. Today she channels that flamboyant energy into a hugely successful career as a contemporary photographer, filmmaker and performance artist.

About the work

As a young woman, Tracey had a range of low-paid jobs, saving up to travel and support herself through art school. *First Jobs* is a series of photographic works looking back on that time with nostalgia and humour. The images are staged and manipulated, as Tracey did not have ‘real’ photographs of her early jobs. Instead she trawled through hundreds of old photos of shops, factories and other suburban workplaces. Using digital techniques, she added her young self into each photo, and tinted the scenes with lurid colours to resemble vintage postcards and advertisements.

Presented by



Materials you need

- a family photo
- access to a printer or photocopier
- scissors
- a glue stick
- a sheet of heavy paper or card
- highlighter textas (at least 3 colours)
- white acrylic paint or correction fluid
- a black biro or liner pen

Take it further

Try this hand-colouring technique with a black and white picture from a newspaper.

Print and cut up several photos and make a collage before adding colour.

Experiment with different materials such as pencils, textas, crayons or watercolour paint.

Create your own Fluoro Photos

- 1 Ask an adult to help you print or photocopy your photo in black and white. Make sure to print on plain matte paper, rather than glossy photo paper.
- 2 Trim the edges of the picture and glue it onto the heavy paper or card.
- 3 Now think about how you want to use colour. The bright neon highlighters will make your photo look unreal, so you can get creative! You could divide the picture into warm and cool colours, or use one colour for people and another for the background – the possibilities are endless.
- 4 Start colouring your picture. Highlighters create a transparent layer of colour so the image below can still be seen. This means you can layer them to create new, mixed colours.
- 5 Use paint or correction fluid to bring out any white highlights. Use a black pen to darken the shadows and other dark areas. Your finished picture will pop with vivid colour!

Tracey Moffatt's *First Jobs* series is on display in Gallery 9 and part of our online Collection: <https://bit.ly/2FW236N>

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