For Freddie and Cleo – Keep on creating!
R. M.

For Dad – Thank you for making me an artist.
E. S.



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INTRODUCTION

THIS BOOK WILL MAKE YOU AN ARTIST! YES, *YOU*!

As you turn the pages, you will meet artists from the past and the present, from different countries around the world. Discover painters, performers, sculptors, craftspeople and mosaic makers, who have all created amazing art.

But how and why did they make huge murals and stone sculptures, intricate mosaics and paintings filled with thousands of tiny dots? Asking questions like these, and finding out the answers, is called art history – not only is it exciting to explore, but it will give you lots of ideas for when you make your own art.

You will discover what inspired all kinds of artists. Some wanted to sketch portraits of interesting people they met, while others loved to paint landscapes of wildflowers or beautiful beaches. Some created pictures of the exciting capital cities they lived in – London, Paris, Beijing – while others illustrated their strange dreams to make magical universes of their own. All artists use their imaginations!

Many important artists have also been inspired by art history – Pablo Picasso once said he liked to 'steal' ideas from other artists. So you can steal any of the ideas from this book, too . . .

You are about to learn the secrets of creating great art using different techniques. You may have tried some before, like drawing and painting, but there might be some brand new techniques to try out for the first time. Prepare to be surprised by some of the ways people have made art, from dancing with paint to wrapping shopping trolleys in string!

You will also discover different styles, which is the way that an artwork looks. Some artists have created their own style, while others have worked in groups, and through movements, to develop a style which they have shared. Art can be big or small, modern or traditional, abstract or realistic. Some of these words might be new to you, but this book is here to teach you the terms and language that artists use!

Most important of all, this book will let you learn about art through making it! After meeting each artist at work, you will be able to use their tips and techniques to paint a still life like Van Gogh, carve a sculpture like Hepworth, create a crown like Basquiat, and much, much more.

Now it's your turn!
Be inspired by this book and become an artist . . .

GETTING STARTED IN YOUR STUDIO

From sitting inside a cosy bedroom to standing on a blustery beach, artists have worked anywhere and everywhere. In this book, you will find Frida Kahlo making self-portraits from her bed in Mexico, and Claude Monet painting in his huge garden – filled with giant waterlilies – in France.

Throughout history, many artists have also worked from a special place called a studio. Inside this space, an artist can experiment on their own, or work with others.



Artists might sketch in small notebooks, paint on enormous canvases hung on the wall or carve sculptures on the floor. Sometimes an artist will keep their artworks hidden in their studio until they are ready to reveal them to the rest of the world. The studio is the place that art is created so wherever you are can become your studio.

