

# PORTRAITURE AND THE PRIZE **EDUCATION KIT**

An education kit for K-6 Creative Arts with KLA links  
and 7-12 Visual Arts

ART  
GALLERY  
NSW

Museums  
& Galleries  
NSW

# ARCHIBALD.PRIZE.09

**ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
TOURED BY MUSEUMS & GALLERIES NEW SOUTH WALES

[www.thearchibaldprize.com.au](http://www.thearchibaldprize.com.au)



# PORTRAITURE AND THE PRIZE

## Contents

### 1

#### General: the Archibald Prize and portraiture

Who was JF Archibald?  
The Archibald Prize  
A chronology of events  
Controversy and debate  
Portraiture as a genre: an overview  
Portraiture and the Prize: a selection of quotes  
List of winners 1921–2009

### 2

#### Syllabus connections: the Archibald Prize and portraiture

Suggested case studies Years 7–12  
Conceptual framework: the art world web Years 7–12  
Framing the Archibald: questions for discussion Years 7–12  
Portraiture: general strategies Years K–6  
Vocabulary: portraiture  
Artists: portraiture  
References

### 3

#### Syllabus connections: 2009 Archibald Prize

Framing the Archibald: questions for discussion and activities Years K–12  
The winning portrait  
    K–6 Creative Arts & Cross KLA links  
    Frames: analysis sheet Years 7–12  
    Conceptual framework: analysis sheet Years 7–12  
Focus works: questions for discussion and activities Years K–6 & 7–12  
2009 Archibald Prize: selected artists

## Education kit outline

This education kit has been prepared by the Public Programs Department of the Art Gallery of New South Wales in conjunction with Museums & Galleries New South Wales, to accompany the annual Archibald Prize exhibition.

It has been designed to assist primary and secondary students and teachers in their enjoyment and understanding of the Archibald exhibition and the issues surrounding it, at the Art Gallery of NSW or throughout the 2009 Archibald Prize Regional Tour.

The education kit is comprised of three sections. Section 1 includes background information on the Archibald Prize and general information on the genre of portraiture. Section 2 includes related K–6 and 7–12 student activities, questions for discussion, suggested case studies, related vocabulary, and artist and reference lists. Revised K–6 activities in Part 2 have been developed to compliment the current K–6 syllabus and the Key Learning Areas. Section 3 includes K–6 and 7–12 student activities and questions for discussion related specifically to the 2009 Archibald Prize. Sections 2 and 3 have been written with reference to the NSW Creative Arts Syllabus, Years K–6 and the NSW Visual Arts Syllabus Years 7–12.

The kit is updated and extended each year to coincide with the announcement of the winner of the Archibald Prize.

## Acknowledgements

Sections 1 and 2 of this kit has been prepared by Leeanne Carr, coordinator Secondary and Asian Education Programs, and Tristan Sharp, Senior co-ordinator Education and Victoria Collings co-ordinator of K-6 and Family Programs and updated by Danielle Gullotta, coordinator K–6 programs Art Gallery of NSW. Section 3 2009 material has been co-ordinated by Danielle Gullotta. Contribution to K–6 and 7–12 questions and activities have been made by Carlie Plummer, Northbridge Public School and Andrew Thompson, International Grammar School.  
Editors: Kirsten Tilgals, Victoria Collings and Danielle Gullotta

The Archibald Prize NSW regional tour is made possible by the continuing support of the principal sponsor Myer, Art Gallery of NSW and Museums & Galleries NSW, which is supported by the NSW Ministry for the Arts and the Australia Council.

**MYER**



**Museums  
& Galleries  
NSW**

arts|nsw



© Art Gallery of NSW and  
Museums & Galleries NSW 2009  
[www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.mgnsw.org.au](http://www.mgnsw.org.au)

Cover: Crowds visit the Art Gallery of NSW to view the  
1944 Archibald Prize, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 January 1945

## Museums & Galleries NSW introduction

Museums & Galleries NSW (M&G NSW) is the key development agency for the museum and gallery sector in NSW, primarily funded by the NSW government through Arts NSW.

We are proud to be the Touring Agency for the 2009 Archibald Prize Regional Tour, and value our partnership with the Art Gallery of NSW and our links with regional galleries and museums across the state.

