

All About Lucian Freud (1922-2011)

Lucian Freud is a very famous British artist, he is well known for spending a lot of time with the people he painted because he wanted to know them really well so that he could show their personalities in his paintings. He applied paint to a small area of the canvas and worked outwards. He liked to build the texture (feel) and colour of skin.

He usually started with the head first, then painted the body, then returned to paint over the head again, because during the painting process, he got to know the person he was painting better, so he wanted to show this.

Sometimes, when painting skin, he would paint a stroke then wash his brush. This allowed him to add more paint for the next stroke and helped to build the thickness of the paint.

Lucian Freud liked animals, in particular horses. He used to ride horses and was known to sleep in the stables. The backgrounds of his paintings were often pale and plain, so that the skin colours seemed brighter.

'Self Portrait, Reflection' 2002



Thinking about art

Look at each image.

What can you see in the picture?

How many different colours can you see in the skin?

What can you tell about the people in the painting?

Why do you think the artist painted the picture?

If you could choose one of the paintings from today for your home, which would it be? Why?

Lucian Freud created each of these images.

What do they have in common? How are they different? Talk to someone about this.

'Self Portrait, Reflection' 2002



'Grey Gelding' 1994



'Boy On A Sofa' 1994



'Unknown' 1994



'Girl With A Kitten' 1994



Your task: Use whatever art materials you have to create your own portrait it can be of yourself, your hero, a friend or someone in your family.