

TRANSCRIPT

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING WITH TREVOR TURBO BROWN

This is a transcript of the video featured in the Accessible Learning with Trevor Turbo Brown resource. You can view the video [here](#).

- 00:00:03 Hi, I'm Amy. I'm a teacher at the National Gallery of Victoria, in Melbourne, which is sometimes called the NGV.
- 00:00:14 Did you know that the NGV has over 75,000 works of art and design in its collection? That's so many works, isn't it?
- 00:00:27 When you come to the gallery to visit, you might not see the same works every time.
- 00:00:33 Sometimes, artworks are moved to a new place in the gallery or they might be swapped or changed with a different artwork.
- 00:00:44 This is because there isn't enough space to have all of the works on display at the same time. We would need lots more space in the gallery to be able to do that.
- 00:00:57 So, while some artworks are out for people to see in the gallery, others might be lent to another gallery, or they are packed away in storage where they are kept safe.
- 00:01:10 Today we are going to have a close look at an artwork that is one of my personal favourites. I get very excited when it is out for people to see in the gallery.
- 00:01:22 The painting we are looking at is called 'Self-portrait, I am the Dingo Spirit' and it was made by a Latje Latje artist called Trevor Turbo Brown.
- 00:01:36 This artwork is called a self-portrait because the artist made the painting to show something about himself, something about who he is.
- 00:01:48 Self-portraits don't always have to look the same as a person looks in real life.
- 00:01:55 They can show us other things that are important to the artist, like their family, where they are from, what they like, or don't like, or even what they are good at. Self-portraits can tell us lots.
- 00:02:19 One thing I know, Trevor Turbo Brown loved to do was dance. He would perform on the streets in Melbourne where people walking past could watch him dancing.
- 00:02:33 He danced with lots of energy and would do fast moves in all different directions. This is how he got his nickname, Turbo.
- 00:02:42 T - U - R - B - O
- 00:02:52 Turbo.
- 00:02:54 The artist painted his nickname in this artwork.

- 00:02:59 Take your time to look closely and see if you can find it.
- 00:03:11 It's down the side here.
- 00:03:13 Turbo Brown.
- 00:03:22 I wonder if you noticed it also has the date, 2015, which is the year that he made this painting.
- 00:03:32 I wonder if you have a nickname. It's not your real name. It's another name that you might like people to call you instead, like champ or buddy.
- 00:03:45 Let's look closely to see what else we can find in this artwork.
- 00:03:54 There is something about this painting that makes me smile every time I see it.
- 00:04:02 Maybe it's the wide, cheesy grin on the face or the bright colours, like orange, yellow and red.
- 00:04:12 Turbo has painted these colours on with big, playful brushstrokes.
- 00:04:18 In this top corner, I can see a round shape with yellow lines filling it inside. This reminds me of a bright light in the sky. Maybe it's the sun. Or maybe it's the moon.
- 00:04:37 I can also see a lot of red, yellow and white lines that look like they are moving across the dark black background.
- 00:04:48 I wonder what these could be. Maybe they are rays of light coming from a bright sun. Or maybe the lines are showing heavy rain falling from the sky.
- 00:05:06 What do you think? Do you think they are showing sunshine, rain, or maybe something else?
- 00:05:16 It's okay if we don't know every detail about a painting. We don't always know exactly what an artist was thinking of when they made the artwork.
- 00:05:28 But we can always use our close looking to try and make our own meaning from the clues that we find in the artwork.
- 00:05:37 There are lots of clues in this painting that can help us learn more about who Trevor Turbo Brown was.
- 00:05:47 Let's take our time and look closely to see what else we can find. What can you see?
- 00:06:02 I can see a bright picture with some kind of animal painted in the middle.
- 00:06:09 The animal has an orange body, two pointy ears, two eyes, a black nose, whiskers and a mouth full of sharp teeth.
- 00:06:28 In this portrait, the artist has imagined himself as a dingo, which is a wild dog that lives in Australia.
- 00:06:38 I wonder why Turbo Brown imagined himself to be a dingo running around wild and free.
- 00:06:47 Well, when he was younger, he spent lots of his time on the streets of a place called Mildura and also along the banks of the Murray River.
- 00:07:00 Sometimes, he felt sad and lonely there because he didn't have his family around to look after him. So, he made friends with the stray dogs that also lived in these areas.

- 00:07:15 When it was cold in winter, he would sleep snuggled up closely to a group of the dogs to keep himself warm at night.
- 00:07:26 Turbo described the dingo as his totem, or spirit animal. A spirit animal helps guide or protect a person through life.
- 00:07:38 Usually there is something similar about a person and their spirit animal, for example, dingoes like to be out in the wild, running around free, just like Turbo was when he was living on the streets.
- 00:07:57 This has got me thinking about how I would show myself in a self-portrait. What spirit animal I would choose. Hmmmm.
- 00:08:11 I can balance on one leg. So maybe I could paint myself as a pink flamingo, standing on one leg in a pond of water.
- 00:08:25 Or, maybe a dolphin because I like to spend time with my family and friends. And that's what dolphins do. They swim together with their family in a group called a pod of dolphins.
- 00:08:44 What spirit animal would you paint yourself as in a self-portrait?
- 00:08:53 Think of the things that you are good at, or things that you like to do.
- 00:08:59 Can you think of an animal that also likes to do some of those things? An animal that does something the same as you.
- 00:09:12 Maybe you are a fast runner, like a cheetah.
- 00:09:19 Or maybe you enjoy sleeping and lazing on the lounge, watching TV, like a sloth that lays in the trees.
- 00:09:34 When we look closely at art, we can learn things about the artist that created the artwork, and we can also learn new things about ourselves.
- 00:09:49 What did you learn when you slowed down to look carefully at this painting by Trevor Turbo Brown?
- 00:10:02 I learnt that a self-portrait shows something about a person, but it doesn't have to look exactly like them.
- 00:10:12 They can show other things about a person like their family, or culture, things they like or don't like, or even things they're good at.
- 00:10:31 I also learnt that Trevor Turbo Brown liked to dance, and that's how he got his nickname, Turbo.
- 00:10:41 I learnt that Turbo used bright colours and painted with thick, playful brushstrokes.
- 00:10:51 I also learned that he painted himself as a dingo in this self-portrait because the dingo was his spirit animal.
- 00:11:02 Thank you for joining me today and I hope you enjoyed learning all about this great artwork and the artist who painted it.
- See you next time.