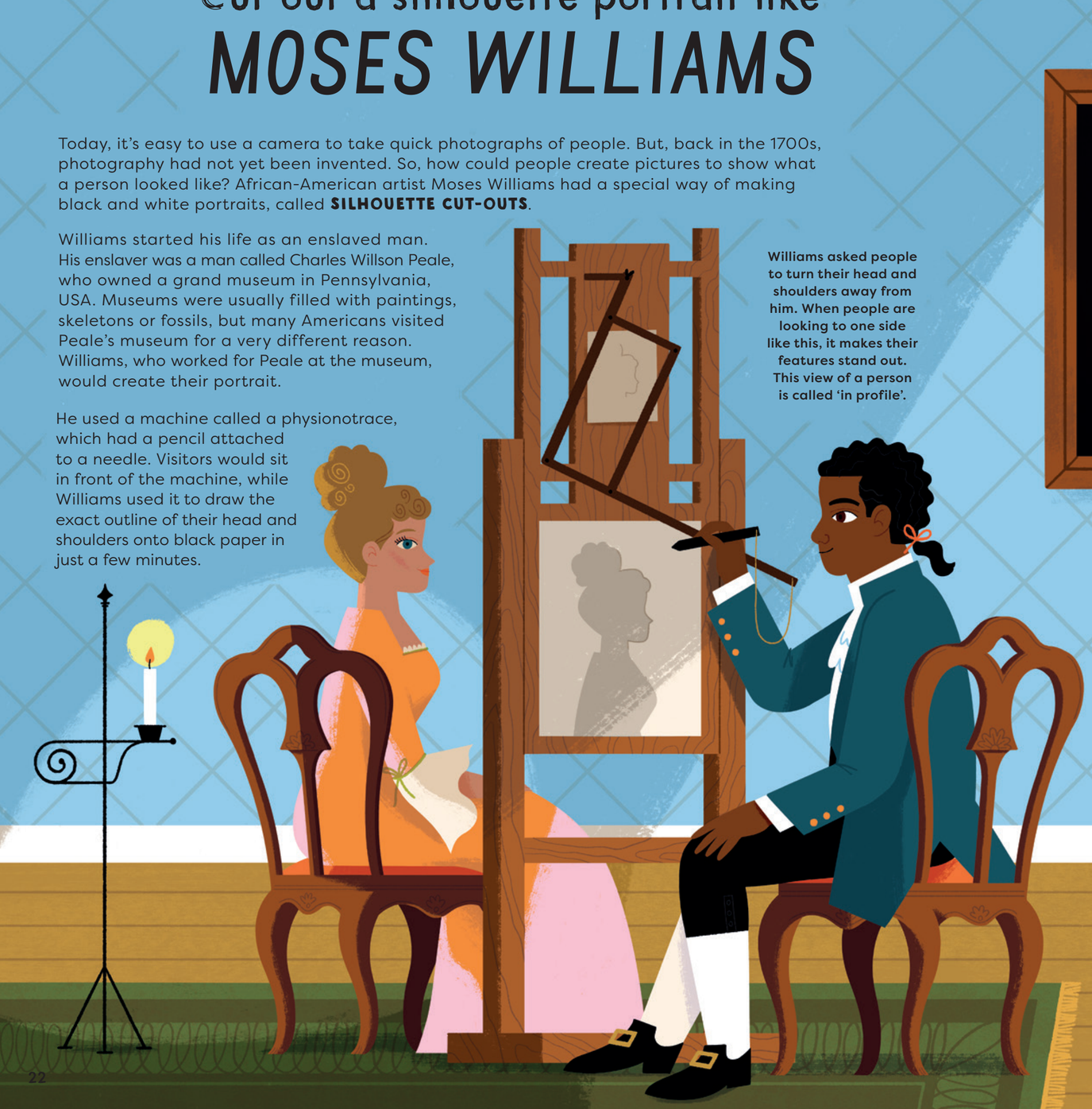
Inside, an artist will usually keep their tools, materials and any objects of inspiration that they need, including plants and vases of flowers, decorative masks, paint pots and sharp scissors. What else do you think an artist might keep in their studio?

Cut out a silhouette portrait like MOSES WILLIAMS

Today, it's easy to use a camera to take quick photographs of people. But, back in the 1700s, photography had not yet been invented. So, how could people create pictures to show what a person looked like? African-American artist Moses Williams had a special way of making black and white portraits, called **SILHOUETTE CUT-OUTS**.

Williams started his life as an enslaved man. His enslaver was a man called Charles Willson Peale, who owned a grand museum in Pennsylvania, USA. Museums were usually filled with paintings, skeletons or fossils, but many Americans visited Peale's museum for a very different reason. Williams, who worked for Peale at the museum, would create their portrait.

He used a machine called a physionotrace, which had a pencil attached to a needle. Visitors would sit in front of the machine, while Williams used it to draw the exact outline of their head and shoulders onto black paper in just a few minutes.



Williams asked people to turn their head and shoulders away from him. When people are looking to one side like this, it makes their features stand out. This view of a person is called 'in profile'.

A silhouette is when a line is drawn around an object, person, animal or scene and it's filled with a single colour. Your shadow is a type of silhouette.



Williams would then carefully cut around the drawing to create a silhouette. He stuck the silhouettes onto a white piece of card, which they could take away and keep forever.

Williams was so talented that people came from all over America to have their silhouettes made by him and, soon, he was freed from slavery to become a full-time artist.

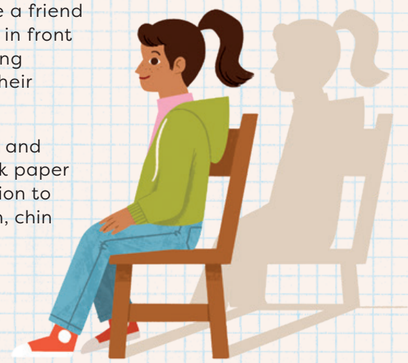
With the money that he earned, Williams eventually got married and bought his own home – which he would not have been able to do as an enslaved man.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

What you will need:



1. Who will you draw first? Invite a friend or family member to sit down in front of you. Make sure they're facing sideways, so you can create their silhouette portrait in profile.



2. Draw the outline of their head and shoulders onto a piece of black paper with a thick pencil. Pay attention to the shape of their nose, mouth, chin and even strands of hair.

