



CHILDREN'S ARCHIBALD PRIZE 2025

Art
Gallery
NSW

Presenting partner

ANZ

I ♥ AARON

Peter Ke Heng Chen has painted his son, the comedian Aaron Chen. Aaron is surrounded by famous landmarks, medals and depictions of his younger self, which show his father's pride.

Notice how the waves and goldfish swirl around Aaron, leading your eyes around the painting.



Draw a picture of someone you admire and surround them with objects and landmarks that tell a story about them.

At home, find photos of your younger self and make an artwork that features you at different ages.

This page and cover: Peter Ke Heng Chen *I'm a little fish in New York (ripples of ambition)* © the artist

Children's trail © Art Gallery of New South Wales 2025

The Art Gallery of New South Wales acknowledges the Gadigal, the traditional custodians of the Country on which it stands.

Kaylene Whiskey has painted some of her favourite superheroes and singers having fun on Anangu Country.

Notice how Kaylene has painted these strong women in comic-style scenes surrounded by little desert creatures, plants and objects.



Draw your favourite heroes having fun in this comic strip.



At home, make a comic about someone you admire and illustrate it.

COMIC HEROS

CREASES & SHADOWS

Clare Thackway has portrayed herself wrapped up in fabric.

Look at the detail on the checked fabric and how the creases and shadows take up most of the picture.

Is Clare lying down or standing up in this self-portrait?



Draw yourself wrapped up in your favourite blanket.

At home, crumple up a piece of checked or patterned fabric and draw the creases and shadows.



Meaghan Pelham has used bold shapes, fun phrases and hot pink, red and gold colours for this portrait of DJ Charlie Villas and jewellery designer Nikita Majajas.

Spot the jewels, shimmering paint and stuck-on objects. Which one is your favourite?

Design more shapes and phrases for this artwork.



HOT PINK



At home, create a portrait of someone you love and frame it with bold shapes and fun phrases.

DESERT LIFE

Billy Bain has painted Rona Panangka Rubuntja, a potter, and her dog called Pig.

Notice how Billy has framed Rona with ceramic shapes that show the different plants and animals that live in Central Australia where Rona is from.



If you had to draw a family member, where would you draw them and what plants and animals would surround them?

Draw them here.

At home, use play dough, clay or plasticine to make small tiles of the plants and animals where you live.

Whitney Duan has painted artist and musician Rainbow Chan, who is reflected in a shiny serving turntable ('lazy Susan').

Describe the different types of fabric and their patterns and textures.

Imagine you are sitting opposite Rainbow Chan and draw your reflection below.



MIRROR, MIRROR

At home, take selfies or photos of your family reflected in unusual shiny surfaces.

MUSIC & MOTION

This portrait of sculptor Stephen Ralph is by Mitch Cairns. Mitch and Stephen play music together in a band. Do you recognise the instrument Stephen is playing?

Look closely at the flowing shapes and curves behind Stephen that give a sense of movement and rhythm.



Imagine the sounds Stephen is making and draw some shapes and curves to reflect the music.

At home, listen to different types of music and draw shapes and pictures inspired by the sounds.