Museums & Galleries NSW has a long history of supporting and promoting innovative cultural and educational resources through galleries. The Archibald Prize is an excellent exhibition to introduce and further educate students on the exhibition process, within the context of contemporary Australian art, specifically painting and portraiture.

This year, the 2009 Archibald Prize Regional Tour travels to seven galleries across New South Wales, offering teachers and students opportunities to engage with their local gallery through an accessible educational resource.

All schools are encouraged to take advantage of the 2009 Archibald Prize Education Kit as an informative resource, with diverse topics devised in line with the current NSW curriculum.

Maisy Stapleton  
CEO, Museums & Galleries NSW

## 2009 Archibald Prize Regional Tour

Bendigo Art Gallery	30 May – 12 July 2009
Western Plains Cultural Centre	25 July – 13 September 2009
Cowra Art Gallery	19 September – 25 October 2009
Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery	6 November – 6 Dec 2009
Gosford Regional Gallery	11 December 2009 – 22 January 2010
Griffith Regional Art Gallery	28 January – 28 February 2010
Maitland Regional Art Gallery	5 March – 18 April 2010

Tour dates are subject to change. Please contact venues for confirmation of dates.

# 1

## GENERAL: THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE AND PORTRAITURE



Florence Rodway, *Jules Francois Archibald* 1921  
Art Gallery of NSW © AGNSW

### J.F. Archibald

J.F. Archibald had no desire to become famous and during his lifetime, he shunned publicity and remained evasive and enigmatic. A portrait of him, commissioned by the Trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW, was made after his death and remains as one of the pictorial records of a man who avoided having his photograph taken. Yet J.F. Archibald is the man behind one of Australia's oldest and best known art prizes for portraiture.

He was born in Victoria in 1856, christened with the name John Feltham. When he was fifteen, he started his career in journalism on a country newspaper in Warrnambool, Victoria. His passion for newspapers led him to Melbourne searching for work in 'the big smoke'. He lived a bohemian life, frequenting Melbourne's city boarding houses, streets, theatres and cafes. A life he imagined to be quite European, which led him to change his name to Jules François and later to leave money in his will for a large fountain to be built in the middle of Sydney's Hyde Park to commemorate the association of France and Australia in World War I.

Realising the power of print, in 1880 he and a friend founded the *Bulletin* magazine, a radical journal for its time addressing issues of nationhood, culture and identity. This journal was influential in shaping opinions and raising issues in the public's consciousness. He also employed the best young artists to be its illustrators. His interest in art led him in his later years to serve as a Trustee for the Art Gallery of NSW, keen to promote the work of younger artists and writers. In 1900, he commissioned Melbourne portrait artist, John Longstaff to paint a portrait of poet Henry Lawson for fifty guineas. Apparently he was so pleased with this portrait, that he left money in his will for an annual portrait prize.

The Archibald Prize, from its outset, has aroused controversy while chronicling the changing face of Australian society. Numerous legal battles and much debate have focused on the evolving definitions of portraiture. It has become one of the most popular annual art exhibitions in Australia.

### The Archibald Prize

Each year in accordance with the bequest of Jules F. Archibald (1856–1919) the Trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW invite artists to submit paintings in competition for the annual Archibald Prize, to be awarded to the best portrait preferentially of a man or woman distinguished in Art, Letters, Science or Politics. The artist must have been a resident of Australia during the previous 12 months. The entries are judged by the Trustees of the Gallery and the winner currently receives a prize of \$50 000, sponsored by Myer.

**The People's Choice**, running since 1988, is an opportunity for the public to vote for their favourite portrait in the Archibald exhibition and is awarded to the painting voted most popular by visitors. Both the artists and the selected voter each receive a prize of \$2500, plus a \$1000 gift card from Myer.

**The Packing Room Prize** is awarded by the team behind the scenes who receive, unpack and hang all the entries in the exhibition. First awarded in 1991, it is adjudicated by the Gallery's storeman, Steve Peters, with the winner receiving \$500, plus a \$500 gift card from Myer.



Florence Rodway, *Jules Francois Archibald* 1921  
Art Gallery of NSW © AGNSW

