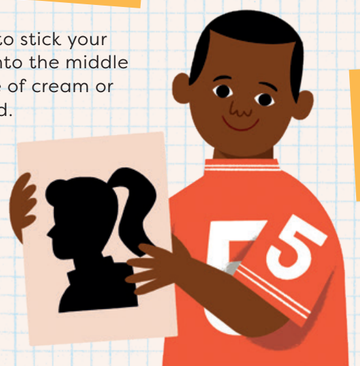


TIP: If the person you are drawing sits in front of a white wall, it will be easier to see the shape of their outline.

3. Cut very carefully around the outline you've drawn. It's easier to move the paper, not the scissors, as you cut.



4. Use glue to stick your portrait into the middle of a piece of cream or white card.



TIP: You can also create a cut-out silhouette using a photograph.

Make an abstract mobile like HILMA AF KLINT

Rather than representing a subject, like a person or landscape, Hilma af Klint preferred to create paintings of colourful circles, spirals, looping lines and other spinning shapes. She was one of the first **ABSTRACT** artists in Europe.

Born in 1862 in Sweden, Af Klint spent most of her childhood in Karlberg Palace, a military base where her father worked. At the age of 20 she studied art in the capital city, Stockholm, learning to draw and paint. She soon became known for elegant paintings of people and places and she exhibited her work in galleries.

But she also began to make abstract art in secret. Af Klint only let a few people see her abstract paintings because she didn't think most people would like or understand them.

Although Af Klint's images are flat and still, many of them look like they are moving because she included swirling shapes in glowing colours. Some of them look like they are made up of flower petals, floating across the surface. They might also make you think of outer space, filled with spinning stars, suns and orbiting planets.

While Af Klint wasn't interested in painting realistic pictures of the world around her, her abstract art shows how she was amazed by the universe we live in.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

What you will need:



1. Dab your sponge into the paint on your palette and then press it, again and again, onto your paper plate, leaving no white spaces. Leave it to dry.



2. On pieces of coloured card, draw small shapes from Af Klint's paintings – petals, flowers, circles. Cut them out.

TIP: You could decorate the shapes with paint or tin foil before you cut them out.



3. When the painted plate is dry, draw a spiral on it from the outside to the middle. It should look like the shell of a snail that curls inwards about three times.



4. Cut along the line until you reach the centre, then pull the spiral apart to create a long twist.

5. Glue your smaller shapes to the plate, spacing them out however you like.

6. Poke a small hole in the centre of the spiral with the pencil. Thread and tie a piece of string through this and hang it up.



Carve a sculpture like

BARBARA HEPWORTH

British artist Barbara Hepworth studied **SCULPTURE** in a few different cities – Leeds and London, UK, and Florence, Italy. But she was happiest by the seaside. For more than 25 years she lived in a house that was just a short walk from the beach in Cornwall, UK. On the seashore she discovered pebbles, stones, shells and open caves. She noticed that they were all made up of similar shapes – circles, semicircles and holes. Inspired, she turned these shapes from nature into large sculptures.

Hepworth was also interested in textures, which is how something feels. A pebble might be smooth, while a rock is rough. Hepworth would often make the same sculpture again and again in different materials such as wood, stone, marble, plaster and bronze to change its texture.



Working with special tools called chisels, Hepworth chipped away and carved into blocks of materials to make her sculptures. While paintings are flat, sculptures are solid three-dimensional objects. This means you can see them from all sides. Hepworth thought people should be able to walk all the way round them. She even invited people to peer through her sculptures by making holes in them.

The holes were just as important as the solid space. Hepworth would leave her finished sculptures outside so it was like peering through a window to another world.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

What you will need:

* A tray (ideally with sides)
* A large bar of soap
* A plastic knife
* A vegetable peeler
* Nail scissors



1 Working on your tray, use a plastic knife or peeler to carve a flat bottom edge on your soap so that it will stand up.



2 Now lay the soap flat. It's time to make holes in it. Pierce where you want your first hole to be with a pair of closed nail scissors. You'll need to ask a grown-up to help with this bit.

3 Twist and turn the scissors gently until a hole appears. When you break through to the other side of the soap, push the scissors through from the other side. Repeat for each hole you want.



4 You can now use a plastic knife to make the holes wider, working from both sides.

TIP: Make sure the holes are not too close to the edges or each other, as the soap may break.

5 With the peeler, smooth the outer edges of your soap until it's a shape you like. You can smooth it more by dipping your finger in water and running it along the edges. Or you might prefer to leave it rough.

TIP: Why not make a group of soap sculptures of different textures and shapes and exhibit them outside?

