

# Art Activity #2

Draw your own fantastical figure inspired by Rona Green.



Rona Green, *Sea Dog*, c.2005, hand-coloured linocut, Castlemaine Art Museum. Gift of Michael Florrimell, 2010. Copyright Rona Green.

Recommended  
for kids aged 8  
and up

## Key Idea

This activity is inspired by a hybrid portrait, *Sea Dog* by the artist Rona Green who is well known for artworks that explore ideas about how we express our individuality. Rona is very interested in how our physical appearance can be changed – both through the clothes and accessories that we wear and such via decorations on the skin. She likes the idea that we can choose what we want to reveal or conceal about ourselves through our appearance.

Often the characters Rona Green creates in her artworks are anthropomorphised figures that are part animal and part human. In *Sea Dog* we can see the head of a dog on human shoulders and torso. When Rona was growing up, she was fascinated by the story of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and draws inspiration from the idea of bringing a character to life from different parts.

Rona Green's work is driven by an interest in people and portraiture, investigating all sorts of personalities through drawing, painting and printmaking. She blends ideas from her imagination and with observations of reality to make her own fantastical characters.

# Have a go at making your own fantastical figure inspired by Rona Green.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- 1–2 hours
- Two sheets of A3 white cartridge paper
- A grey lead pencil and eraser
- Scissors and glue stick
- A collection of source images of animals and people that interest you, perhaps from magazines or the internet, or they could be copies of photos of your family members and any pets who live with you. Ask your parents/guardians permission first.
- A thick black marker
- Coloured pencil in a colour of your choice or painting materials (optional)

## Process

1. Rona Green always begins making her artworks by imagining her character with a name and a life story. Look carefully at the source images you have collected. Who is represented here? What kind of personalities do they have? What kind of clothing do they wear? Are they introverted or extroverted? Are they playful, funny or a bit serious?
2. Cut out some images of animal heads and human bodies from the source images you have collected so that you have a selection of animal heads and human bodies to work with.
3. Next make a preliminary collage of your character. Begin exploring some visual combinations of the animal heads and human bodies from step 2 until you are happy with how they convey a character. Glue the collage down.
4. When you are ready to begin your fantastical figure take a sheet of white paper and make sure it is placed in front of you in 'portrait format'. That means that the rectangular sheet has the short edge at the top.
5. Use your preliminary collage as a starting point to begin drawing a grey lead pencil outline of your fantastical figure on the blank sheet of paper. Scale up your drawing so it fills the whole page. Let your imagination run wild! You might like to add details like jewellery or tattoos onto your character if it suits their personality.
6. Once you are happy with the pencil drawing of your character, go over the lead pencil marks with your black marker until the lines are solid.
7. Finally colour in the background space surrounding your figure and perhaps some smaller details within the portrait using either the black marker or a coloured pencil. Make sure the application of colour is as even as possible.
8. When your artwork is complete, give it a title based on the name of your character.
9. Show us your artwork! (Please find submission form on page 5)

# Reflection

Rona Green's artwork is loosely influenced by Egyptian art created thousands of years ago depicting various gods and goddesses with a human body and the head of an animal. The Ancient Egyptians liked to choose animals to symbolise the personality of each deity. For example, Sekhmet, goddess of war was shown with the head a lioness, as lions are ferocious creatures. Do some of your own research about the gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt and the places where the original artworks are kept.

## FURTHER READING

<https://www.ronagreen.com/about.html>

## ABOUT THE ARTIST RONA GREEN

Melbourne-based artist Rona Green was born and raised in the port city of Geelong. Rona went on to study art at La Trobe University, Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne and Monash University.

Well known for striking pictures of peculiar characters, Rona has received many accolades such as the Geelong Print Prize, Swan Hill Print Acquisitive Award and Silk Cut Award for Linocut Prints Grand Prize. Her artwork is represented in over sixty Australian and international public collections including the Castlemaine Art Museum.

Rona is a fancier of Egyptian art, historical figures, science fiction, B-grade movies, TV, secret societies, tattooing traditions, subcultures and the animal kingdom.

## Show everyone your artwork!

Email us your artwork for display in our online gallery.

Please email this filled in form, and an image of your artwork to [frontofhouse@castlemainegallery.com](mailto:frontofhouse@castlemainegallery.com).

### Your Details

First name:

Age:

Title of your artwork:

Do you have your parent/guardian's permission to send in this artwork? Please tick box to confirm:

Do you and your parent/guardian agree to the CAM KIDS RULES: Terms and Conditions below?

Please tick box to confirm:

CAM will try to showcase all artworks that are submitted in our online gallery, but they have to be within CAM KIDS RULES (Terms and Conditions). Once you fill in this form and email your artwork we will check it in the next week.

#### CAM KIDS RULES: Terms and Conditions

Read this section with your parents or guardian:

1. CAM staff will check all artworks before they go online to make sure they are suitable for everyone. We will use our discretion to make sure the artwork is not rude or scary for others before it is published,
2. Please don't include yourself in photos of your artwork.
3. If you send us your artwork, it means that you and your parents/guardian are happy for CAM to publish it in our KIDS gallery and promotions now and into the future.
4. When you send us your artwork, it should be work that you've created. Make sure you only use your first name when submitting artworks.

Thank you for your time and your work!